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**DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH MODIFIED
DEGENERATE BERNOULLI AND EULER NUMBERS**

TAEKYUN KIM, DAE SAN KIM, HYUCK IN KWON, AND JONG JIN SEO

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we consider some ordinary differential equations associated with modified degenerate Euler and Bernoulli numbers and give some new identities for these numbers arising from our differential equations.

1. INTRODUCTION

As is well known, Bernoulli numbers are defined by the generating function

$$(1.1) \quad \frac{t}{e^t - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad (\text{see [1-12]}),$$

and the Euler numbers are given by generating function

$$(1.2) \quad \frac{2}{e^t + 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad (\text{see [7, 8]}).$$

In [2], L. Carlitz considered the degenerate Bernoulli and Euler numbers which are defined by the generating functions

$$(1.3) \quad \frac{t}{(1 + \lambda t)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!},$$

and

$$(1.4) \quad \frac{2}{(1 + \lambda t)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} + 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{E}_n(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

Note that $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \beta_n(\lambda) = B_n$ and $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_n(\lambda) = E_n$, ($n \geq 0$).

Now, we define the modified degenerate Bernoulli and Euler numbers which are slightly different from the Carlitz degenerate Bernoulli and Euler numbers as follows:

$$(1.5) \quad \frac{t}{(1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_n(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad (\text{see [3]}),$$

and

$$(1.6) \quad \frac{2}{(1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} + 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_n(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad (\text{see [9]}).$$

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From (1.5) and (1.4), we easily note that

$$(1.7) \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\beta}_n(\lambda) = B_n \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_n(\lambda) = E_n, \quad (n \geq 0).$$

For $r \in \mathbb{N}$, the higher-order modified Bernoulli and Euler numbers are also defined by the generating functions

$$(1.8) \quad \left(\frac{t}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} \right)^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!},$$

and

$$(1.9) \quad \left(\frac{2}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} + 1} \right)^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

Recall that the higher order Bernoulli and Euler numbers are given by the generating functions

$$(1.10) \quad \left(\frac{t}{e^t - 1} \right)^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n^{(r)} \frac{t^n}{n!},$$

and

$$(1.11) \quad \left(\frac{2}{e^t + 1} \right)^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n^{(r)} \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad (\text{see [6, 11]}).$$

From (1.8), (1.9), (1.10) and (1.11), we note that

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\beta}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) = B_n^{(r)} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) = E_n^{(r)}.$$

In [1], Bayad-Kim studied the following nonlinear differential equations:

$$(1.12) \quad F_q^N = \frac{1}{(N-1)!} \sum_{k=1}^N a_k(N) F_q^{(k-1)}, \quad (N \in \mathbb{N}),$$

where $F^{(k)} = F^{(k)}(t) = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^k F$.

For $F_q(t) = \frac{1}{qe^{t \pm 1}}$, Bayad-Kim gave explicit formulae for Apostol-Bernoulli and Apostol-Euler numbers and polynomials which are derived from (1.12).

In [4], Guo-Qi obtained the following results

$$(1.13) \quad \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^k \left(\frac{1}{\lambda e^{\alpha t} - 1}\right) = (-1)^k \alpha^k \sum_{m=1}^{k+1} (m-1)! S_2(k+1, m) \left(\frac{1}{\lambda e^{\alpha t} - 1}\right)^m,$$

and

$$(1.14) \quad \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^k \left(\frac{1}{\lambda e^{\alpha t} - 1}\right) = \frac{1}{(k-1)!} \sum_{m=1}^k \frac{(-1)^{m-1}}{\alpha^{m-1}} S_1(k, m) \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^{m-1} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda e^{\alpha t} - 1}\right),$$

where $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and $S_1(k, m)$ and $S_2(k, m)$ are respectively the Stirling numbers of the first kind and of the second kind (see [4, 10]). However, the results of Guo-Qi are immediately obtained from the paper of Bayad-Kim in [1] by replacing q by λ and t by αt ($\alpha = \text{constnat}$).

Recently, Kim-Kim studied the nonlinear differential equations given by

$$(1.15) \quad \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^N \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda t)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \pm 1}\right) = \frac{(-1)^N}{(1+\lambda t)^N} \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_i(N, \lambda) F^i,$$

where

$$F = F(t) = \frac{1}{(1 + \lambda t)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} \pm 1} \quad (\text{see [7]}).$$

From (1.15), we derived some new identities involving degenerate Euler and Bernoulli polynomials.

In this paper, along the same line as [7] we study some ordinary differential equations arising from the generating functions of the modified degenerate Bernoulli and Euler numbers. From those equations, we derive some new identities for the modified degenerate Bernoulli and Euler numbers.

2. DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH MODIFIED DEGENERATE BERNOULLI AND EULER NUMBERS

Let

$$(2.1) \quad F = F(t) = \left((1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} \pm 1 \right)^{-1}.$$

Then, by (2.1), we get

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} F^{(1)} &= \frac{dF}{dt} = - \left((1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} \pm 1 \right)^{-2} (1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} \frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \left((1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} \pm 1 \right)^{-2} \left((1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} \pm 1 \mp 1 \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) (F \mp F^2), \end{aligned}$$

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} F^{(2)} &= \frac{dF^{(1)}}{dt} \\ &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \left(F^{(1)} \mp 2FF^{(1)} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) (1 \mp 2F) F^{(1)} \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \right)^2 (1 \mp 2F) (F \mp F^2) \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \right)^2 (F \mp 3F^2 + 2F^3). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we are led to put

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} F^{(N)} &= \left(\frac{d}{dt} \right)^N F(t) \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N) F^i, \quad (N = 0, 1, 2, \dots), \end{aligned}$$

where $a_{i-1}^+(N)$ corresponds to $\left((1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} + 1 \right)^{-1}$ and $a_{i-1}^-(N)$ does to $\left((1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1 \right)^{-1}$.

Now, from (2.4), we have

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} &F^{(N+1)} \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} F^{(N)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda)\right)^{N+1} \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N) i F^{i-1} F^{(1)} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda)\right)^{N+1} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} i a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N) F^i \mp \sum_{i=2}^{N+2} (i-1) a_{i-2}^{\pm}(N) F^i \right\} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda)\right)^{N+1} \left\{ a_0^{\pm}(N) F \mp (N+1) a_N^{\pm}(N) F^{N+2} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{i=2}^{N+1} (i a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N) \mp (i-1) a_{i-2}^{\pm}(N)) F^i \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by replacing N by $N + 1$ in (2.4), we get

$$(2.6) \quad F^{(N+1)} = \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda)\right)^{N+1} \sum_{i=1}^{N+2} a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N+1) F^i.$$

Comparing the coefficients on both sides of (2.5) and (2.6), we obtain

$$(2.7) \quad a_0^{\pm}(N+1) = a_0^{\pm}(N),$$

$$(2.8) \quad a_{N+1}^{\pm}(N+1) = \mp(N+1) a_N^{\pm}(N),$$

and

$$(2.9) \quad a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N+1) = i a_{i-1}^{\pm}(N) \mp (i-1) a_{i-2}^{\pm}(N),$$

for $2 \leq i \leq N + 1$.

Also, by (1.12), we get

$$(2.10) \quad F = F^{(0)} = a_0^{\pm}(0) F.$$

Thus, by (2.10), we see that

$$(2.11) \quad a_0^{\pm}(0) = 1.$$

It is easy to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.12) \quad F^{(1)} &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \sum_{i=1}^2 a_{i-1}^{\pm}(1) F^i \\
 &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) (a_0^{\pm}(1) F + a_1^{\pm}(1) F^2) \\
 &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) (F \mp F^2).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by comparing the coefficients on both sides of (2.12), we have

$$(2.13) \quad a_0^{\pm}(1) = 1, \quad a_1^{\pm}(1) = \mp 1.$$

From (2.7) and (2.8), we note that

$$(2.14) \quad a_0^{\pm}(N+1) = a_0^{\pm}(N) = \dots = a_0^{\pm}(0) = 1,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.15) \quad a_{N+1}^+(N+1) &= -(N+1) a_N^+(N) \\
 &= (-1)^2 (N+1) N a_{N-1}^+(N-1) \\
 &\vdots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (-1)^{N+1} (N+1)! a_0^+ (0) \\
 &= (-1)^{N+1} (N+1)!, \\
 (2.16) \quad a_{N+1}^- (N+1) &= (N+1) a_N^- (N) \\
 &= (N+1) N a_{N-1}^- (N-1) \\
 &\vdots \\
 &= (N+1)! a_0^- (0) \\
 &= (N+1)!.
 \end{aligned}$$

By (2.15) and (2.16), we easily get

$$(2.17) \quad a_{N+1}^\pm (N+1) = (\mp 1)^{N+1} (N+1)!$$

Observe also that the matrix $(a_i^+(j))_{0 \leq i, j \leq N}$ and $(a_i^-(j))_{0 \leq i, j \leq N}$ are as follows:

$$\begin{matrix}
 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & N \\
 \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ N \end{matrix} & \left[\begin{array}{cccccc}
 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\
 & (-1)1! & & & & \\
 & & (-1)^2 2! & & & \\
 & & & (-1)^3 3! & & \\
 & & & & \ddots & \\
 & 0 & & & & (-1)^N N!
 \end{array} \right] & = (a_i^+(j))_{0 \leq i, j \leq N}
 \end{matrix}$$

and

$$\begin{matrix}
 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & N \\
 \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ N \end{matrix} & \left[\begin{array}{cccccc}
 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\
 & 1! & & & & \\
 & & 2! & & & \\
 & & & 3! & & \\
 & & & & \ddots & \\
 & 0 & & & & N!
 \end{array} \right] & = (a_i^-(j))_{0 \leq i, j \leq N}
 \end{matrix}$$

For $i = 2$ in (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.18) \quad a_1^\pm (N+1) &= \mp a_0^\pm (N) + 2a_1^\pm (N) \\
 &= \mp a_0^\pm (N) + 2(\mp a_0^\pm (N-1) + 2a_1^\pm (N-1)) \\
 &= \mp (a_0^\pm (N) + 2a_0^\pm (N-1)) + 2^2 a_1^\pm (N-1) \\
 &= \mp (a_0^\pm (N) + 2a_0^\pm (N-1)) + 2^2 (\mp a_0^\pm (N-2) + 2a_1^\pm (N-2)) \\
 &= \mp (a_0^\pm (N) + 2a_0^\pm (N-1) + 2^2 a_0^\pm (N-2)) + 2^3 a_1^\pm (N-2) \\
 &\vdots
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \mp \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} 2^i a_0^\pm (N-i) + 2^N a_1^\pm (1) = \mp \sum_{i=0}^N 2^i a_0^\pm (N-i).$$

Let us take $i = 3$ in (2.9). Then, we note that

$$\begin{aligned} (2.19) \quad & a_2^\pm (N+1) \\ &= \mp 2a_1^\pm (N) + 3a_2^\pm (N) \\ &= \mp 2a_1^\pm (N) + 3(\mp 2a_1^\pm (N-1) + 3a_2^\pm (N-1)) \\ &= \mp 2(a_1^\pm (N) + 3a_1^\pm (N-1)) + 3^2 a_2^\pm (N-1) \\ &= \mp 2(a_1^\pm (N) + 3a_1^\pm (N-1)) + 3^2(\mp 2a_1^\pm (N-2) + 3a_2^\pm (N-2)) \\ &= \mp 2(a_1^\pm (N) + 3a_1^\pm (N-1) + 3^2 a_1^\pm (N-2)) + 3^3 a_2^\pm (N-2) \\ &\vdots \\ &= \mp 2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} 3^i a_1^\pm (N-i) + 3^{N-1} a_2^\pm (2) \\ &= \mp 2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} 3^i a_1^\pm (N-i). \end{aligned}$$

For $i = 4$ in (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.20) \quad & a_3^\pm (N+1) \\ &= \mp 3a_2^\pm (N) + 4a_3^\pm (N) \\ &= \mp 3a_2^\pm (N) + 4(\mp 3a_2^\pm (N-1) + 4a_3^\pm (N-1)) \\ &= \mp 3(a_2^\pm (N) + 4a_2^\pm (N-1)) + 4^2 a_3^\pm (N-1) \\ &= \mp 3(a_2^\pm (N) + 4a_2^\pm (N-1)) + 4^2(\mp 3a_2^\pm (N-2) + 4a_3^\pm (N-2)) \\ &= \mp 3(a_2^\pm (N) + 4a_2^\pm (N-1) + 4^2 a_2^\pm (N-2)) + 4^3 a_3^\pm (N-2) \\ &\vdots \\ &= \mp 3 \sum_{i=0}^{N-3} 4^i a_2^\pm (N-i) + 4^{N-2} a_3^\pm (3) \\ &= \mp \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} 4^i a_2^\pm (N-i). \end{aligned}$$

Continuing this process, we can deduce that

$$(2.21) \quad a_j^\pm (N+1) = \mp j \sum_{i=0}^{N-j+1} (j+1)^i a_{j-1}^\pm (N-i),$$

for $1 \leq j \leq N$.

Now, we give explicit expression for $a_j^\pm (N+1)$, ($1 \leq j \leq N$).

$$(2.22) \quad a_1^\pm (N+1) = \mp \sum_{i_1=0}^N 2^{i_1},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.23) \quad a_2^\pm(N+1) &= \mp 2 \sum_{i_2=0}^{N-1} 3^{i_2} a_1^\pm(N-i_2) \\
 &= \mp 2 \sum_{i_2=0}^{N-1} 3^{i_2} (\mp 1) \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-i_2-1} 2^{i_1} \\
 &= (\mp 1)^2 2! \sum_{i_2=0}^{N-1} \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-1-i_2} 3^{i_2} 2^{i_1},
 \end{aligned}$$

and, by (2.23), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.24) \quad a_3^\pm(N+1) &= \mp 3 \sum_{i_3=0}^{N-2} 4^{i_3} a_2^\pm(N-i_3) \\
 &= \mp 3 \sum_{i_3=0}^{N-2} 4^{i_3} (\mp 1)^2 2! \sum_{i_2=0}^{N-i_3-2} \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-i_3-i_2-2} 3^{i_2} 2^{i_1} \\
 &= (\mp 1)^3 3! \sum_{i_3=0}^{N-2} \sum_{i_2=0}^{N-2-i_3} \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-2-i_3-i_2} 4^{i_3} 3^{i_2} 2^{i_1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

So, we can deduce that

$$(2.25) \quad a_j^\pm(N+1) = (\mp 1)^j j! \sum_{i_j=0}^{N-j+1} \sum_{i_{j-1}=0}^{N-j+1-i_j} \cdots \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-j+1-i_j-\cdots-i_2} (j+1)^{i_j} j^{i_{j-1}} \cdots 2^{i_1},$$

where $1 \leq j \leq N$.

Remark. Observe that $a_{N+1}^\pm(N+1) = (\mp 1)^{N+1} (N+1)!$ is the same as the above expression with $j = N+1$. Therefore, by (2.4) and (2.25), we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 1. *The ordinary differential equations*

$$F^{(N)} = \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right) \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^-(N) F^i, \quad (N = 0, 1, 2, \dots),$$

have a solution $F = F(t) = \frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}-1}}$, where $a_0^-(N) = 1$,

$$a_j^-(N) = j! \sum_{i_j=0}^{N-j} \sum_{i_{j-1}=0}^{N-j-i_j} \cdots \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-j-i_j-\cdots-i_2} (j+1)^{i_j} j^{i_{j-1}} \cdots 2^{i_1},$$

for $1 \leq j \leq N$.

Theorem 2. *The ordinary differential equations*

$$F^{(N)} = \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right) \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^+(N) F^i, \quad (N = 0, 1, 2, \dots),$$

have a solution $F = F(t) = \frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda} + 1}}$, where $a_0^+(N) = 1$,

$$a_j^+(N) = (-1)^j j! \sum_{i_j=0}^{N-j} \sum_{i_{j-1}=0}^{N-j-i_j} \cdots \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-j-i_j-\cdots-i_2} (j+1)^{i_j} j^{i_{j-1}} \cdots 2^{i_1},$$

for $1 \leq j \leq N$.

Now, we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (2.26) \quad & \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_{k+N}(\lambda) \frac{t^k}{k!} \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_k(\lambda) \frac{t^k}{k!} \right)^{(N)} \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda} + 1}} \right)^{(N)} \\ &= 2 \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^+(N) \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda} + 1}} \right)^i \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^+(N) 2^{1-i} \left(\frac{2}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda} + 1}} \right)^i \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} 2^{1-i} a_{i-1}^+(N) \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_k^{(i)}(\lambda) \right) \frac{t^k}{k!}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by comparing the coefficients on both sides of (2.26), we get

$$(2.27) \quad \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_{k+N}(\lambda) = \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} 2^{1-i} a_{i-1}^+(N) \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_k^{(i)}(\lambda),$$

for $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Therefore, by (2.27), we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 3. For $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, we have

$$\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_{k+N}(\lambda) = \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} 2^{1-i} a_{i-1}^+(N) \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_k^{(i)}(\lambda),$$

where $a_0^+(N) = 1$,

$$(2.28) \quad a_j^+(N) = (-1)^j j! \sum_{i_j=0}^{N-j} \sum_{i_{j-1}=0}^{N-j-i_j} \cdots \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-j-i_j-\cdots-i_2} (j+1)^{i_j} j^{i_{j-1}} \cdots 2^{i_1},$$

where $1 \leq j \leq N$.

Corollary 4. $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_N(x) = \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} 2^{1-i} a_{i-1}^+(N)$.

Replacing t by $\frac{t}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda)$ in (1.11), we obtain

$$(2.29) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \left(\frac{2}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda} + 1}} \right)^r$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E_n^{(r)} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda)t\right)^n}{n!}.$$

Thus, by (2.29), we get

$$(2.30) \quad \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) = \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda)\right)^n E_n^{(r)}, \quad (n \geq 0).$$

From (2.30), we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 5. For $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, we have

$$E_{k+N} = (-1)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} 2^{1-i} a_{i-1}^+(N) E_k^{(i)},$$

where $a_j^+(N) (0 \leq j \leq N)$ are as in (2.28).

From (1.3), we note that

$$(2.31) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} - 1} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_k(\lambda) \frac{t^{k-1}}{k!} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_k(\lambda) \frac{t^{k-1}}{k!} + \tilde{\beta}_0(\lambda) \frac{1}{t} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_{k+1}(\lambda) \frac{t^k}{(k+1)!} + \frac{\lambda}{\log(1+\lambda)} t^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by (2.31), we get

$$(2.32) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} - 1}\right)^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_{k+1}(\lambda) \frac{(k)_N}{(k+1)!} t^{k-N} \\ & \quad + (-1)^N N! \frac{\lambda}{\log(1+\lambda)} t^{-N-1}. \end{aligned}$$

From (2.32), we note that

$$(2.33) \quad \begin{aligned} & t^{N+1} \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{1}{\lambda}} - 1}\right)^{(N)} \\ &= \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_{k+1}(\lambda) \frac{(k)_N}{(k+1)!} t^{k+1} + (-1)^N N! \frac{\lambda}{\log(1+\lambda)} \\ &= \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_k(\lambda) (k-1)_N \frac{t^k}{k!} + (-1)^N N! \frac{\lambda}{\log(1+\lambda)}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by Theorem 1, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.34) \quad & t^{N+1} \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} \right)^{(N)} \\
 &= t^{N+1} \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^-(N) \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} \right)^i \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^-(N) t^{N+1-i} \left(\frac{t}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} \right)^i \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} a_{i-1}^-(N) t^{N+1-i} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_l^{(i)}(\lambda) \frac{t^l}{l!} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=0}^N a_{N-i}^-(N) \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\beta}_l^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) \frac{t^{l+i}}{l!} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} a_{N-i}^-(N) \tilde{\beta}_l^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) \frac{t^{l+i}}{l!} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{k=i}^{\infty} a_{N-i}^-(N) \tilde{\beta}_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) \frac{t^k}{(k-i)!}
 \end{aligned}$$

From (2.34), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.35) \quad & t^{N+1} \left(\frac{1}{(1+\lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} \right)^{(N)} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \\
 &\quad \times \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^N \sum_{i=0}^k a_{N-i}^-(N) \tilde{\beta}_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) (k)_i \frac{t^k}{k!} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^N a_{N-i}^-(N) \tilde{\beta}_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) (k)_i \frac{t^k}{k!} \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Comparing (2.33) and (2.35), we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 6. *Let N be a positive integer. Then*

- (i) $\tilde{\beta}_k(\lambda) = \frac{1}{(k-1)_N} \left(-\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1+\lambda) \right)^N \sum_{i=0}^N a_{N-i}^-(N) \tilde{\beta}_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) (k)_i$, where $k \geq N+1$, $(k)_N = k(k-1)\cdots(k-N+1)$ for $N \geq 1$, and $(k)_0 = 1$.
- (ii) For $1 \leq k \leq N$, we have

$$\sum_{i=0}^k a_{N-i}^-(N) \tilde{\beta}_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(\lambda) (k)_i = 0,$$

where $a_0^-(N) = 1$,

$$(2.36) \quad a_j^-(N) = j! \sum_{i_j=0}^{N-j} \sum_{i_{j-1}=0}^{N-j-i_j} \cdots \sum_{i_1=0}^{N-j-i_j-\cdots-i_2} (j+1)^{i_j} j^{i_{j-1}} \cdots 2^{i_1},$$

$$(1 \leq j \leq N).$$

Replacing t by $\frac{t}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda)$ in (1.10), we get

$$(2.37) \quad \left(\frac{t}{(1 + \lambda)^{\frac{t}{\lambda}} - 1} \right)^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n^{(r)} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \right)^{n-r} \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

Thus, from (2.37), we have

$$(2.38) \quad \tilde{\beta}_n^{(r)}(\lambda) = \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} \log(1 + \lambda) \right)^{n-r} B_n^{(r)}, \quad \text{for } n \geq 0.$$

From (2.38), we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 7. *Let N be any positive integer. Then*

- (i) $B_k = \frac{(-1)^N}{(k-1)_N} \sum_{i=0}^N a_{N-i}^-(N) B_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(k)_i$, for $k \geq N + 1$,
- (ii) $\sum_{i=0}^k a_{N-i}^-(N) B_{k-i}^{(N+1-i)}(k)_i = 0$, for $1 \leq k \leq N$, where $a_j^-(N)$ ($0 \leq j \leq N$) are as in (2.36).

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ADDITIVE-QUADRATIC ρ -FUNCTIONAL INEQUALITIES IN BANACH SPACES

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ABSTRACT. Let

$$M_1 f(x, y) := \frac{3}{4}f(x+y) - \frac{1}{4}f(-x-y) + \frac{1}{4}f(x-y) + \frac{1}{4}f(y-x) - f(x) - f(y),$$

$$M_2 f(x, y) := 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{y-x}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y).$$

We solve the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequalities

$$\|M_1 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_2 f(x, y)\|, \tag{0.1}$$

where ρ is a fixed complex number with $|\rho| < \frac{1}{2}$ and

$$\|M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_1 f(x, y)\|, \tag{0.2}$$

where ρ is a fixed complex number with $|\rho| < 1$.

Using the direct method, we prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequalities (0.1) and (0.2) in complex Banach spaces.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

The stability problem of functional equations originated from a question of Ulam [23] concerning the stability of group homomorphisms.

The functional equation $f(x+y) = f(x)+f(y)$ is called the *Cauchy equation*. In particular, every solution of the Cauchy equation is said to be an *additive mapping*. Hyers [9] gave a first affirmative partial answer to the question of Ulam for Banach spaces. Hyers' Theorem was generalized by Aoki [2] for additive mappings and by Rassias [15] for linear mappings by considering an unbounded Cauchy difference. A generalization of the Rassias theorem was obtained by Găvruta [8] by replacing the unbounded Cauchy difference by a general control function in the spirit of Rassias' approach.

The functional equation $f(x+y)+f(x-y) = 2f(x)+2f(y)$ is called the quadratic functional equation. In particular, every solution of the quadratic functional equation is said to be a *quadratic mapping*. The stability of quadratic functional equation was proved by Skof [22] for mappings $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$, where E_1 is a normed space and E_2 is a Banach space. Cholewa [5] noticed that the theorem of Skof is still true if the relevant domain E_1 is replaced by an Abelian group. The stability problems of various functional equations have been extensively investigated by a number of authors (see [1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25]).

In Section 2, we solve the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.1) and prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.1) in Banach spaces.

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In Section 3, we solve the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.2) and prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.2) in Banach spaces.

In this paper, assume that X is a complex normed space and that Y is a complex Banach space.

2. ADDITIVE-QUADRATIC ρ -FUNCTIONAL INEQUALITY (0.1) IN BANACH SPACES

Throughout this section, assume that ρ is a complex number with $|\rho| < \frac{1}{2}$.

We solve and investigate the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.1) in normed spaces.

Lemma 2.1.

(i) If a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies $M_1f(x, y) = 0$, then $f = f_o + f_e$, where $f_o(x) := \frac{f(x)-f(-x)}{2}$ is the Cauchy additive mapping and $f_e(x) := \frac{f(x)+f(-x)}{2}$ is the quadratic mapping.

(ii) If a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies $M_2f(x, y) = 0$, then $f = f_o + f_e$, where $f_o(x) := \frac{f(x)-f(-x)}{2}$ is the Cauchy additive mapping and $f_e(x) := \frac{f(x)+f(-x)}{2}$ is the quadratic mapping.

Proof. (i)

$$M_1f_o(x, y) = f_o(x + y) - f_o(x) - f_o(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So f_o is the Cauchy additive mapping.

$$M_1f_e(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}f_e(x + y) + \frac{1}{2}f_e(x - y) - f_e(x) - f_e(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So f_e is the quadratic mapping.

(ii)

$$M_2f_o(x, y) = 2f_o\left(\frac{x + y}{2}\right) - f_o(x) - f_o(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Since $M_2f(0, 0) = 0$, $f(0) = 0$ and f_o is the Cauchy additive mapping.

$$M_2f_e(x, y) = 2f_e\left(\frac{x + y}{2}\right) + 2f_e\left(\frac{x - y}{2}\right) - f_e(x) - f_e(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Since $M_2f(0, 0) = 0$, $f(0) = 0$ and f_e is the quadratic mapping.

Therefore, the mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is the sum of the Cauchy additive mapping and the quadratic mapping. □

Lemma 2.2.

(i) If an odd mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies

$$\|M_1f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_2f(x, y)\| \tag{2.1}$$

for all $x, y \in X$, then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is additive.

(ii) If an even mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1), then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is quadratic.

Proof. (i) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1).

Since f is an odd mapping, $f(0) = 0$.

Letting $y = x$ in (2.1), we get

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq 0$$

and so $f(2x) = 2f(x)$ for all $x \in X$. Thus

$$f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}f(x) \tag{2.2}$$

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for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (2.1) and (2.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| &\leq \left\| \rho \left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right) \right\| \\ &= |\rho| \|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$.

(ii) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1).

Letting $x = y = 0$ in (2.1), we get

$$\|f(0)\| \leq \|2\rho f(0)\|.$$

So $f(0) = 0$.

Letting $y = x$ in (2.1), we get

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2}f(2x) - 2f(x) \right\| \leq 0$$

and so $f(2x) = 4f(x)$ for all $x \in X$. Thus

$$f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{4}f(x) \tag{2.3}$$

for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (2.1) and (2.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \rho \left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2f\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right) \right\| \\ &= |\rho| \left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) + f(x-y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. □

We prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (2.1) in complex Banach spaces for an odd mapping case.

Theorem 2.3. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping such that*

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 2^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, \frac{y}{2^j}\right) < \infty, \tag{2.4}$$

$$\|M_1 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_2 f(x, y)\| + \varphi(x, y) \tag{2.5}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Psi(x, x) \tag{2.6}$$

for all $x \in X$.

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Proof. Letting $y = x$ in (2.5), we get

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq \varphi(x, x) \tag{2.7}$$

for all $x \in X$. So

$$\left\| f(x) - 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| \leq \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| 2^l f\left(\frac{x}{2^l}\right) - 2^m f\left(\frac{x}{2^m}\right) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| 2^j f\left(\frac{x}{2^j}\right) - 2^{j+1} f\left(\frac{x}{2^{j+1}}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} 2^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^{j+1}}, \frac{x}{2^{j+1}}\right) \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (2.8) that the sequence $\{2^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ is Cauchy for all $x \in X$. Since Y is a Banach space, the sequence $\{2^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$A(x) := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^k f\left(\frac{x}{2^k}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$. Since f is an odd mapping, A is an odd mapping. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.8), we get (2.6).

It follows from (2.4) and (2.5) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|A(x+y) - A(x) - A(y)\| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| 2^n \left(f\left(\frac{x+y}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right) \right\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| 2^n \rho \left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2^{n+1}}\right) - f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right) \right\| \\ &\quad + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^n \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) \\ &= \left\| \rho \left(2A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - A(x) - A(y) \right) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So

$$\|A(x+y) - A(x) - A(y)\| \leq \left\| \rho \left(2A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - A(x) - A(y) \right) \right\|$$

for all $x, y \in X$. By Lemma 2.2, the mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ is additive.

Now, let $T : X \rightarrow Y$ be another additive mapping satisfying (2.6). Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|A(x) - T(x)\| &= \left\| 2^q A\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) - 2^q T\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| 2^q A\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) - 2^q f\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) \right\| + \left\| 2^q T\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) - 2^q f\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq 2^q \Psi\left(\frac{x}{2^q}, \frac{x}{2^q}\right), \end{aligned}$$

which tends to zero as $q \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in X$. So we can conclude that $A(x) = T(x)$ for all $x \in X$. This proves the uniqueness of A , as desired. \square

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Corollary 2.4. *Let $r > 1$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping such that*

$$\|M_1 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_2 f(x, y)\| + \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \tag{2.9}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2\theta}{2^r - 2} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 2.5. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (2.5) and*

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^j} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j y) < \infty \tag{2.10}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Psi(x, x) \tag{2.11}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. It follows from (2.7) that

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{2} f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{2^l} f(2^l x) - \frac{1}{2^m} f(2^m x) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| \frac{1}{2^j} f(2^j x) - \frac{1}{2^{j+1}} f(2^{j+1} x) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2^{j+1}} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j x) \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (2.12) that the sequence $\{\frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$. Since Y is complete, the sequence $\{\frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$A(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.12), we get (2.11).

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. □

Corollary 2.6. *Let $r < 1$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (2.9). Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2\theta}{2 - 2^r} \|x\|^r \tag{2.13}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Now, we prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (2.1) in complex Banach spaces for an even mapping case.

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Theorem 2.7. Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$, (2.5) and

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} 4^j \varphi \left(\frac{x}{2^j}, \frac{y}{2^j} \right) < \infty \tag{2.14}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Psi(x, x) \tag{2.15}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Letting $y = x$ in (2.5), we get

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2} f(2x) - 2f(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, x) \tag{2.16}$$

for all $x \in X$. So

$$\left\| f(x) - 4f \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) \right\| \leq 2\varphi \left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2} \right)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| 4^l f \left(\frac{x}{2^l} \right) - 4^m f \left(\frac{x}{2^m} \right) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| 4^j f \left(\frac{x}{2^j} \right) - 4^{j+1} f \left(\frac{x}{2^{j+1}} \right) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \frac{4^{j+1}}{2} \varphi \left(\frac{x}{2^{j+1}}, \frac{x}{2^{j+1}} \right) \end{aligned} \tag{2.17}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (2.17) that the sequence $\{4^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ is Cauchy for all $x \in X$. Since Y is a Banach space, the sequence $\{4^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$Q(x) := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 4^k f \left(\frac{x}{2^k} \right)$$

for all $x \in X$. Since f is an even mapping, Q is an even mapping. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.17), we get (2.15).

It follows from (2.5) and (2.14) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \frac{1}{2} Q \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} Q \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) - Q(x) - Q(y) \right\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| 4^n \left(\frac{1}{2} f \left(\frac{x+y}{2^n} \right) + \frac{1}{2} f \left(\frac{x-y}{2^n} \right) - f \left(\frac{x}{2^n} \right) - f \left(\frac{y}{2^n} \right) \right) \right\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| 4^n \rho \left(2f \left(\frac{x+y}{2^{n+1}} \right) + 2f \left(\frac{x-y}{2^{n+1}} \right) - f \left(\frac{x}{2^n} \right) - f \left(\frac{y}{2^n} \right) \right) \right\| + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \varphi \left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n} \right) \\ &= \left\| \rho \left(2Q \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) + 2Q \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) - Q(x) - Q(y) \right) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \frac{1}{2} Q \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} Q \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) - Q(x) - Q(y) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \rho \left(2Q \left(\frac{x+y}{2} \right) + 2Q \left(\frac{x-y}{2} \right) - Q(x) - Q(y) \right) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

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for all $x, y \in X$. By Lemma 2.2, the mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ is quadratic.

Now, let $T : X \rightarrow Y$ be another quadratic mapping satisfying (2.15). Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|Q(x) - T(x)\| &= \left\| 4^q Q\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) - 4^q T\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| 4^q Q\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) - 4^q f\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) \right\| + \left\| 4^q T\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) - 4^q f\left(\frac{x}{2^q}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq 4^q \Psi\left(\frac{x}{2^q}, \frac{x}{2^q}\right), \end{aligned}$$

which tends to zero as $q \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in X$. So we can conclude that $Q(x) = T(x)$ for all $x \in X$. This proves the uniqueness of Q , as desired. \square

Corollary 2.8. *Let $r > 2$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (2.9). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{4\theta}{2^r - 4} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 2.9. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$, (2.5) and*

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^j} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j y) < \infty \tag{2.18}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Psi(x, x) \tag{2.19}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. It follows from (2.16) that

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{4} f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{4^l} f(2^l x) - \frac{1}{4^m} f(2^m x) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j x) - \frac{1}{4^{j+1}} f(2^{j+1} x) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2 \cdot 4^j} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j x) \end{aligned} \tag{2.20}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (2.20) that the sequence $\{\frac{1}{4^n} f(2^n x)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$. Since Y is complete, the sequence $\{\frac{1}{4^n} f(2^n x)\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$Q(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^n} f(2^n x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.20), we get (2.19).

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.7. \square

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Corollary 2.10. *Let $r < 2$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (2.9). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{4\theta}{4 - 2^r} \|x\|^r \tag{2.21}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Remark 2.11. If ρ is a real number such that $-\frac{1}{2} < \rho < \frac{1}{2}$ and Y is a real Banach space, then all the assertions in this section remain valid.

3. ADDITIVE-QUADRATIC ρ -FUNCTIONAL INEQUALITY (0.2) IN COMPLEX BANACH SPACES

Throughout this section, assume that ρ is a complex number with $|\rho| < 1$.

We solve and investigate the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.2) in complex normed spaces.

Lemma 3.1.

(i) *If an odd mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies*

$$\|M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_1 f(x, y)\| \tag{3.1}$$

for all $x, y \in X$, then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is additive.

(ii) *If an even mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies $f(0) = 0$ and (3.1), then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is quadratic.*

Proof. (i) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (3.1).

Letting $y = 0$ in (3.1), we get

$$\left\| 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq 0 \tag{3.2}$$

and so $f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}f(x)$ for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (3.1) and (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\| &= \left\| 2f\left(\frac{x + y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &\leq |\rho| \|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$.

(ii) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (3.1).

Letting $y = 0$ in (3.1), we get

$$\left\| 4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq 0 \tag{3.3}$$

and so $f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{4}f(x)$ for all $x \in X$.

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It follows from (3.1) and (3.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &= \left\| 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2f\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &\leq |\rho| \left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) + f(x-y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. □

We prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (3.1) in complex Banach spaces for an odd mapping case.

Theorem 3.2. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying*

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} 2^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, \frac{y}{2^j}\right) < \infty,$$

$$\|M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_1 f(x, y)\| + \varphi(x, y) \tag{3.4}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \Psi(x, 0) \tag{3.5}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Letting $y = 0$ in (3.4), we get

$$\left\| f(x) - 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| = \left\| 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, 0) \tag{3.6}$$

for all $x \in X$. So

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| 2^l f\left(\frac{x}{2^l}\right) - 2^m f\left(\frac{x}{2^m}\right) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| 2^j f\left(\frac{x}{2^j}\right) - 2^{j+1} f\left(\frac{x}{2^{j+1}}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} 2^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, 0\right) \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (3.7) that the sequence $\{2^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ is Cauchy for all $x \in X$. Since Y is a Banach space, the sequence $\{2^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$A(x) := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 2^k f\left(\frac{x}{2^k}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$. Since f is an odd mapping, A is an odd mapping. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (3.7), we get (3.5).

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. □

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Corollary 3.3. *Let $r > 1$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying*

$$\|M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_1 f(x, y)\| + \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \tag{3.8}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{2^r - 2} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 3.4. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (3.4) and*

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^j} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j y) < \infty$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \Psi(x, 0) \tag{3.9}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. It follows from (3.6) that

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{2} f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \varphi(2x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{2^l} f(2^l x) - \frac{1}{2^m} f(2^m x) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| \frac{1}{2^j} f(2^j x) - \frac{1}{2^{j+1}} f(2^{j+1} x) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l+1}^m \frac{1}{2^j} \varphi(2^j x, 0) \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (3.10) that the sequence $\{\frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$. Since Y is complete, the sequence $\{\frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$A(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} f(2^n x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (3.10), we get (3.9).

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. □

Corollary 3.5. *Let $r < 1$ and θ be positive real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (3.8). Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{2 - 2^r} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Now, we prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (3.1) in complex Banach spaces for an even mapping case.

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Theorem 3.6. Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$, (3.4) and

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} 4^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, \frac{y}{2^j}\right) < \infty$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \Psi(x, 0) \tag{3.11}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Letting $y = 0$ in (3.4), we get

$$\left\|f(x) - 4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\right\| = \left\|4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x)\right\| \leq \varphi(x, 0) \tag{3.12}$$

for all $x \in X$. So

$$\begin{aligned} \left\|4^l f\left(\frac{x}{2^l}\right) - 4^m f\left(\frac{x}{2^m}\right)\right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\|4^j f\left(\frac{x}{2^j}\right) - 4^{j+1} f\left(\frac{x}{2^{j+1}}\right)\right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} 4^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, 0\right) \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (3.13) that the sequence $\{4^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ is Cauchy for all $x \in X$. Since Y is a Banach space, the sequence $\{4^k f(\frac{x}{2^k})\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$Q(x) := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 4^k f\left(\frac{x}{2^k}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$. Since f is an even mapping, Q is an even mapping. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (3.13), we get (3.11).

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. □

Corollary 3.7. Let $r > 2$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (3.8). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{2^r - 4} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Theorem 3.8. Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$, (3.4) and

$$\Psi(x, y) := \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^j} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j y) < \infty$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \Psi(x, 0) \tag{3.14}$$

for all $x \in X$.

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Proof. It follows from (3.12) that

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{4}f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\varphi(2x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{4^l}f(2^l x) - \frac{1}{4^m}f(2^m x) \right\| &\leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \left\| \frac{1}{4^j}f(2^j x) - \frac{1}{4^{j+1}}f(2^{j+1} x) \right\| \\ &\leq \sum_{j=l+1}^m \frac{1}{4^j}\varphi(2^j x, 0) \end{aligned} \tag{3.15}$$

for all nonnegative integers m and l with $m > l$ and all $x \in X$. It follows from (3.15) that the sequence $\{\frac{1}{4^n}f(2^n x)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$. Since Y is complete, the sequence $\{\frac{1}{4^n}f(2^n x)\}$ converges. So one can define the mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$Q(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^n}f(2^n x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Moreover, letting $l = 0$ and passing the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (3.15), we get (3.14).

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. □

Corollary 3.9. *Let $r < 2$ and θ be positive real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$, (3.8). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{4 - 2^r} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Remark 3.10. If ρ is a real number such that $-1 < \rho < 1$ and Y is a real Banach space, then all the assertions in this section remain valid.

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STABILITY OF ADDITIVE-QUADRATIC ρ -FUNCTIONAL INEQUALITIES IN BANACH SPACES

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ABSTRACT. Let

$$M_1 f(x, y) := \frac{3}{4}f(x + y) - \frac{1}{4}f(-x - y) + \frac{1}{4}f(x - y) + \frac{1}{4}f(y - x) - f(x) - f(y),$$

$$M_2 f(x, y) := 2f\left(\frac{x + y}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{x - y}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{y - x}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y).$$

We solve the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequalities

$$\|M_1 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_2 f(x, y)\|, \tag{0.1}$$

where ρ is a fixed complex number with $|\rho| < \frac{1}{2}$ and

$$\|M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_1 f(x, y)\|, \tag{0.2}$$

where ρ is a fixed complex number with $|\rho| < 1$.

Using the fixed point method, we prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequalities (0.1) and (0.2) in complex Banach spaces.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

The stability problem of functional equations originated from a question of Ulam [31] concerning the stability of group homomorphisms.

The functional equation $f(x+y) = f(x)+f(y)$ is called the *Cauchy equation*. In particular, every solution of the Cauchy equation is said to be an *additive mapping*. Hyers [12] gave a first affirmative partial answer to the question of Ulam for Banach spaces. Hyers' Theorem was generalized by Aoki [2] for additive mappings and by Rassias [23] for linear mappings by considering an unbounded Cauchy difference. A generalization of the Rassias theorem was obtained by Găvruta [11] by replacing the unbounded Cauchy difference by a general control function in the spirit of Rassias' approach.

The functional equation $f(x + y) + f(x - y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$ is called the quadratic functional equation. In particular, every solution of the quadratic functional equation is said to be a *quadratic mapping*. The stability of quadratic functional equation was proved by Skof [30] for mappings $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$, where E_1 is a normed space and E_2 is a Banach space. Cholewa [8] noticed that the theorem of Skof is still true if the relevant domain E_1 is replaced by an Abelian group. The stability problems of various functional equations have

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been extensively investigated by a number of authors (see [1, 3, 7, 10, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33]).

We recall a fundamental result in fixed point theory.

Theorem 1.1. [4, 9] *Let (X, d) be a complete generalized metric space and let $J : X \rightarrow X$ be a strictly contractive mapping with Lipschitz constant $\alpha < 1$. Then for each given element $x \in X$, either*

$$d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) = \infty$$

for all nonnegative integers n or there exists a positive integer n_0 such that

- (1) $d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) < \infty, \quad \forall n \geq n_0;$
- (2) the sequence $\{J^n x\}$ converges to a fixed point y^* of J ;
- (3) y^* is the unique fixed point of J in the set $Y = \{y \in X \mid d(J^{n_0} x, y) < \infty\};$
- (4) $d(y, y^*) \leq \frac{1}{1-\alpha} d(y, Jy)$ for all $y \in Y$.

In 1996, G. Isac and Th.M. Rassias [13] were the first to provide applications of stability theory of functional equations for the proof of new fixed point theorems with applications. By using fixed point methods, the stability problems of several functional equations have been extensively investigated by a number of authors (see [5, 6, 15, 16, 22]).

In Section 2, we solve the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.1) and prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.1) in Banach spaces by using the fixed point method.

In Section 3, we solve the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.2) and prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.2) in Banach spaces by using the fixed point method.

In this paper, assume that X is a complex normed space and that Y is a complex Banach space.

2. ADDITIVE-QUADRATIC ρ -FUNCTIONAL INEQUALITY (0.1) IN BANACH SPACES

Throughout this section, assume that ρ is a complex number with $|\rho| < \frac{1}{2}$.

We solve and investigate the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.1) in complex normed spaces.

Lemma 2.1.

- (i) *If a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies $M_1 f(x, y) = 0$, then $f = f_o + f_e$, where $f_o(x) := \frac{f(x)-f(-x)}{2}$ is the Cauchy additive mapping and $f_e(x) := \frac{f(x)+f(-x)}{2}$ is the quadratic mapping.*
- (ii) *If a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies $M_2 f(x, y) = 0$, then $f = f_o + f_e$, where $f_o(x) := \frac{f(x)-f(-x)}{2}$ is the Cauchy additive mapping and $f_e(x) := \frac{f(x)+f(-x)}{2}$ is the quadratic mapping.*

Proof. (i)

$$M_1 f_o(x, y) = f_o(x + y) - f_o(x) - f_o(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So f_o is the Cauchy additive mapping.

$$M_1 f_e(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} f_e(x + y) + \frac{1}{2} f_e(x - y) - f_e(x) - f_e(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So f_e is the quadratic mapping.

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(ii)

$$M_2f_o(x, y) = 2f_o\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f_o(x) - f_o(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Since $M_2f(0, 0) = 0$, $f(0) = 0$ and f_o is the Cauchy additive mapping.

$$M_2f_e(x, y) = 2f_e\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2f_e\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - f_e(x) - f_e(y) = 0$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Since $M_2f(0, 0) = 0$, $f(0) = 0$ and f_e is the quadratic mapping.

Therefore, the mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is the sum of the Cauchy additive mapping and the quadratic mapping. \square

Lemma 2.2.

(i) *If an odd mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies*

$$\|M_1f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_2f(x, y)\| \tag{2.1}$$

for all $x, y \in X$, then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is additive.

(ii) *If an even mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1), then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is quadratic.*

Proof. (i) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1).

Since f is an odd mapping, $f(0) = 0$.

Letting $y = x$ in (2.1), we get $\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq 0$ and so $f(2x) = 2f(x)$ for all $x \in X$. Thus

$$f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}f(x) \tag{2.2}$$

for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (2.1) and (2.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| &\leq \left\| \rho \left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right) \right\| \\ &= |\rho| \|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$.

(ii) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1).

Letting $x = y = 0$ in (2.1), we get $\|f(0)\| \leq \|2\rho f(0)\|$. So $f(0) = 0$.

Letting $y = x$ in (2.1), we get $\|\frac{1}{2}f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq 0$ and so $f(2x) = 4f(x)$ for all $x \in X$. Thus

$$f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{4}f(x) \tag{2.3}$$

for all $x \in X$.

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It follows from (2.1) and (2.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ & \leq \left\| \rho \left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2f\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right) \right\| \\ & = |\rho| \left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) + f(x-y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. □

Using the fixed point method, we prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (2.1) in complex Banach spaces.

Theorem 2.3. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right) \leq \frac{L}{2}\varphi(x, y) \tag{2.4}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying

$$\|M_1f(x, y) - \rho M_2f(x, y)\| \leq \varphi(x, y) \tag{2.5}$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{2(1-L)}\varphi(x, x) \tag{2.6}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Letting $y = x$ in (2.5), we get

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq \varphi(x, x) \tag{2.7}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Consider the set

$$S := \{h : X \rightarrow Y, h(0) = 0\}$$

and introduce the generalized metric on S :

$$d(g, h) = \inf \{ \mu \in \mathbb{R}_+ : \|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq \mu\varphi(x, x), \forall x \in X \},$$

where, as usual, $\inf \phi = +\infty$. It is easy to show that (S, d) is complete (see [14]).

Now we consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := 2g\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Let $g, h \in S$ be given such that $d(g, h) = \varepsilon$. Then

$$\|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq \varepsilon\varphi(x, x)$$

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for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|Jg(x) - Jh(x)\| &= \left\| 2g\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - 2h\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| \leq 2\varepsilon\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}\right) \\ &\leq 2\varepsilon\frac{L}{2}\varphi(x, x) = L\varepsilon\varphi(x, x) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$. So $d(g, h) = \varepsilon$ implies that $d(Jg, Jh) \leq L\varepsilon$. This means that

$$d(Jg, Jh) \leq Ld(g, h)$$

for all $g, h \in S$.

It follows from (2.7) that

$$\left\| f(x) - 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| \leq \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}\right) \leq \frac{L}{2}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$. So $d(f, Jf) \leq \frac{L}{2}$.

By Theorem 1.1, there exists a mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying the following:

(1) A is a fixed point of J , i.e.,

$$A(x) = 2A\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \tag{2.8}$$

for all $x \in X$. The mapping A is a unique fixed point of J in the set

$$M = \{g \in S : d(f, g) < \infty\}.$$

This implies that A is a unique mapping satisfying (2.8) such that there exists a $\mu \in (0, \infty)$ satisfying

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \mu\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$;

(2) $d(J^l f, A) \rightarrow 0$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$. This implies the equality

$$\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} 2^l f\left(\frac{x}{2^l}\right) = A(x)$$

for all $x \in X$;

(3) $d(f, A) \leq \frac{1}{1-L}d(f, Jf)$, which implies

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{2(1-L)}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (2.4) and (2.5) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| A(x+y) - A(x) - A(y) - \rho\left(2A\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - A(x) - A(y)\right) \right\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| 2^n \left(f\left(\frac{x+y}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 2^n \rho\left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2^{n+1}}\right) - f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right) \right\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^n \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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for all $x, y \in X$. So

$$A(x + y) - A(x) - A(y) = \rho \left(2A \left(\frac{x + y}{2} \right) - A(x) - A(y) \right)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. By Lemma 2.2, the mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ is additive. \square

Corollary 2.4. *Let $r > 1$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying*

$$\|M_1 f(x, y) - \rho M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \tag{2.9}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f_o(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2\theta}{2^r - 2} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 2.3 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{1-r}$ and we get the desired result. \square

Theorem 2.5. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi \left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2} \right) \leq \frac{L}{4} \varphi(x, y) \tag{2.10}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (2.5). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f_e(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{2(1-L)} \varphi(x, x) \tag{2.11}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Letting $y = x$ in (2.5) for f_e , we get

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2} f(2x) - 2f(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, x) \tag{2.12}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Let (S, d) be the generalized metric space defined in the proof of Theorem 2.3.

Now we consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := 4g \left(\frac{x}{2} \right)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Let $g, h \in S$ be given such that $d(g, h) = \varepsilon$. Then

$$\|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq \varepsilon \varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|Jg(x) - Jh(x)\| &= \left\| 4g \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) - 4h \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) \right\| \leq 4\varepsilon \varphi \left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2} \right) \\ &\leq 4\varepsilon \frac{L}{4} \varphi(x, x) = L\varepsilon \varphi(x, x) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$. So $d(g, h) = \varepsilon$ implies that $d(Jg, Jh) \leq L\varepsilon$. This means that

$$d(Jg, Jh) \leq Ld(g, h)$$

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for all $g, h \in S$.

It follows from (2.12) that

$$\left\| f(x) - 4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| \leq 2\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}\right) \leq \frac{L}{2}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$. So $d(f, Jf) \leq \frac{L}{2}$.

By Theorem 1.1, there exists a mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying the following:

(1) Q is a fixed point of J , i.e.,

$$Q(x) = 4Q\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \tag{2.13}$$

for all $x \in X$. The mapping Q is a unique fixed point of J in the set

$$M = \{g \in S : d(f, g) < \infty\}.$$

This implies that Q is a unique mapping satisfying (2.13) such that there exists a $\mu \in (0, \infty)$ satisfying

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \mu\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$;

(2) $d(J^l f, Q) \rightarrow 0$ as $l \rightarrow \infty$. This implies the equality

$$\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} 4^l f\left(\frac{x}{2^l}\right) = Q(x)$$

for all $x \in X$;

(3) $d(f, Q) \leq \frac{1}{1-L}d(f, Jf)$, which implies

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{2(1-L)}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (2.4) and (2.5) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \frac{1}{2}Q\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}Q\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - Q(x) - Q(y) \right. \\ & \left. - \rho\left(2Q\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2Q\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - Q(x) - Q(y)\right) \right\| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\| 4^n \left(\frac{1}{2}f\left(\frac{x+y}{2^n}\right) + \frac{1}{2}f\left(\frac{x-y}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right) \right. \\ & \left. - 4^n \rho\left(2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2^{n+1}}\right) + 2f\left(\frac{x-y}{2^{n+1}}\right) - f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - f\left(\frac{y}{2^n}\right)\right) \right\| \\ & \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. So

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2}Q\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}Q\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - Q(x) - Q(y) \\ &= \rho\left(2Q\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2Q\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - Q(x) - Q(y)\right) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. By Lemma 2.2, the mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ is quadratic. □

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Corollary 2.6. *Let $r > 2$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (2.9). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{4\theta}{2^r - 4} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 2.5 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{2-r}$ and we get the desired result. \square

Theorem 2.7. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi(x, y) \leq 2L\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (2.5). Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2(1-L)}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Let (S, d) be the generalized metric space defined in the proof of Theorem 2.3.

It follows from (2.7) that

$$\left\|f(x) - \frac{1}{2}f(2x)\right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Now we consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := \frac{1}{2}g(2x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. \square

Corollary 2.8. *Let $r < 1$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (2.9). Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2\theta}{2 - 2^r} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 2.7 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{r-1}$ and we get desired result. \square

Theorem 2.9. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi(x, y) \leq 4L\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (2.5). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2(1-L)}\varphi(x, x)$$

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for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Let (S, d) be the generalized metric space defined in the proof of Theorem 2.3.

It follows from (2.12) that

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{4}f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\varphi(x, x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Now we consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := \frac{1}{4}g(2x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.5. □

Corollary 2.10. *Let $r < 2$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (2.9). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{4\theta}{4 - 2^r} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 2.9 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{r-2}$ and we get desired result. □

Remark 2.11. If ρ is a real number such that $-\frac{1}{2} < \rho < \frac{1}{2}$ and Y is a real Banach space, then all the assertions in this section remain valid.

3. ADDITIVE-QUADRATIC ρ -FUNCTIONAL INEQUALITY (0.2) IN COMPLEX BANACH SPACES

Throughout this section, assume that ρ is a complex number with $|\rho| < 1$.

We solve and investigate the additive-quadratic ρ -functional inequality (0.2) in complex normed spaces.

Lemma 3.1.

(i) *If an odd mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies*

$$\|M_2 f(x, y)\| \leq \|\rho M_1 f(x, y)\| \tag{3.1}$$

for all $x, y \in X$, then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is additive.

(ii) *If an even mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies $f(0) = 0$ and (3.1), then $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is quadratic.*

Proof. (i) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (3.1).

Letting $y = 0$ in (3.1), we get

$$\left\| 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq 0 \tag{3.2}$$

and so $f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}f(x)$ for all $x \in X$.

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It follows from (3.1) and (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| &= \left\| 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &\leq |\rho| \|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) = f(x) + f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$.

(ii) Assume that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (3.1).

Letting $y = 0$ in (3.1), we get

$$\left\| 4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq 0 \tag{3.3}$$

and so $f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{4}f(x)$ for all $x \in X$.

It follows from (3.1) and (3.3) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &= \left\| 2f\left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right) + 2f\left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \\ &\leq |\rho| \left\| \frac{1}{2}f(x+y) + \frac{1}{2}f(x-y) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$f(x+y) + f(x-y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. □

Using the fixed point method, we prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the additive-quadratic ρ -functional equation (3.1) in complex Banach spaces.

Theorem 3.2. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right) \leq \frac{L}{2}\varphi(x, y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying

$$\|M_2f(x, y) - \rho M_1f(x, y)\| \leq \varphi(x, y) \tag{3.4}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{1-L}\varphi(x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Letting $y = 0$ in (3.4), we get

$$\left\| f(x) - 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| = \left\| 2f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, 0) \tag{3.5}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Consider the set

$$S := \{h : X \rightarrow Y, h(0) = 0\}$$

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and introduce the generalized metric on S :

$$d(g, h) = \inf \{ \mu \in \mathbb{R}_+ : \|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq \mu \varphi(x, 0), \forall x \in X \},$$

where, as usual, $\inf \emptyset = +\infty$. It is easy to show that (S, d) is complete (see [14]).

We consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := 2g\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$.

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. □

Corollary 3.3. *Let $r > 1$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying*

$$\|M_2 f(x, y) - \rho M_1 f(x, y)\| \leq \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \tag{3.6}$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{2^r - 2} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 3.2 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{1-r}$ and we get desired result. □

Theorem 3.4. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right) \leq \frac{L}{4} \varphi(x, y)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (3.4). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{1-L} \varphi(x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Let (S, d) be the generalized metric space defined in the proof of Theorem 3.2.

Letting $y = 0$ in (3.4), we get

$$\left\| f(x) - 4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \right\| = \left\| 4f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, 0) \tag{3.7}$$

for all $x \in X$.

We consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := 4g\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$$

for all $x \in X$.

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.5. □

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Corollary 3.5. *Let $r > 2$ and θ be nonnegative real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (3.6). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{2^r - 4} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 3.4 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{2-r}$ and we get desired result. \square

Theorem 3.6. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi(x, y) \leq 2L\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (3.4). Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{1-L}\varphi(x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Let (S, d) be the generalized metric space defined in the proof of Theorem 3.2.

It follows from (3.5) that

$$\left\|f(x) - \frac{1}{2}f(2x)\right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\varphi(2x, 0) \leq L\varphi(x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$.

We consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := \frac{1}{2}g(2x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. \square

Corollary 3.7. *Let $r < 1$ and θ be positive real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an odd mapping satisfying (3.6). Then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r \theta}{2 - 2^r} \|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 3.6 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{r-1}$ and we get desired result. \square

Theorem 3.8. *Let $\varphi : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a function such that there exists an $L < 1$ with*

$$\varphi(x, y) \leq 4L\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right)$$

for all $x, y \in X$. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (3.4). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{1-L}\varphi(x, 0)$$

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for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Let (S, d) be the generalized metric space defined in the proof of Theorem 3.2.

It follows from (3.7) that

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{4}f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\varphi(2x, 0) \leq L\varphi(x, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$.

We consider the linear mapping $J : S \rightarrow S$ such that

$$Jg(x) := \frac{1}{4}g(2x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.5. □

Corollary 3.9. *Let $r < 2$ and θ be positive real numbers, and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be an even mapping satisfying $f(0) = 0$ and (3.6). Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{2^r\theta}{4 - 2^r}\|x\|^r$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof follows from Theorem 3.8 by taking $\varphi(x, y) = \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r)$ for all $x, y \in X$. Then we can choose $L = 2^{r-2}$ and we get desired result. □

Remark 3.10. If ρ is a real number such that $-1 < \rho < 1$ and Y is a real Banach space, then all the assertions in this section remain valid.

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Global Attractivity and the Periodic Nature of Third Order Rational Difference Equation

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ABSTRACT

The main target of our study to cover the solutions behavior of the following difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = ax_n + bx_{n-1} + \frac{c + dx_{n-2}}{e + fx_{n-2}}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where the parameters a , b , c , d , e and f are positive real numbers and the initial conditions x_{-2} , x_{-1} and x_0 are positive real numbers.

Keywords: stability, boundedness, periodicity, global attractor, difference equations.

Mathematics Subject Classification: 39A10

1. INTRODUCTION

Our objective in this research is to study character of global stability and the periodicity of the solutions of the recursive sequence

$$x_{n+1} = ax_n + bx_{n-1} + \frac{c + dx_{n-2}}{e + fx_{n-2}}, \quad (1)$$

where the following parameters a , b , c , d , e and f are defined as positive real numbers and the initial conditions x_{-2} , x_{-1} and x_0 are also defined as positive real numbers.

The theory of discrete dynamical systems and difference equations developed greatly during the last twenty-five years of the twentieth century. Applications of discrete dynamical systems and difference equations have appeared recently in many areas. The theory of difference equations occupies a central position in applicable analysis. There is no doubt that the theory of difference equations will continue to play an important role in mathematics as a whole. Nonlinear difference equations of order greater than one are of paramount importance in applications. Such equations also appear naturally as discrete analogues and as numerical solutions of differential and delay differential equations which model various diverse phenomena in biology, ecology, physiology, physics, engineering, economics, probability theory, genetics, psychology and resource management [12]. It is very interesting to investigate the behavior of solutions of a higher-order rational difference equation and to discuss the local asymptotic stability of its equilibrium points. Rational difference equations have been studied by several authors. Especially there has been a great interest in the study of the attractivity of the solutions of such equations. For more results for the rational difference equations, we refer the interested reader to [1–30].

The study of the nonlinear rational difference equations of a higher order is quite challenging and rewarding, and the results about these equations offer prototypes towards the development of the basic theory of the global behavior of nonlinear difference equations of a big order, recently, many researchers have investigated the behavior

of the solution of difference equations for example: Abo-Zeid and Al-Shabi [1] investigated the global stability, and periodic nature of the positive solutions of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{A+Bx_n}{C+Dx_nx_{n-2}}.$$

Belhannache et al. [5] studied the global behavior of positive solutions of the following third order difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{A+Bx_{n-1}}{C+Dx_n^p x_{n-2}^q}.$$

Dehghan and Rastegar [11], deal with the qualitative behavior of solutions of the higher-order non-linear difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{p+qx_n+rx_{n-k}}{1+x_{n-k}}.$$

Din [14] investigated the local asymptotic stability, global stability, the periodic character, semicycle analysis and the boundedness nature of the following rational difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{A+Bx_n+Cx_{n-k}}{1+x_n+x_{n-k}}.$$

In [16] Elabbasy et al. investigated the global stability character, boundedness and the periodicity of solutions of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{\alpha x_n + \beta x_{n-1} + \gamma x_{n-2}}{Ax_n + Bx_{n-1} + Cx_{n-2}}.$$

Elsayed [22] investigated the local and global stability, boundedness character and obtained the solution of some special cases of the following recursive sequence

$$x_{n+1} = ax_{n-1} + \frac{bx_n x_{n-1}}{cx_n + dx_{n-2}}.$$

A. El-Moneam, and Zayed [20]-[21] studied the periodicity, the boundedness and the global stability of the positive solutions of the following nonlinear difference equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= Ax_n + Bx_{n-k} + Cx_{n-l} + \frac{bx_{n-k}}{dx_{n-k} - ex_{n-l}}. \\ x_{n+1} &= Ax_n + Bx_{n-k} + Cx_{n-l} + Dx_{n-\sigma} + \frac{bx_{n-k} + hx_{n-l}}{dx_{n-k} + ex_{n-l}}. \end{aligned}$$

Su and Li [52] studied the global asymptotic stability of the nonlinear difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{\alpha + \beta x_n}{A + Bx_n + Cx_{n-1}}.$$

Yalçınkaya et al. [54] considered the dynamics of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-k}}{b + cx_n^p}.$$

For some related work see [31–57].

2. SOME BASIC PROPERTIES AND DEFINITIONS

Here, we recall some basic definitions and some theorems that we need in the sequel.

Let I be some interval of real numbers and let $F : I^{k+1} \rightarrow I$, be a continuously differentiable function. Then for every set of initial conditions $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_0 \in I$, the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = F(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_{n-k}), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{2}$$

has a unique solution $\{x_n\}_{n=-k}^\infty$.

Definition 1. (Equilibrium Point) A point $\bar{x} \in I$ is called an equilibrium point of Eq.(2) if

$$\bar{x} = F(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}).$$

That is, $x_n = \bar{x}$ for $n \geq 0$, is a solution of Eq.(2), or equivalently, \bar{x} is a fixed point of F .

Definition 2. (Periodicity) A sequence $\{x_n\}_{n=-k}^{\infty}$ is said to be periodic with period p if $x_{n+p} = x_n$ for all $n \geq -k$.

Definition 3. (Stability)

(i) The equilibrium point \bar{x} of Eq.(2) is locally stable if for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in I$ with

$$|x_{-k} - \bar{x}| + |x_{-k+1} - \bar{x}| + \dots + |x_0 - \bar{x}| < \delta,$$

we have

$$|x_n - \bar{x}| < \epsilon \quad \text{for all } n \geq -k.$$

(ii) The equilibrium point \bar{x} of Eq.(2) is locally asymptotically stable if \bar{x} is locally stable solution of Eq.(2) and there exists $\gamma > 0$, such that for all $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in I$ with

$$|x_{-k} - \bar{x}| + |x_{-k+1} - \bar{x}| + \dots + |x_0 - \bar{x}| < \gamma,$$

we have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \bar{x}$.

(iii) The equilibrium point \bar{x} of Eq.(2) is global attractor if for all $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in I$, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \bar{x}.$$

(iv) The equilibrium point \bar{x} of Eq.(2) is globally asymptotically stable if \bar{x} is locally stable, and \bar{x} is also a global attractor of Eq.(2).

(v) The equilibrium point \bar{x} of Eq.(2) is unstable if \bar{x} is not locally stable.

The linearized equation of Eq.(2) about the equilibrium \bar{x} is the linear difference equation

$$y_{n+1} = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{\partial F(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x})}{\partial x_{n-i}} y_{n-i}. \tag{3}$$

Theorem A. [47] Assume that $p, q \in R$ and $k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. Then $|p| + |q| < 1$, is a sufficient condition for the asymptotic stability of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} + px_n + qx_{n-k} = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots .$$

Remark: Theorem A can be easily extended to a general linear equations of the form

$$x_{n+k} + p_1x_{n+k-1} + \dots + p_kx_n = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{4}$$

where $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k \in R$ and $k \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$. Then Eq. (4) is asymptotically stable provided that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k |p_i| < 1.$$

Theorem B. [48] Let $g : [a, b]^{k+1} \rightarrow [a, b]$, be a continuous function, where k is a positive integer, and where $[a, b]$ is an interval of real numbers. Consider the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = g(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_{n-k}), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots . \tag{5}$$

Suppose that g satisfies the following conditions.

- (1) For each integer i with $1 \leq i \leq k + 1$; the function $g(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k+1})$ is weakly monotonic in z_i for fixed $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{i-1}, z_{i+1}, \dots, z_{k+1}$.
- (2) If m, M is a solution of the system

$$m = g(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{k+1}), \quad M = g(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_{k+1}),$$

then $m = M$, where for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, k + 1$, we set

$$\begin{aligned} m_i &= \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} m, & \text{if } g \text{ is non-decreasing in } z_i, \\ M, & \text{if } g \text{ is non-increasing in } z_i, \end{array} \right\} \\ Mi &= \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} M, & \text{if } g \text{ is non-decreasing in } z_i, \\ m, & \text{if } g \text{ is non-increasing in } z_i. \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then there exists exactly one equilibrium point \bar{x} of Equation (5), and every solution of Equation (5) converges to \bar{x} .

3. LOCAL STABILITY OF THE EQUILIBRIUM POINT OF EQ.(1)

This section deals with study the local stability character of the equilibrium point of Eq.(1)

Eq.(1) has equilibrium point and is given by

$$\bar{x} = a\bar{x} + b\bar{x} + \frac{c + d\bar{x}}{e + f\bar{x}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{x}(1 - a - b) = \frac{c + d\bar{x}}{e + f\bar{x}},$$

$$f(1 - a - b)\bar{x}^2 + [e(1 - a - b) - d]\bar{x} - c = 0$$

If $d > e(1 - a - b) > 0$, then the only positive equilibrium point of Eq.(1) is given by

$$\bar{x} = \frac{[d - e(1 - a - b)] + \sqrt{[d - e(1 - a - b)]^2 + 4fc(1 - a - b)}}{2f(1 - a - b)}.$$

Let $f : (0, \infty)^3 \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ be a continuous function defined by

$$f(u, v, w) = au + bv + \frac{c + dw}{e + fw}. \tag{6}$$

Therefore it follows that

$$\frac{\partial f(u, v, w)}{\partial u} = a, \quad \frac{\partial f(u, v, w)}{\partial v} = b, \quad \frac{\partial f(u, v, w)}{\partial w} = \frac{(de - fc)}{(e + fw)^2}.$$

Then we see that

$$\frac{\partial f(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x})}{\partial u} = a = -a_2, \quad \frac{\partial f(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x})}{\partial v} = b = -a_1, \quad \frac{\partial f(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x})}{\partial w} = \frac{de - fc}{(e + f\bar{x})^2} = -a_0.$$

Then the linearized equation of Eq.(1) about \bar{x} is

$$y_{n+1} + a_2y_n + a_1y_{n-1} + a_0y_{n-2} = 0, \tag{7}$$

whose characteristic equation is

$$\lambda^3 + a_2\lambda^2 + a_1\lambda + a_0 = 0. \tag{8}$$

Theorem 1. Assume that

$$\frac{|de - fc|}{(e + f\bar{x})^2} < 1 - a - b.$$

Then the positive equilibrium point of Eq.(1) is locally asymptotically stable.

Proof: It follows by Theorem A that, Eq.(7) is asymptotically stable if all roots of Eq.(8) lie in the open disc $|\lambda| < 1$ that is if

$$|a_2| + |a_1| + |a_0| < 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad |a| + |b| + \left| \frac{de - fc}{(e + f\bar{x})^2} \right| < 1,$$

and so

$$a + b + \frac{|de - fc|}{(e - f\bar{x})^2} < 1,$$

or

$$\frac{|de - fc|}{(e + f\bar{x})^2} < 1 - a - b.$$

The proof is complete.

4. BOUNDEDNESS OF SOLUTIONS OF EQ.(1)

Here we study the boundedness nature of solutions of Eq.(1).

Theorem 2. Every solution of Eq.(1) is bounded if $a + b + \frac{d}{e} < 1$.

Proof: Let $\{x_n\}_{n=-2}^\infty$ be a solution of Eq.(1). It follows from Eq.(1) that

$$x_{n+1} = ax_n + bx_{n-1} + \frac{c + dx_{n-2}}{e + fx_{n-2}} \leq ax_n + bx_{n-1} + \frac{c + dx_{n-2}}{e}.$$

Then

$$x_{n+1} \leq ax_n + bx_{n-1} + \frac{d}{e}x_{n-2} + \frac{c}{e} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 1.$$

By using a comparison, we can write the right hand side as follows

$$y_{n+1} = ay_n + by_{n-1} + \frac{d}{e}y_{n-2} + \frac{c}{e},$$

and this equation is locally asymptotically stable if $a + b + \frac{d}{e} < 1$, and converges to the equilibrium point $\bar{y} = \frac{c}{e(1-a-b-\frac{d}{e})}$. Therefore

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n \leq \frac{c}{e(1-a-b-\frac{d}{e})}.$$

Thus the solution is bounded.

Theorem 3. Every solution of Eq.(1) is unbounded if $a > 1$ (or $b > 1$).

Proof: Let $\{x_n\}_{n=-2}^\infty$ be a solution of Eq.(1). Then from Eq.(1) we see that

$$x_{n+1} = ax_n + bx_{n-1} + \frac{c+dx_{n-2}}{e+fx_{n-2}} > ax_n \quad \text{for all } n \geq 1.$$

We see that the right hand side can write as follows

$$y_{n+1} = ay_n \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_n = a^n y_0,$$

and this equation is unstable because $a > 1$, and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \infty$. Then by using ratio test $\{x_n\}_{n=-2}^\infty$ is unbounded from above (when $b > 1$ is similar).

5. EXISTENCE OF PERIOD TWO SOLUTIONS

In this section we study the existence of periodic solutions of Eq.(1). The following theorem states the necessary and sufficient conditions that this equation has periodic solutions of prime period two.

Theorem 4. Eq.(1) has positive prime period two solutions if and only if

$$(i) (eB - d)^2 B^2 f^2 - 4aBf^2(e^2(1 - b)B - ed(1 - b) - acf) > 0, \quad B = b - a - 1.$$

Proof: First suppose that there exists a prime period two solution ..., p, q, p, q, \dots , of Eq.(1). We will prove that Condition (i) holds. We see from Eq.(1) that

$$\begin{aligned} p &= aq + bp + \frac{c + dq}{e + fq}, & q &= ap + bq + \frac{c + dp}{e + fp}. \\ p(1 - b) - aq &= \frac{c + dq}{e + fq}, & q(1 - b) - ap &= \frac{c + dp}{e + fp}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$ep(1 - b) + pqf(1 - b) - aeq - afq^2 = c + dq,$$

and

$$eq(1 - b) + pqf(1 - b) - aep - afp^2 = c + dp.$$

Then

$$ep(1 - b) + pqf(1 - b) - afq^2 = c + (d + ae)q, \tag{9}$$

and

$$eq(1 - b) + pqf(1 - b) - afp^2 = c + (d + ae)p. \tag{10}$$

Subtracting (9) from (10) gives

$$e(1 - b)(p - q) + af(p - q)(p + q) = -(d + ae)(p - q).$$

Since $p \neq q$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} e(1 - b) + af(p + q) &= -(d + ae), \\ p + q &= \frac{e(b - 1 - a) - d}{af}. \end{aligned}$$

or

$$p + q = \frac{eB - d}{af}, \quad B = b - a - 1. \tag{11}$$

Again, adding (9) and (10) yields

$$\begin{aligned} e(1 - b)(p + q) + 2pqf(1 - b) - af(p^2 + q^2) &= 2c + (d + ae)(p + q), \\ 2pqf(1 - b) - af((p + q)^2 - 2pq) &= 2c + (p + q)(d + ae - e(1 - b)). \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

It follows by (11), (12) and the relation

$$p^2 + q^2 = (p + q)^2 - 2pq \quad \text{for all } p, q \in R,$$

that

$$2pqf(1 - b) + 2afpq = af(p + q)^2 + 2c + (p + q)(d + e(a - 1 + b)).$$

and

$$2pqf((1 - b) + a) = 2c + (p + q) \{d + e(a - 1 + b) + af(p + q)\}.$$

From Eq. (11) we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2pqf((1-b)+a) &= 2c + (p+q)\{d + e(a-1+b) + e(b-1-a) - d\}, \\ 2pqf((1-b+a)) &= 2c + (p+q)\{-2e + 2eb\}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} pqf(-B) &= c + (p+q)e(b-1) \\ pqfB &= e(1-b)\left(\frac{eB-d}{af}\right) - c. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$pq = \frac{e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af}{aBf^2}. \tag{13}$$

Now it is clear from Eq.(11) and Eq.(13) that p and q are the two distinct roots of the quadratic equation

$$\begin{aligned} t^2 - \left(\frac{eB-d}{af}\right)t + \left(\frac{e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af}{aBf^2}\right) &= 0, \\ aBf^2t^2 - (eB-d)Bft + (e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af) &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

and so

$$(eB-d)^2B^2f^2 > 4aBf^2(e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af),$$

or

$$(eB-d)^2B^2f^2 - 4aBf^2(e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af) > 0.$$

Therefore Inequality (i) holds.

Second suppose that Inequality (i) is true. We will show that Eq.(1) has a prime period two solution. Assume that

$$p = \frac{(eB-d)Bf + \sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2}, \quad q = \frac{(eB-d)Bf - \sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2},$$

where $\zeta = (eB-d)^2B^2f^2 - 4aBf^2(e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af)$.

We see from Inequality (i) that

$$(eB-d)^2B^2f^2 - 4aBf^2(e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af) > 0,$$

which equivalents to

$$(eB-d)^2B^2f^2 > 4aBf^2(e^2(1-b)B - ed(1-b) - af).$$

Therefore p and q are distinct real numbers. Set $x_{-2} = p$, $x_{-1} = q$ and $x_0 = p$. We wish to show that $x_1 = x_{-1} = q$ and $x_2 = x_0 = p$. It follows from Eq.(1) that

$$x_1 = ap + bq + \frac{c+dp}{e+fp} = \frac{a(eB-d)Bf+a\sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2} + \frac{b(eB-d)Bf-b\sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2} + \frac{c+\left(\frac{d(eB-d)Bf+d\sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2}\right)}{e+\left(\frac{(eB-d)Bf^2+f\sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2}\right)}.$$

Multiplying the denominator and numerator by $2aBf^2$ gives

$$x_1 = a(eB-d)Bf + a\sqrt{\zeta} + b(eB-d)Bf - b\sqrt{\zeta} + \frac{2acBf^2 + (d(eB-d)Bf + d\sqrt{\zeta})}{2aeBf^2 + ((eB-d)Bf^2 + f\sqrt{\zeta})}.$$

By simple computations we can see that

$$x_1 = \frac{(eB-d)Bf + \sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2} = q.$$

Similarly as before one can easily show that $x_2 = p$. Then it follows by induction that

$$x_{2n} = p \quad \text{and} \quad x_{2n+1} = q \quad \text{for all} \quad n \geq -2.$$

Thus Eq.(1) has the prime period two solution \dots, p, q, p, q, \dots , where p and q are the distinct roots of the quadratic equation (14) and the proof is complete.

6. GLOBAL ATTRACTIVITY OF THE EQUILIBRIUM POINT OF EQ.(1)

In this section we investigate the global asymptotic stability of Eq.(1).

Theorem 5. The equilibrium point \bar{x} is a global attractor of Eq.(1) if one of the following statements holds

$$de \geq fc \text{ and } (1 - a - b)e \geq d. \tag{15}$$

$$de < fc \text{ and } (1 - a - b) \geq 0. \tag{16}$$

Proof: Let α and β be a real numbers and assume that $g : [\alpha, \beta]^3 \rightarrow [\alpha, \beta]$ be a function defined by

$$g(u, v, w) = au + bv + \frac{c + dw}{e + fw}.$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial g(u, v, w)}{\partial u} = a, \quad \frac{\partial g(u, v, w)}{\partial v} = b, \quad \frac{\partial g(u, v, w)}{\partial w} = \frac{de - fc}{(e + fw)^2}.$$

We consider the two cases:-

Case (1): Assume that (15) is true, then we can easily see that the function $g(u, v, w)$ increasing in u, v and w .

Suppose that (m, M) is a solution of the system $M = g(M, M, M)$ and $m = g(m, m, m)$. Then from Eq.(1), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} M &= aM + bM + \frac{c + dM}{de + fM}, & m &= am + bm + \frac{c + dm}{e + fm}, \\ M(1 - a - b) &= \frac{c + dM}{e + fM}, & m(1 - a - b) &= \frac{c + dm}{e + fm}, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$MAe + AfM^2 = c + dM, \quad mAe + Afm^2 = c + dm, \quad A = 1 - a - b.$$

Subtracting this two equations we obtain

$$(M - m)\{Ae + Af(M + m) - d\} = 0,$$

under the conditions $Ae \geq d$, $a < 1$, we see that $M = m$. It follows by Theorem B that \bar{x} is a global attractor of Eq.(1) and then the proof is complete.

Case (2): Assume that (16) is true, then we can easily see that the function $g(u, v, w)$ increasing in u, v and decreasing in w .

Suppose that (m, M) is a solution of the system $M = g(M, M, m)$ and $m = g(m, m, M)$. Then from Eq.(1), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} M &= aM + bM + \frac{c + dm}{e + fm}, & m &= am + bm + \frac{c + dM}{e + fM}, \\ MA &= \frac{c + dm}{e + fm}, & mA &= \frac{c + dM}{e + fM}, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$MAe + MAfm = c + dm, \quad mAe + fMmA = c + dM.$$

Subtracting we obtain

$$(M - m)(Ae + d) = 0,$$

under the conditions $(1 - a - b) > 0$, we see that $M = m$. Also, from Theorem B, we see that \bar{x} is a global attractor of Eq.(1) and then the proof is complete.

7. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

For confirming the results of this paper, we consider numerical examples which represent different types of solutions to Eq. (1).

Example 1. We assume $x_{-2} = .5$, $x_{-1} = 3$, $x_0 = 9$, $a = .2$, $b = .7$, $c = .2$, $d = .6$, $e = 1.3$, $f = 5.3$. See Fig. 1.

Example 2. See Fig. 2, since $x_{-2} = .5$, $x_{-1} = 3$, $x_0 = 9$, $a = .4$, $b = .6$, $c = .2$, $d = .6$, $e = 1.3$, $f = 5.3$.

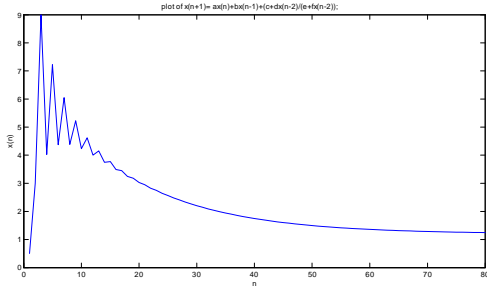


Figure 1.

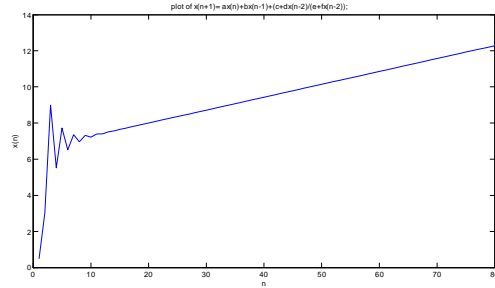


Figure 2.

Example 3. We consider $x_{-2} = 2.5$, $x_{-1} = 3$, $x_0 = 9$, $a = .4$, $b = .5$, $c = 2$, $d = 6$, $e = 3$, $f = 5$. See Fig. 3.

Example 4. See Fig. 4, since $x_{-2} = 2.5$, $x_{-1} = 3$, $x_0 = 9$, $a = 1$, $b = .5$, $c = 2$, $d = 6$, $e = 3$, $f = 5$.

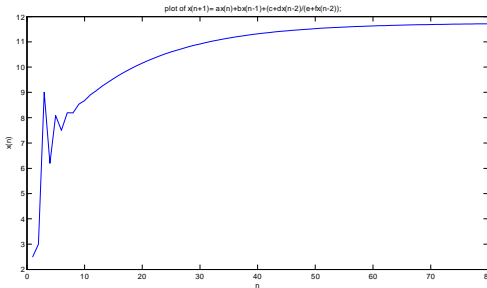


Figure 3.

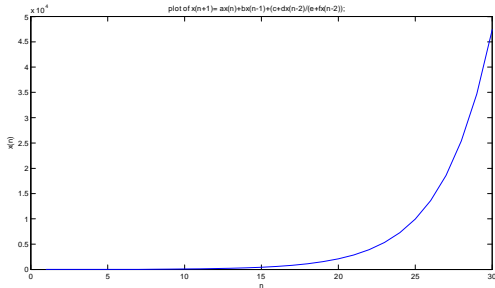


Figure 4.

Example 5. Fig. 5. shows the solutions when $a = .7$, $b = .5$, $c = .2$, $d = .1$, $e = .3$, $f = .5$, $x_{-2} = 2.5$, $x_{-1} = .3$, $x_0 = .9$.

Example 6. Fig. 6. shows the period two solutions when $a = .6$, $b = .5$, $c = .82$, $d = .7$, $e = .3$, $f = .5$, $x_{-2} = p$, $x_{-1} = q$, $x_0 = p$. (Since $p, q = \frac{(eB-d)Bf \pm \sqrt{\zeta}}{2aBf^2}$).

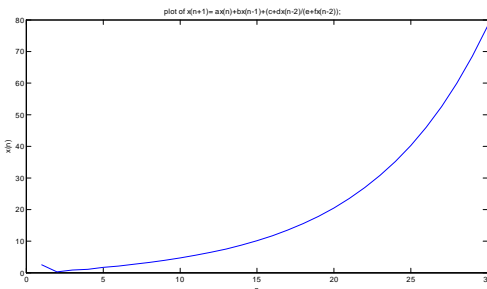


Figure 5.

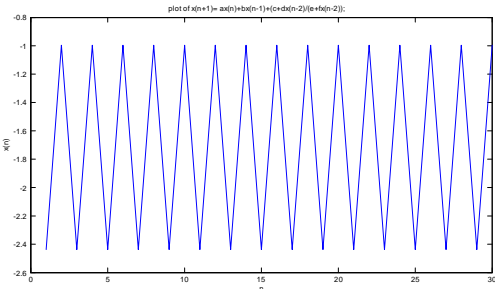


Figure 6.

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Asymptotically stability of solutions of fuzzy differential equations in the quotient space of fuzzy numbers

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Abstract

In this paper, we investigate essentially stability theory for the fuzzy differential equations in the quotient space of fuzzy numbers by Lyapunov-like functions. By using the differential inequalities and the comparison principle for Lyapunov-like functions, we give some sufficient criterias for the asymptotically stability, equi-asymptotically stability and uniformly asymptotically stability of the trivial solution of the fuzzy differential equations.

Keywords: Fuzzy number; Quotient space; Fuzzy differential equation; Asymptotically stability

1 Introduction

Recently, the study of fuzzy differential equations has been gained importance due to its application. Subsequently, the existence and uniqueness of solutions of the initial value problems for fuzzy differential equations under kinds of conditions were studied in [8, 9, 11, 14, 18, 24] and the relationship between a solution and its approximate solutions to fuzzy differential equations were established in [19, 25, 26]. Further, the essentially stability theory for fuzzy differential equations by Lyapunov-like functions were investigated in [2, 12, 28]. In particular, Hien [4] researched the asymptotic stability of solutions of fuzzy differential equations by Lyapunov's second method.

The above these results of fuzzy differential equations based on well known and widely used Hukuhara difference [6] and the H-differentiability of Puri and Ralescu [20]. But in many applications the Hukuhara difference appears to have several limitations and to be very restrictive [1, 8]. In [15, 16], Mareš presented a natural equivalence relation between fuzzy quantities. This equivalence relation can be used to partition of the set of fuzzy quantities into equivalence classes having the desired group properties for the addition operation [7, 17, 27]. Hong and Do [5] defined a more refined equivalence relation than Mareš [15] and improved Mareš's results. In [21], Qiu et al. showed that the method of finding the inverse operation of fuzzy numbers in the sense of Mareš is very intuitive. As an application of the main results, it is shown that if we identify every fuzzy number with the corresponding equivalence class, there would be more differentiable fuzzy functions than what is found in the literature. After that, the fuzzy differential equations in the quotient space of fuzzy numbers were investigated [23, 22]. In this paper, we shall study the stability of the trivial solution of the fuzzy differential equations in the quotient space of fuzzy numbers by Lyapunov's second method.

2 Preliminaries

A fuzzy set \tilde{x} of \mathbb{R} is characterized by a membership function $\mu_{\tilde{x}} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$. For each such fuzzy set \tilde{x} , we denote by $[\tilde{x}]^\alpha = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \mu_{\tilde{x}}(x) \geq \alpha\}$ for any $\alpha \in (0, 1]$, its α -level set. We define the set

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$[\tilde{x}]^0$ by $[\tilde{x}]^0 = \overline{\bigcup_{\alpha \in (0,1]} [\tilde{x}]^\alpha}$, where \bar{A} denotes the closure of a crisp set A . A fuzzy set \tilde{x} is said to be a fuzzy number if it satisfies the following conditions [3]:

- (1) \tilde{x} is normal, i.e., there exists an $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\mu_{\tilde{x}}(x_0) = 1$;
- (2) \tilde{x} is convex, i.e., $\mu_{\tilde{x}}(\lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda)x_2) \geq \min\{\mu_{\tilde{x}}(x_1), \mu_{\tilde{x}}(x_2)\}$, for all $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lambda \in (0, 1)$;
- (3) \tilde{x} is upper semi-continuous;
- (4) $[\tilde{x}]^0$ is compact.

Equivalently, a fuzzy number \tilde{x} is a fuzzy set with non-empty bounded closed level sets $[\tilde{x}]^\alpha = [\tilde{x}_L(\alpha), \tilde{x}_R(\alpha)]$ for all $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, where $[\tilde{x}_L(\alpha), \tilde{x}_R(\alpha)]$ denotes a closed interval with the left end point $\tilde{x}_L(\alpha)$ and the right end point $\tilde{x}_R(\alpha)$. We denote the class of fuzzy numbers by \mathcal{F} . We say that a fuzzy number $\tilde{s} \in \mathcal{F}$ is symmetric [15], if $\mu_{\tilde{s}}(x) = \mu_{\tilde{s}}(-x)$, for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, i.e., $\tilde{s} = -\tilde{s}$. The set of all symmetric fuzzy numbers will be denoted by \mathcal{S} .

Definition 2.1 [5] *Let $\tilde{x}, \tilde{y} \in \mathcal{F}$. We say that \tilde{x} is equivalent to \tilde{y} and write $\tilde{x} \sim \tilde{y}$ if and only if there exist symmetric fuzzy numbers $\tilde{s}_1, \tilde{s}_2 \in \mathcal{S}$ such that $\tilde{x} + \tilde{s}_1 = \tilde{y} + \tilde{s}_2$.*

The equivalence relation defined above is reflexive, symmetric and transitive [15]. Let $\langle \tilde{x} \rangle$ denote the equivalence class containing the element \tilde{x} and denote the set of equivalence classes by \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} .

Definition 2.2 [10] *Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. f is said to be of bounded variation if there exists a $C > 0$ such that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)| \leq C$$

for every partition $a = x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n = b$ on $[a, b]$. The total variation of f on $[a, b]$ is defined by

$$V_a^b(f) = \sup_p \sum_{i=1}^n |f(x_{i-1}) - f(x_i)|,$$

where p represents all partitions of $[a, b]$. The set of all functions of bounded variation on $[a, b]$ is denoted by $BV[a, b]$.

Definition 2.3 [7] *For a fuzzy number \tilde{x} , we define a function $\tilde{x}_M : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by assigning the midpoint of each α -level set to $\tilde{x}_M(\alpha)$ for all $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, i.e.,*

$$\tilde{x}_M(\alpha) = \frac{\tilde{x}_L(\alpha) + \tilde{x}_R(\alpha)}{2}.$$

Then the function $\tilde{x}_M : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ will be called the midpoint function of the fuzzy number \tilde{x} .

Lemma 2.1 [21] *For any $\tilde{x} \in \mathcal{F}$, the midpoint function \tilde{x}_M is continuous from the right at 0 and continuous from the left on $[0, 1]$. Furthermore it is a function of bounded variation on $[0, 1]$.*

Definition 2.4 [16] *Let $\tilde{x} \in \mathcal{F}$ and let \hat{x} be a fuzzy number such that $\tilde{x} = \hat{x} + \tilde{s}$ for some $\tilde{s} \in \mathcal{S}$, if $\hat{x} = \tilde{y} + \tilde{s}_1$ for some $\tilde{y} \in \mathcal{F}$ and $\tilde{s}_1 \in \mathcal{S}$, then $\tilde{s}_1 = \tilde{0}$. Then the fuzzy number \hat{x} will be called the Mareš core of the fuzzy number \tilde{x} .*

Definition 2.5 [22] *Define $d_{\text{sup}} : \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$ by*

$$d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle) = \sup_{\alpha \in [0,1]} |M_{\langle \tilde{x} \rangle}(\alpha) - M_{\langle \tilde{y} \rangle}(\alpha)|,$$

for any $\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$.

We know that $(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}, d_{\text{sup}})$ is a metric space [21].

3 Main results

Definition 3.1 [22] For each $m(t) \in C[J, \mathbb{R}]$, where J is a subinterval of $(0, +\infty)$, we will define $d^+ : C[J, \mathbb{R}] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$d^+m(t) = \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h}(m(t+h) - m(t)).$$

Definition 3.2 [23] A mapping $F : J \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ is differentiable at $t_0 \in J$ if for small $|h| > 0$, there exists an $F'(t_0) \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ such that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} d_{\text{sup}} \left(\frac{F(t_0+h) - F(t_0)}{h}, F'(t_0) \right) = 0.$$

Definition 3.3 [23] A mapping $F : J \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ is measurable if F is measurable with respect to d_{sup} .

A mapping $F : J \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ is called integrably bounded if there exists an integrable function $h : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$ such that $|M_{F(t)}(\alpha)| \leq h(t)$ for all $t \in J$ and $\alpha \in [0, 1]$; a mapping $F : J \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ is said to be of uniformly bounded variation with respect to $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ (for short, of uniformly bounded variation) if there exists a constant $K > 0$ such that $V_0^1(M_{F(t)}) \leq K$, for each $t \in J$ [23].

Definition 3.4 [23] Let $F : J \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ be measurable. The integral of F over J , denoted $\int_J F(t)dt$, is a mapping $M_{\int_J F(t)dt} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, which is defined by the equation

$$M_{\int_J F(t)dt}(\alpha) = \int_J M_{F(t)}(\alpha)dt$$

for each $\alpha \in [0, 1]$. The mapping F is said to be integrable over J if there exists an $\langle \tilde{x}_0 \rangle \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ such that $M_{\int_J F(t)dt} = M_{\langle \tilde{x}_0 \rangle}$. In this case, we denote the integral by

$$\int_J F(t)dt = \langle \tilde{x}_0 \rangle.$$

Assume that $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ is continuous and of uniformly bounded variation, where $S(\rho) = \{\langle \tilde{x} \rangle \in \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} : d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \rho\}$. We consider the initial value problem for the fuzzy differential equation

$$x'(t) = f(t, x(t)), \quad x(t_0) = x_0. \tag{1}$$

We assume that $f(t, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ so that we have the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ for (1).

We shall discuss some simple asymptotically stability results of solutions of (1) by Lyapunov's second method. First, we give some notions of concerning the stability of the trivial solution of (1). Let $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ be any solution of (1) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. Denote $\mathcal{K} = \{\omega \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+], \omega(0) = 0, \omega(\cdot)$ is increasing $\}$.

Definition 3.5 The trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is said to be

(S1) stable, if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}_+$, there exists a $\delta = \delta(t_0, \varepsilon) > 0$ such that if $d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \delta$ then

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon, \quad t \geq t_0;$$

(S2) uniformly stable, if δ in (S1) is independent of t_0 ;

(S3) asymptotically stable, if it is stable and for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}_+$, there exists a $\delta = \delta(t_0) > 0$ and $T = T(t_0, x_0, \varepsilon) > 0$ such that if $d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \delta$ then

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon, \quad t \geq t_0 + T;$$

(S4) equi-asymptotically stable, if T in (S3) is independent of x_0 ;

(S5) uniformly asymptotically stable, if it is uniformly stable and δ and T in (S4) are independent of t_0 .

Lemma 3.1 [13] Suppose that $g(t, \varphi)$ be a continuous function on \mathbb{R}_+^2 and $r(t) = r(t, t_0, \varphi_0)$, $\varphi(t_0) = \varphi_0$ be the maximal solution of the scalar differential equation:

$$\frac{d\varphi}{dt} = g(t, \varphi), \quad \varphi(t_0) = \varphi_0 \geq 0, \tag{2}$$

existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. Let $m(t)$ be a continuous function on \mathbb{R}_+ satisfies

$$d^+m(t) = \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{m(t+h) - m(t)}{h} \leq g(t, m(t)), \quad t \geq t_0.$$

Then $m(t) \leq r(t)$, for each $t \geq t_0$ if $m(t_0) \leq \varphi_0$.

Let $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) : \mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a given function. Then we define

$$D_f^+V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) = \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} (V(t+h, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle + hf(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)) - V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)),$$

where $f(\cdot)$ is the right-hand side of (1). Note that, if $V(t, x)$ is Lipchitzian in x , then we have

$$d^+V(t, x(t)) \leq D_f^+V(t, x(t)).$$

Lemma 3.2 [22] Suppose that

- (1) $|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| \leq L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)$, $V(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$ and $L(\cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+]$;
- (2) $D_f^+V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq g(t, V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle))$, $g(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+^2, \mathbb{R}]$.

If $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ is any solution of (1) through (t_0, x_0) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$ such that $V(t_0, x_0) \leq \varphi_0$, then we have

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq r(t, t_0, \varphi_0), \quad t \geq t_0,$$

where $r(t, t_0, \varphi_0)$ is the maximal solution of the scalar differential equation (2) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$.

Lemma 3.3 Suppose that

- (1) $|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| \leq L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)$, $V(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$ and $L(\cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+]$;
- (2) $D_f^+V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq -\omega(h(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)) + g(t, V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle))$, $h(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$, $\omega(\cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$ and $g(t, \varphi) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+^2, \mathbb{R}]$ is nondecreasing with respect to φ for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$.

If $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ is any solution of (1) through (t_0, x_0) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$ such that $V(t_0, x_0) \leq \varphi_0$, then we have

$$V(t, x(t)) + \int_{t_0}^t \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds \leq r(t, t_0, \varphi_0), \quad t \geq t_0,$$

where $r(t, t_0, \varphi_0)$ is the maximal solution of the scalar differential equation (2) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$.

Proof. Let $m(t) = V(t, x(t)) + \int_{t_0}^t \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds \geq V(t, x(t))$ for each $t \geq t_0$. Then $m(t_0) = V(t_0, x_0) \leq \varphi_0$ and for small $h > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} m(t+h) - m(t) &= V(t+h, x(t+h)) + \int_{t_0}^{t+h} \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds \\ &\quad - V(t, x(t)) - \int_{t_0}^t \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds \\ &= V(t+h, x(t+h)) - V(t+h, x(t) + hf(t, x(t))) \\ &\quad + V(t+h, x(t) + hf(t, x(t))) - V(t, x(t)) + \int_t^{t+h} \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds \\ &\leq L(t+h)d_{\text{sup}}(x(t+h), x(t) + hf(t, x(t))) \\ &\quad + V(t+h, x(t) + hf(t, x(t))) - V(t, x(t)) + \int_t^{t+h} \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 d^+m(t) &= \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{m(t+h) - m(t)}{h} \\
 &\leq D_f^+V(t, x(t)) + \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} \int_t^{t+h} \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds \\
 &+ L(t) \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} d_{\text{sup}}(x(t+h), x(t) + hf(t, x(t))) \\
 &= D_f^+V(t, x(t)) + \omega(h(t, x(t))) \\
 &+ L(t) \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} d_{\text{sup}}\left(\frac{x(t+h) - x(t)}{h}, f(t, x(t))\right) \\
 &= D_f^+V(t, x(t)) + \omega(h(t, x(t))) + L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(x'(t), f(t, x(t))) \\
 &= D_f^+V(t, x(t)) + \omega(h(t, x(t))) \leq g(t, V(t, x(t))),
 \end{aligned}$$

for each $t \geq t_0$. By the monotonicity of $g(t, \varphi)$ with respect to φ for each $t \geq t_0$, we have

$$d^+m(t) \leq g(t, V(t, x(t))) \leq g(t, m(t)),$$

for each $t \geq t_0$. By Lemma 3.1, we obtain

$$V(t, x(t)) + \int_{t_0}^t \omega(h(s, x(s)))ds = m(t) \leq r(t, t_0, \varphi_0), \quad t \geq t_0.$$

□

Theorem 3.1 *Suppose that there exists a function $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$ satisfies the following conditions:*

- (1) $|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| \leq L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)$, $V(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$ and $L(\cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+]$;
- (2) $\omega(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) \leq V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$, $V(t, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) = 0$, $\omega(\cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$;
- (3) $D_f^+V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq g(t, V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle))$, $g(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+^2, \mathbb{R}]$, $g(t, 0) = 0$.

If the solution $\varphi(t) = 0$ of (2) is asymptotically stable, then the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is asymptotically stable.

Proof. If the solution $\varphi(t) = 0$ of (2) is asymptotically stable, then by (S3) of Definition 3.5, we have it is stable. Thus, by Theorem 3.1 in [22], we get that the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is stable.

Since for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}_+$, there exists a $\delta_0 = \delta_0(t_0) > 0$ and $T = T(t_0, x_0, \varepsilon)$ such that if $0 \leq \varphi_0 < \delta_0$ then

$$|\varphi(t, t_0, \varphi_0)| < \omega(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

Since $V(t, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) = 0$, we have

$$V(t_0, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) = |V(t_0, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)| \leq L(t_0)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle),$$

for each $\langle \tilde{x} \rangle \in S(\rho)$. Thus, there exists $\delta = \delta(t_0)$ such that if $d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \delta$, then $V(t_0, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) < \delta_0$.

Let $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ be any solution of (1) through (t_0, x_0) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. Next, we shall show that if $d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \delta$ then $d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon$ for each $t \geq t_0 + T$. By the conditions (1), (3) and Lemma 3.2, we get

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq r(t, t_0, V(t_0, x_0)), \quad t \geq t_0 + T,$$

where $r(t, t_0, V(t_0, x_0))$ is the maximal solution of the scalar differential equation (2) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. Since $V(t_0, x_0) < \delta_0$, we have $r(t, t_0, V(t_0, x_0)) < \omega(\varepsilon)$ for each $t \geq t_0 + T$ and therefore

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq r(t, t_0, V(t_0, x_0)) < \omega(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

By the condition (2), we get

$$\omega(d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle})) \leq V(t, x(t)) < \omega(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

By the monotonicity of ω , we have

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}) < \varepsilon, \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

Hence, the trivial solution $x(t) = \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}$ of (1) is asymptotically stable. \square

Theorem 3.2 *Suppose that there exists a function $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$ satisfies the conditions (1), (2) and (3) of Theorem 3.1. If the solution $\varphi(t) = 0$ of (2) is equi-asymptotically stable, then the trivial solution $x(t) = \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}$ of (1) is equi-asymptotically stable.*

Proof. In fact, we can show Theorem 3.2 by a similar method of Theorem 3.1. \square

Theorem 3.3 *Suppose that there exists a function $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$ satisfies the following conditions:*

- (1) $|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| \leq L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)$, $V(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$ and $L(\cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+]$;
- (2) $\omega_1(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle})) \leq V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq \omega_2(t, d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}))$, $\omega_1(\cdot), \omega_2(t, \cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$;
- (3) $D_f^+ V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq -\beta V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$, $\beta > 0$.

Then the trivial solution $x(t) = \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}$ of (1) is equi-asymptotically stable.

Proof. Let $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ be any solution of (1) through (t_0, x_0) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. By Theorem 3.2 in [22], we get that the trivial solution $x(t) = \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}$ of (1) is stable. Thus, taking $\varepsilon = \rho$, there exists a $\delta = \delta(t_0, \rho)$ such that if $d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}) < \delta$, then

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}) < \rho, \quad t \geq t_0.$$

Let the function $g(t, \varphi) = -\beta\varphi$, $(t, \varphi) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$ and $\varphi_0 = V(t_0, x_0)$ in Lemma 3.2. Then we know that

$$r(t, t_0, \varphi_0) = V(t_0, x_0)e^{-\beta(t-t_0)}, \quad t \geq t_0,$$

is the unique solution of the scalar differential equation (2). Thus, by Lemma 3.2, we obtain

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq V(t_0, x_0)e^{-\beta(t-t_0)}, \quad t \geq t_0.$$

For any given $\varepsilon > 0$, we take $T = T(t_0, \varepsilon) = \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \frac{\omega_2(t_0, \delta)}{\omega_1(\varepsilon)} + 1$. Then, by the condition (2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_1(d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle})) &\leq V(t, x(t)) \leq V(t_0, x_0)e^{-\beta(t-t_0)} \\ &\leq e^{-\beta} \omega_2(t_0, d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle})) \frac{\omega_1(\varepsilon)}{\omega_2(t_0, \delta)} \\ &\leq e^{-\beta} \omega_2(t_0, \delta) \frac{\omega_1(\varepsilon)}{\omega_2(t_0, \delta)} \\ &= e^{-\beta} \omega_1(\varepsilon) < \omega_1(\varepsilon), \end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}) < \varepsilon, \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

Hence, the trivial solution $x(t) = \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}$ of (1) is equi-asymptotically stable. \square

Theorem 3.4 *Suppose that there exists a function $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$ satisfies the following conditions:*

- (1) $|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| \leq L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)$, $V(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$ and $L(\cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+]$;
- (2) $\omega_1(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle})) \leq V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq \omega_2(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}))$, $\omega_1(\cdot), \omega_2(\cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$;
- (3) $D_f^+ V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq g(t, V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle))$, $g(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+^2, \mathbb{R}]$, $g(t, 0) = 0$.

If the solution $\varphi(t) = 0$ of (2) is uniformly asymptotically stable, then the trivial solution $x(t) = \tilde{\langle 0 \rangle}$ of (1) is uniformly asymptotically stable.

Proof. If the solution $\varphi(t) = 0$ of (2) is uniformly asymptotically stable, then by (S5) of Definition 3.5, we have it is uniformly stable. Thus, by Theorem 3.3 in [22], we get that the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is uniformly stable.

Since for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}_+$, there exists a $\delta_0 > 0$ and $T = T(\varepsilon)$ such that if $0 \leq \varphi_0 < \delta_0$ then

$$|\varphi(t, t_0, \varphi_0)| < \omega_1(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

Since $\omega_1(\cdot), \omega_2(\cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$, there exist a $\delta > 0$ such that $\omega_2(\delta) < \omega_1(\delta_0)$.

Let $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ be any solution of (1) through (t_0, x_0) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. Next, we shall show that if $d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \delta$ then $d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon$ for each $t \geq t_0 + T$. By the conditions (1), (3) and Lemma 3.2, we get

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq r(t, t_0, \omega_1^{-1}(V(t_0, x_0))), \quad t \geq t_0 + T,$$

where $r(t, t_0, \omega_1^{-1}(V(t_0, x_0)))$ is the maximal solution of the scalar differential equation (2) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. By the condition (2), we have

$$V(t_0, x_0) \leq \omega_2(d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) \leq \omega_2(\delta) < \omega_1(\delta_0).$$

Thus, by the monotonicity of ω_1 , we have $\omega_1^{-1}(V(t_0, x_0)) \leq \delta_0$, which implies that

$$r(t, t_0, \omega_1^{-1}(V(t_0, x_0))) < \omega_1(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T$$

and therefore

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq r(t, t_0, \omega_1^{-1}(V(t_0, x_0))) < \omega_1(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

By the condition (2), we get

$$\omega_1(d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) \leq V(t, x(t)) < \omega_1(\varepsilon), \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

By the monotonicity of ω_1 , we have

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon, \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

Hence, the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is uniformly asymptotically stable. \square

Theorem 3.5 Suppose that there exists a function $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)$ satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) $|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| \leq L(t)d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)$, $V(\cdot, \cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+ \times S(\rho), \mathbb{R}_+]$ and $L(\cdot) \in C[\mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+]$;
- (2) $\omega_1(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) \leq V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq \omega_2(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle))$, $\omega_1(\cdot), \omega_2(\cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$;
- (3) $D_f^+ V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq -\omega_3(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle))$, $\omega_3(\cdot) \in \mathcal{K}$.

Then the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is uniformly asymptotically stable.

Proof. Let $x(t) = x(t, t_0, x_0)$ be any solution of (1) through (t_0, x_0) existing on $[t_0, +\infty)$. By Theorem 3.4 in [22], we get that the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is uniformly stable. Thus, taking $\varepsilon = \rho$, there exists a $\delta = \delta(\rho)$ such that if $d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \delta$, then

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \rho, \quad t \geq t_0.$$

Let the function $g(t, \varphi) \equiv 0$, $(t, \varphi) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$ and $\varphi_0 = V(t_0, x_0)$ in Lemma 3.3. Then we know that $r(t, t_0, \varphi_0) \equiv V(t_0, x_0)$ is the unique solution of the scalar differential equation (2). Thus, by Lemma 3.3, we obtain

$$V(t, x(t)) + \int_{t_0}^t \omega_3(d_{\text{sup}}(x(s), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) ds \leq V(t_0, x_0), \quad t \geq t_0.$$

For any given $\varepsilon > 0$, we take $T = T(\varepsilon) = \frac{\omega_2(\delta)}{\omega_3\omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon)} + 1$. Suppose that $d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) \geq \omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon)$ for each $t \in [t_0, t_0 + T]$. Then, by the condition (2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} V(t, x(t)) &= V(t_0, x_0) - \int_{t_0}^t \omega_3(d_{\text{sup}}(x(s), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) ds \\ &\leq \omega_2(d_{\text{sup}}(x_0, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) - \omega_3\omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon)(t - t_0) \\ &< \omega_2(\delta) - \omega_3\omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon)(t - t_0), \end{aligned}$$

for each $t \in [t_0, t_0 + T]$. Thus, we obtain

$$0 \leq V(t_0 + T, x(t_0 + T)) < \omega_2(\delta) - \omega_3\omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon)T = -\omega_3\omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon) < 0.$$

This is a contradiction, thus there exists a $t^* \in [t_0, t_0 + T]$ such that

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t^*), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon).$$

Since $D_f^+ V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq -\omega_3(d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) \leq 0$, we have

$$V(t, x(t)) \leq V(t^*, x(t^*)), \quad t \geq t^*.$$

Then, by the condition (2), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_1(d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) &\leq V(t, x(t)) \leq V(t^*, x(t^*)) \\ &\leq \omega_2(d_{\text{sup}}(x(t^*), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) \\ &< \omega_2\omega_2^{-1}\omega_1(\varepsilon) = \omega_1(\varepsilon), \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon$ for each $t \geq t^*$. Hence, we obtain

$$d_{\text{sup}}(x(t), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) < \varepsilon, \quad t \geq t_0 + T.$$

Consequently, the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is uniformly asymptotically stable. \square

Example 3.1 Define $F : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ by the α -level sets of the fuzzy mapping

$$[\widehat{F(t)}]^\alpha = \left[-\frac{2e^{-\alpha}}{1+t}, 0 \right], \quad \alpha \in [0, 1],$$

where $\widehat{F(t)}$ is the Mareš core of $F(t)$, for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. Thus, we have

$$M_{F(t)}(\alpha) = -\frac{e^{-\alpha}}{1+t}, \quad \alpha \in [0, 1],$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$. It is obvious that $M_{F(t)}(\alpha)$ is continuous from the right at 0 and continuous from the left on $[0, 1]$ with respect to α . Since $M_{F(t)}(\alpha)$ is increasing with respect to α , we get

$$V_0^1(M_{F(t)}) = \frac{1 - e^{-1}}{1+t} \leq 1 - e^{-1}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}_+.$$

Thus, we obtain that $F(t)$ is of uniformly bounded variation. Since $M_{F(t)}(\alpha)$ is uniformly continuous with respect to $t \in \mathbb{R}_+$, we get that $F(t)$ is continuous with respect to d_{sup} . Define $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$ by

$$f(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) = F(t) \langle \tilde{x} \rangle.$$

It is obvious that f is continuous with respect to d_{sup} and of uniformly bounded variation.

Consider a Lyapunov function $V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) = d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)$. Then $V(t, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) = d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{0} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) = 0$ and

$$|V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) - V(t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle)| = \left| d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) - d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{y} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) \right| \leq d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle),$$

for any $(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle), (t, \langle \tilde{y} \rangle) \in \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{S}$. By Definition 2.9, for a small $h > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} V(t+h, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle + hf(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)) &= d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle + hf(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle), \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) = d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle + hF(t) \langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle) \\ &= \sup_{\alpha \in [0,1]} |M_{\langle \tilde{x} \rangle}(\alpha) + hM_{F(t)}(\alpha)M_{\langle \tilde{x} \rangle}(\alpha)| \\ &\leq \sup_{\alpha \in [0,1]} |M_{\langle \tilde{x} \rangle}(\alpha)| \left(1 + h \sup_{\alpha \in [0,1]} M_{F(t)}(\alpha) \right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{he^{-1}}{1+t} \right) d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we get

$$D_f^+ V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) = \overline{\lim}_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{h} (V(t+h, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle + hf(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)) - V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)) \leq -\frac{e^{-1}}{1+t} d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle).$$

Let $g(t, \varphi) = -\frac{e^{-1}}{1+t}\varphi$. Then, we have

$$D_f^+ V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle) \leq g(t, d_{\text{sup}}(\langle \tilde{x} \rangle, \langle \tilde{0} \rangle)) = g(t, V(t, \langle \tilde{x} \rangle)).$$

It's easy to show that the solution $\varphi = 0$ of (2) is asymptotically stable. Hence, by Theorem 3.1, the trivial solution $x(t) = \langle \tilde{0} \rangle$ of (1) is asymptotically stable.

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ON DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH SQUARED HERMITE POLYNOMIALS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we investigate differential equations associated with squared Hermite polynomials and derive some new and explicit identities for these polynomials arising from the differential equations.

1. INTRODUCTION

As a method of obtaining new identities for special polynomials and numbers, in [8] T. Kim initiated a remarkable idea of using ordinary differential equations. Namely, he derived a family of nonlinear differential equations, indexed by positive integers, satisfied by the generating function of the Frobenius-Euler numbers and used them in order to get an interesting identity expressing higher-order Frobenius-Euler numbers in terms of (ordinary) Frobenius-Euler numbers. Here, more precisely, the differential equations are satisfied not by the generating function of the Frobenius-Euler numbers but by a constant multiple of that.

This method turned out to be very fruitful and can be applied to many interesting special polynomials and numbers (see [5, 8–11]). For example, linear differential equations are derived for Bessel polynomials, Changhee polynomials, actuarial polynomials, Meixner polynomials of the first kind, Poisson-Charlier polynomials, Laguerre polynomials, Hermite polynomials, and Stirling polynomials, while nonlinear ones are obtained for Bernoulli numbers of the

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second, Boole numbers, Chebyshev polynomials of the first, second, third, and fourth kind, degenerate Euler numbers, degenerate Eulerian polynomials, Korobov numbers, and Legendre polynomials.

To be specific, we will illustrate the results in the case of Bernoulli numbers of the second kind (see [5]). Firstly, it is shown that the function $F = F(t) = \frac{1}{\log(1+t)}$ satisfies the family of nonlinear differential equations

$$F^{(N)}(t) = \frac{(-1)^N}{(1+t)^N} \sum_{j=2}^{N+1} (j-1)!(N-1)!H_{N-1,j-2}F^j \quad (N = 1, 2, \dots), \tag{1}$$

where H_N are the generalized harmonic numbers defined by

$$\begin{aligned} H_{N,0} &= 1, \quad \text{for all } N, \\ H_{N,1} &= \frac{1}{N} + \frac{1}{N-1} + \dots + \frac{1}{1}, \\ H_{N,j} &= \frac{H_{N-1,j-1}}{N} + \frac{H_{N-1,j-1}}{N-1} + \dots + \frac{H_{j-1,j-1}}{j} \quad (N \geq j \geq 2). \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Recall that the Bernoulli numbers of the second b_n are given by the generating function

$$\frac{t}{\log(1+t)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (\text{see [5]}). \tag{3}$$

More generally, the Bernoulli numbers of the second $b_n^{(r)}$ of order r are defined by the generating function

$$\left(\frac{t}{\log(1+t)} \right)^r = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n^{(r)} \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad (\text{see [5]}). \tag{4}$$

Then, secondly the family of differential equations in (1) are used to derive the following interesting identities: for $N = 1, 2, \dots$ and $n = 0, 1, \dots$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &(-1)^n \sum_{j=0}^{\min\{n, N-1\}} (N-j)!(N-1)!H_{N-1, N-1-j}(n)_j b_{n-j}^{(N+1-j)} \\ &= \begin{cases} (-1)^N N!(N)_n & \text{if } 0 \leq n \leq N, \\ \sum_{l=0}^{n-N-1} \binom{N}{l} \frac{b_{n-l}}{n-l} (n)_{l+N+1} & \text{if } n \geq N+1. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

As a generalization of the usual factorial $n!$, the double factorial of a positive integer n is defined by

$$n!! = \begin{cases} n \cdot (n-2) \cdots 5 \cdot 3 \cdot 1 & \text{if } n > 0 \text{ odd,} \\ n \cdot (n-2) \cdots 6 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 & \text{if } n > 0, \text{ even,} \\ 1 & \text{if } n = -1, 0. \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

(see [1]).

Throughout this paper, the double factorials will be used.

The Hermite polynomials are classical orthogonal polynomials used such diverse areas as combinatorics, numerical analysis, probability, finite element methods, systems theory and quantum mechanics (see [2-4, 6, 7, 12-14]).

With the Roman's definition of Hermite polynomials $H_n(x)$ as

$$H_n(x) = e^{x^2-t^2/2}, \tag{7}$$

we see from ([3], p.250) that

$$(1 - t^2)^{-1/2} e^{x[t/(1+t)]} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [H_n(\sqrt{x})]^2 \frac{t^n}{n!}. \tag{8}$$

For brevity, we denote $[H_n(\sqrt{x})]^2$ by $SH_n(x)$, and hence

$$(1 - t^2)^{-1/2} e^{x[t/(1+t)]} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} SH_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}. \tag{9}$$

In this paper, we would like to derive a family of linear differential equations satisfied by the generating function of the squared Hermite polynomials in (9) and use them in order to get an interesting identity for those polynomials. As an easy consequence of this result, we will have an expression for the squared Hermite polynomials.

2. DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS FOR THE SQUARED HERMITE POLYNOMIALS

In this paper, all differentiations are taken with respect to t , while x being fixed.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} F = F(t; x) &= (1 - t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{x(\frac{t}{1+t})} \\ &= (1 - t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1 + t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{x(\frac{t}{1+t})}. \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} F^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-\frac{3}{2}}(1 + t)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{x(\frac{t}{1+t})} - \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1 + t)^{-\frac{3}{2}} e^{x(\frac{t}{1+t})} \\ &\quad + (1 - t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1 + t)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(1 + t)^{-2} x e^{x(\frac{t}{1+t})} \\ &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}(1 + t)^{-1} + x(1 + t)^{-2} \right\} F. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F^{(2)} &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-2} + \frac{1}{2}(1 + t)^{-2} - 2x(1 + t)^{-3} \right\} F \\ &\quad + \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}(1 + t)^{-1} + x(1 + t)^{-2} \right\}^2 F \\ &= \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-2} + \frac{1}{2}(1 + t)^{-2} - 2x(1 + t)^{-3} \right\} F \\ &\quad + \left\{ \frac{1}{4}(1 - t)^{-2} + \frac{1}{4}(1 + t)^{-2} + x^2(1 + t)^{-4} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-1}(1 + t)^{-1} - x(1 + t)^{-3} + x(1 - t)^{-1}(1 + t)^{-2} \right\} F \\ &= \left\{ \frac{3}{4}(1 - t)^{-2} - \frac{1}{2}(1 - t)^{-1}(1 + t)^{-1} + x(1 - t)^{-1}(1 + t)^{-2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{3}{4}(1 + t)^{-2} - 3x(1 + t)^{-3} + x^2(1 + t)^{-4} \right\} F. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

So, we are led to put

$$F^{(N)} = \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} a_{i,j}(N, x) (1 - t)^{-i} (1 + t)^{-j} \right) F. \tag{13}$$

Here $a_{i,j}(N, x)$ are polynomials in x .

$$\begin{aligned}
 F^{(N+1)} &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} ia_{i,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-(i+1)}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F \\
 &\quad - \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} ja_{i,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-(j+1)} \right) F \\
 &\quad + \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} a_{i,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-j} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \times \left\{ \frac{1}{2}(1-t)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}(1+t)^{-1} + x(1+t)^{-2} \right\} F \right) \\
 &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} \left(i + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-(i+1)}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F \\
 &\quad - \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} \left(j + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-(j+1)} \right) F \\
 &\quad + \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} xa_{i,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-(j+2)} \right) F \\
 &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N+1} \sum_{j=N+1-i}^{2(N+1-i)} \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,j}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F \\
 &\quad - \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i+1}^{2(N-i)+1} \left(j - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,j-1}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F \\
 &\quad + \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i+2}^{2(N-i)+2} xa_{i,j-2}(N, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F. \tag{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$F^{(N+1)} = \left(\sum_{i=0}^{N+1} \sum_{j=N+1-i}^{2(N+1-i)} a_{i,j}(N+1, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F. \tag{15}$$

In order to add the sums in (14), we decompose them as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} \sum_{j=N+1-i}^{2(N+1-i)} &= \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=N+2-i}^{2(N-i)+1} + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=N+1-i}^N \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=2(N+1-i)}^N + \sum_{i=N+1} \sum_{j=0}^N; \tag{16}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i+1}^{2(N-i)+1} &= \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=N-i+2}^{2(N-i)+1} + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=N-i+1}^N \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=0}^{2N+1} \sum_{j=N+2}^{2N+1} + \sum_{i=0} \sum_{j=N+1}^N; \tag{17}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i+2}^{2(N-i)+2} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=N-i+2}^{2(N-i)+1} + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=2(N-i)+2} + \sum_{i=0}^{2N+1} \sum_{j=N+2} + \sum_{i=0} \sum_{j=2N+2} . \tag{18}$$

Now, the sum in (14) can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} & F^{(N+1)} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=N+2-i}^{2(N-i)+1} \left\{ \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,j}(N, x) - \left(j - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,j-1}(N, x) + x a_{i,j-2}(N, x) \right\} \\ &\quad \times (1-t)^{-i} (1+t)^{-j} F \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,N-i+1}(N, x) - \left(N - i + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,N-i}(N, x) \right\} \\ &\quad \times (1-t)^{-i} (1+t)^{-(N-i+1)} F \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^N \left\{ \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,2(N+1-i)}(N, x) + x a_{i,2(N-i)}(N, x) \right\} (1-t)^{-i} (1+t)^{-2(N+1-i)} F \\ &+ \sum_{j=N+2}^{2N+1} \left\{ -\left(j - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{0,j-1}(N, x) + x a_{0,j-2}(N, x) \right\} (1+t)^{-j} F \\ &- \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{0,N}(N, x) (1+t)^{-(N+1)} F + x a_{0,2N}(N, x) (1+t)^{-(2N+2)} F \\ &+ \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{N,0}(N, x) (1-t)^{-(N+1)} F. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Comparing (15) and (19), we obtain: for $1 \leq i \leq N$, $N - i + 2 \leq j \leq 2(N - i) + 1$,

$$a_{i,j}(N + 1, x) = \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,j}(N, x) - \left(j - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,j-1}(N, x) + x a_{i,j-2}(N, x); \tag{20}$$

for $1 \leq i \leq N$,

$$a_{i,N-i+1}(N + 1, x) = \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,N-i+1}(N, x) - \left(N - i + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i,N-i}(N, x); \tag{21}$$

for $1 \leq i \leq N$,

$$a_{i,2(N+1-i)}(N + 1, x) = \left(i - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{i-1,2(N+1-i)}(N, x) + x a_{i,2(N-i)}(N, x); \tag{22}$$

for $N + 2 \leq j \leq 2N + 1$,

$$a_{0,j}(N + 1, x) = -\left(j - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{0,j-1}(N, x) + x a_{0,j-2}(N, x); \tag{23}$$

$$a_{0,N+1}(N + 1, x) = -\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{0,N}(N, x); \tag{24}$$

$$a_{0,2N+2}(N + 1, x) = x a_{0,2N}(N, x); \tag{25}$$

$$a_{N+1,0}(N + 1, x) = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{N,0}(N, x). \tag{26}$$

Note here that all of these recurrence relations can be merged into one relation (20), for $0 \leq i \leq N + 1$, $N - i + 1 \leq j \leq 2(N - i) + 1$, with the understanding that

$$a_{i,j}(N, x) = 0, \tag{27}$$

unless $0 \leq i \leq N$, $N - i \leq j \leq 2(N - i)$. In addition to these, we have the following initial conditions:

$$F = F^{(0)} = a_{0,0}(0, x)F \longrightarrow a_{0,0}(0, x) = 1, \tag{28}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F^{(1)} &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^1 \sum_{j=1-i}^{2(1-i)} a_{i,j}(1, x)(1-t)^{-i}(1+t)^{-j} \right) F \\ &= (a_{0,1}(1, x)(1+t)^{-1} + a_{0,2}(1, x)(1+t)^{-2} + a_{1,0}(1, x)(1-t)^{-1}) F \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2}(1-t)^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}(1+t)^{-1} + x(1+t)^{-2} \right) F \\ &\longrightarrow a_{1,0}(1, x) = \frac{1}{2}, a_{0,1}(1, x) = -\frac{1}{2}, a_{0,2}(1, x) = x. \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

As easy consequences, from (24)-(26) we get

$$\begin{aligned} a_{N+1,0}(N+1, x) &= \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} a_{N,0}(N, x) \\ &= \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} \binom{N - \frac{1}{2}}{N-1} a_{N-1,0}(N-1, x) \\ &= \dots \\ &= \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} \binom{N - \frac{1}{2}}{N-1} \dots \frac{3}{2} a_{1,0}(1, x) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{N+1} (2N+1)!! \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{0,N+1}(N+1, x) &= -\binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} a_{0,N}(N, x) \\ &= (-1)^2 \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} \binom{N - \frac{1}{2}}{N-1} a_{0,N-1}(N-1, x) \\ &= \dots \\ &= (-1)^N \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} \binom{N - \frac{1}{2}}{N-1} \dots \frac{3}{2} a_{0,1}(1, x) \\ &= \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{N+1} (2N+1)!! \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{0,2N+2}(N+1, x) &= x a_{0,2N}(N, x) = x^2 a_{0,2(N-1)}(N-1, x) \\ &= x^N a_{0,2}(1, x) = x^{N+1} a_{0,0}(0, x) = x^{N+1}. \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

Let $N + 2 \leq j \leq 2N + 1$. Then, from (23), we have

$$a_{0,j}(N+1, x) = x a_{0,j-2}(N, x) - \left(j - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{0,j-1}(N, x). \tag{33}$$

For $j = N + 2$, we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned} &a_{0,N+2}(N+1, x) \\ &= x a_{0,N}(N, x) - \binom{N + \frac{3}{2}}{N} a_{0,N+1}(N, x) \\ &= x a_{0,N}(N, x) - \binom{N + \frac{3}{2}}{N} \left(x a_{0,N-1}(N-1, x) - \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} a_{0,N}(N-1, x) \right) \\ &= x \left(a_{0,N}(N, x) - \binom{N + \frac{3}{2}}{N} a_{0,N-1}(N-1, x) \right) \\ &\quad + (-1)^2 \binom{N + \frac{3}{2}}{N} \binom{N + \frac{1}{2}}{N} \left(x a_{0,N-2}(N-2, x) - \binom{N - \frac{1}{2}}{N-1} a_{0,N-1}(N-2, x) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \dots \\
 &= x \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \dots \left(N - k + \frac{5}{2}\right) a_{0,N-k}(N - k, x) \\
 &\quad + (-1)^N \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \dots \frac{5}{2} a_{0,2}(1, x) \\
 &= x \sum_{k=0}^N \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k (2N + 3)(2N + 1) \dots (2N - 2k + 5) a_{0,N-k}(N - k, x) \\
 &= x \sum_{k=0}^N \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N + 3)!!}{(2N - 2k + 3)!!} a_{0,N-k}(N - k, x). \tag{34}
 \end{aligned}$$

For $j = N + 3$, we obtain the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &a_{0,N+3}(N + 1, x) \\
 &= xa_{0,N+1}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) a_{0,N+2}(N, x) \\
 &= xa_{0,N+1}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) \left(xa_{0,N}(N - 1, x) - \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) a_{0,N+1}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 &= x \left(a_{0,N+1}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) a_{0,N}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 &\quad (-1)^2 \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \left(xa_{0,N-1}(N - 2, x) - \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{0,N}(N - 2, x)\right) \\
 &= \dots \\
 &= x \sum_{k=0}^{N-2} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \dots \left(N - k + \frac{7}{2}\right) a_{0,n-k+1}(N - k, x) \\
 &\quad + (-1)^{N-1} \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \dots \frac{9}{2} a_{0,4}(2, x) \\
 &= x \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{5}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \dots \left(N - k + \frac{7}{2}\right) a_{0,n-k+1}(N - k, x) \\
 &= x \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N + 5)!!}{(2N - 2k + 5)!!} a_{0,N-k+1}(N - k, x). \tag{35}
 \end{aligned}$$

Continuing this process, we can deduce that, for $N + 2 \leq j \leq 2N + 1$,

$$a_{0,j}(N + 1, x) = x \sum_{k=0}^{2N+2-j} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2j - 1)!!}{(2j - 2k - 1)!!} a_{0,j-k-2}(N - k, x). \tag{36}$$

Let $1 \leq i \leq N$. Then, from (21), we have

$$a_{i,N-i+1}(N + 1, x) = \left(i - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{i-1,N-i+1}(N, x) - \left(N - i + \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{i,N-i}(N, x). \tag{37}$$

For $i = 1$, we obtain the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &a_{1,N}(N + 1, x) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} a_{0,N}(N, x) - \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{1,N-1}(N, x) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} a_{0,N}(N, x) - \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N-1}(N - 1, x) - \left(N - \frac{3}{2}\right) a_{1,N-2}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \left(a_{0,N}(N, x) - \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{0,N-1}(N - 1, x)\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & +(-1)^2 \binom{N-1}{2} \binom{N-3}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N-2}(N-2,x) - \binom{N-5}{2} a_{1,N-3}(N-2,x) \right) \\
 = & \dots \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (-1)^k \binom{N-1}{2} \binom{N-3}{2} \dots \binom{N-2k-1}{2} a_{0,N-k}(N-k,x) \\
 & + (-1)^N \binom{N-1}{2} \dots \frac{1}{2} a_{1,0}(1,x) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^N (-1)^k \binom{N-1}{2} \binom{N-3}{2} \dots \binom{N-2k-1}{2} a_{0,N-k}(N-k,x) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^N \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N-1)!!}{(2N-2k-1)!!} a_{0,N-k}(N-k,x). \tag{38}
 \end{aligned}$$

For $i = 2$, we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{2,N-1}(N+1,x) \\
 = & \frac{3}{2} a_{1,N-1}(N,x) - \binom{N-3}{2} a_{2,N-2}(N,x) \\
 = & \frac{3}{2} a_{1,N-1}(N,x) - \binom{N-3}{2} \left(\frac{3}{2} a_{1,N-2}(N-1,x) - \binom{N-5}{2} a_{2,N-3}(N-1,x) \right) \\
 = & \frac{3}{2} \left(a_{1,N-1}(N,x) - \binom{N-3}{2} a_{1,N-2}(N-1,x) \right) \\
 & + (-1)^2 \binom{N-3}{2} \binom{N-5}{2} \left(\frac{3}{2} a_{1,N-3}(N-2,x) - \binom{N-7}{2} a_{2,N-4}(N-2,x) \right) \\
 = & \dots \\
 = & \frac{3}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-2} (-1)^k \binom{N-3}{2} \binom{N-5}{2} \dots \binom{N-2k+1}{2} a_{1,N-k-1}(N-k,x) \\
 & + (-1)^{N-1} \binom{N-3}{2} \binom{N-5}{2} \dots \frac{1}{2} a_{2,0}(2,x) \\
 = & \frac{3}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} (-1)^k \binom{N-3}{2} \binom{N-5}{2} \dots \binom{N-2k+1}{2} a_{1,N-k-1}(N-k,x) \\
 = & \frac{3}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N-3)!!}{(2N-2k-3)!!} a_{1,N-k-1}(N-k,x). \tag{39}
 \end{aligned}$$

Continuing this process, we can deduce that, for $1 \leq i \leq N$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{i,N-i+1}(N+1,x) \\
 = & \frac{2i-1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-i+1} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N-2i+1)!!}{(2N-2k-2i+1)!!} a_{i-1,N-k-i+1}(N-k,x). \tag{40}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $1 \leq i \leq N$. Then, from (22), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{i,2(N+1-i)}(N+1,x) \\
 = & \left(i - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{i-1,2(N+1-i)}(N,x) + x a_{i,2(N-i)}(N,x). \tag{41}
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, proceeding analogously to the case of (37), we can deduce that, for $1 \leq i \leq N$,

$$a_{i,2(N+1-i)}(N+1) = \frac{2i-1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-i+1} x^k a_{i-1,2(N-k-i+1)}(N-k,x), \tag{42}$$

For $1 \leq i \leq N$, $N - i + 2 \leq j \leq 2(N - i) + 1$, from (20) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{i,j}(N + 1, x) \\
 = & \left(i - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{i-1,j}(N, x) - \left(j - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{i,j-1}(N, x) + x a_{i,j-2}(N, x). \tag{43}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $i = 1$, Then, with $N + 1 \leq j \leq 2N - 1$, (43) becomes

$$a_{1,j}(N + 1, x) = \frac{1}{2} a_{0,j}(N, x) + x a_{1,j-2}(N, x) - \left(j - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{1,j-1}(N, x). \tag{44}$$

For $j = N + 1$, we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{1,N+1}(N + 1, x) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} a_{0,N+1}(N, x) + x a_{1,N-1}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{1,N}(N, x) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} a_{0,N+1}(N, x) + x a_{1,N-1}(N, x) \\
 & - \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N}(N - 1, x) + x a_{1,N-2}(N - 1, x) - \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{1,N-1}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} \left(a_{0,N+1}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{0,N}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 & + x \left(a_{1,N-1}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{1,N-2}(N - 1, x)\right) + (-1)^2 \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \\
 & \times \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N-1}(N - 2, x) + x a_{1,N-3}(N - 2, x) - \left(N - \frac{3}{2}\right) a_{1,N-2}(N - 2, x)\right) \\
 = & \dots \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-2} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \dots \left(N - \frac{2k-3}{2}\right) a_{0,N-k+1}(N - k, x) \\
 & + x \sum_{k=0}^{N-2} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \dots \left(N - \frac{2k-3}{2}\right) a_{1,N-k-1}(N - k, x) \\
 & + (-1)^{N-1} \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(N - \frac{1}{2}\right) \dots \left(\frac{5}{2}\right) a_{1,2}(2, x) \\
 = & \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N + 1)!!}{(2N - 2k + 1)!!} \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N-k+1}(N - k, x) + x a_{1,N-k-1}(N - k, x)\right). \tag{45}
 \end{aligned}$$

For $j = N + 2$, we obtain the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{1,N+2}(N + 1, x) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} a_{0,N+2}(N, x) + x a_{1,N}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) a_{1,N+1}(N, x) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} a_{0,N+2}(N, x) + x a_{1,N}(N, x) \\
 & - \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N+1}(N - 1, x) + x a_{1,N-1}(N - 1, x) - \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) a_{1,N}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 = & \frac{1}{2} \left(a_{0,N+2}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) a_{0,N+1}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 & + x \left(a_{1,N}(N, x) - \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) a_{1,N-1}(N - 1, x)\right) \\
 & + (-1)^2 \left(N + \frac{3}{2}\right) \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \times \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N}(N-2, x) + x a_{1,N-2}(N-2, x) - \left(N - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{1,N-1}(N-2, x) \right) \\
 & = \dots \\
 & = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-3} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{3}{2} \right) \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \dots \left(N - \frac{2k-5}{2} \right) a_{0,N-k+2}(N-k, x) \\
 & \quad + x \sum_{k=0}^{N-3} (-1)^k \left(N + \frac{3}{2} \right) \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \dots \left(N - \frac{2k-5}{2} \right) a_{1,N-k}(N-k, x) \\
 & \quad + (-1)^{N-2} \left(N + \frac{3}{2} \right) \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \dots \frac{9}{2} a_{1,4}(3, x) \\
 & = \sum_{k=0}^{N-2} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^k \frac{(2N+3)!!}{(2N-2k+3)!!} \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,N-k+2}(N-k, x) + x a_{1,N-k}(N-k, x) \right). \quad (46)
 \end{aligned}$$

Continuing this process, we can deduce that, for $N+1 \leq j \leq 2N-1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{1,j}(N+1, x) \\
 & = \sum_{k=0}^{2N-j} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} \left(\frac{1}{2} a_{0,j-k}(N-k) + x a_{1,j-k-2}(N-k, x) \right). \quad (47)
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $i = 2$. Then, with $N \leq j \leq 2N-3$, (43) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{2,j}(N+1, x) \\
 & = \frac{3}{2} a_{1,j}(N, x) + x a_{2,j-2}(N, x) - \left(j - \frac{1}{2} \right) a_{2,j-1}(N, x). \quad (48)
 \end{aligned}$$

Then, proceeding analogously to the case of (44), we can deduce that, for $N \leq j \leq 2N-3$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{2,j}(N+1, x) \\
 & = \sum_{k=0}^{2N-j-2} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} \left(\frac{3}{2} a_{1,j-k}(N-k, x) + x a_{2,j-k-2}(N-k, x) \right) \quad (49)
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus we can deduce that, for $1 \leq i \leq N$, $N-i+2 \leq j \leq 2(N-i)+1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{i,j}(N+1, x) \\
 & = \sum_{k=0}^{2N-j-2i+2} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} \\
 & \quad \times \left(\frac{2i-1}{2} a_{i-1,j-k}(N-k, x) + x a_{i,j-k-2}(N-k, x) \right) \quad (50)
 \end{aligned}$$

Our results can be summarized as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_{0,0}(0, x) = 1; \\
 & a_{N+1,0}(N+1, x) = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^{N+1} (2N+1)!!; \\
 & a_{0,N+1}(N+1, x) = \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^{N+1} (2N+1)!!; \\
 & a_{0,2N+2}(N+1, x) = x^{N+1}; \\
 & a_{0,j}(N+1, x) = x \sum_{k=0}^{2N+2-j} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} a_{0,j-k-2}(N-k, x) \\
 & \quad \text{for } N+2 \leq j \leq 2N+1;
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_{i,N-i+1}(N+1,x) &= \frac{2i-1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-i+1} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2N-2i+1)!!}{(2N-2k-2i+1)!!} a_{i-1,N-k-i+1}(N-k,x) \\
 &\text{for } 1 \leq i \leq N; \\
 a_{i,2(N+1-i)}(N+1,x) &= \frac{2i-1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{N-i+1} x^k a_{i-1,2(N-k-i+1)}(N-k,x), \\
 &\text{for } 1 \leq i \leq N; \\
 a_{i,j}(N+1,x) &= \sum_{k=0}^{2N-j-2i+2} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} \left(\frac{2i-1}{2} a_{i-1,j-k}(N-k,x) + x a_{i,j-k-2}(N-k,x)\right), \\
 &\text{for } 1 \leq i \leq N, N-i+2 \leq j \leq 2(N-i)+1. \tag{51}
 \end{aligned}$$

From these, we can conclude that, for $0 \leq i \leq N+1, N+1-i \leq j \leq 2(N+1-i)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_{i,j}(N+1,x) &= \sum_{k=0}^{2N-j-2i+2} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} \\
 &\quad \times \left(\frac{2i-1}{2} a_{i-1,j-k}(N-k,x) + x a_{i,j-k-2}(N-k,x)\right), \tag{52}
 \end{aligned}$$

with $a_{0,0}(0,x) = 1, a_{1,0}(1,x) = \frac{1}{2}, a_{0,1}(1,x) = -\frac{1}{2}, a_{0,2}(1,x) = x$, except for $i = 0$ and $j = N+1$, in which case

$$a_{0,N+1}(N+1,x) = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{N+1} (2N+1)!!. \tag{53}$$

Our results can now be stated as the following theorem.

Theorem 1. The ordinary differential equations

$$F^{(N)} = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^N F = \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} a_{i,j}(N,x) (1-t)^{-i} (1+t)^{-j}\right) F, \tag{54}$$

$(N = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$ have a solution $F = F(t,x) = (1-t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{x(\frac{t}{1+t})}$, where, for $0 \leq i \leq N, N-i \leq j \leq 2(N-i)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_{i,j}(N,x) &= \sum_{k=0}^{2N-j-2i} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \frac{(2j-1)!!}{(2j-2k-1)!!} \\
 &\quad \times \left(\frac{2i-1}{2} a_{i-1,j-k}(N-k-1,x) + x a_{i,j-k-2}(N-k-1,x)\right), \tag{55}
 \end{aligned}$$

with $a_{0,0}(0,x) = 1, a_{1,0}(1,x) = \frac{1}{2}, a_{0,1}(1,x) = -\frac{1}{2}, a_{0,2}(1,x) = x$, except for $i = 0$ and $j = N$, in which case

$$a_{0,N}(N,x) = \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^N (2N-1)!!. \tag{56}$$

3. APPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

We recall from (9) that the squared Hermite polynomials $SH_k(x)$ are given by the generating function

$$F = F(t; x) = (1 - t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{\left(\frac{t}{1+t}\right)} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} SH_k(x) \frac{t^k}{k!}. \tag{57}$$

Here we derive some new and explicit identities for the squared Hermite polynomials from the differential equations in Theorem 1. Now, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} SH_{k+N}(x) \frac{t^k}{k!} &= \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} SH_k(x) \frac{t^k}{k!} \right)^{(N)} \\ &= \left((1 - t^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{x\left(\frac{t}{1+t}\right)} \right)^{(N)} \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} a_{i,j}(N, x) (1 - t)^{-i} (1 + t)^{-j} \right) F \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} a_{i,j}(N, x) \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (i + l - 1)_l \frac{t^l}{l!} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m (j + m - 1)_m \frac{t^m}{m!} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} SH_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} \sum_{l+m+n=k} \binom{k}{l, m, n} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times (-1)^m (i + l - 1)_l (j + m - 1)_m a_{i,j}(N, x) SH_n(x) \right) \frac{t^k}{k!}. \tag{58} \end{aligned}$$

From this, we have, for $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} SH_{k+N}(x) &= \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} \sum_{l+m+n=k} \binom{k}{l, m, n} \\ &\quad \times (-1)^m (i + l - 1)_l (j + m - 1)_m a_{i,j}(N, x) SH_n(x). \tag{59} \end{aligned}$$

Thus we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 2. For $k, N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} SH_{k+N}(x) &= \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} \sum_{l+m+n=k} \binom{k}{l, m, n} \\ &\quad \times (-1)^m (i + l - 1)_l (j + m - 1)_m a_{i,j}(N, x) SH_n(x), \end{aligned}$$

where $a_{i,j}(N, x)$ are as in Theorem 1.

Letting $k = 0$ in (59), we obtain the following result giving expressions for the squared Hermite polynomials $SH_N(x)$.

Theorem 3. For $N = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$SH_N(x) = \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=N-i}^{2(N-i)} a_{i,j}(N, x),$$

where $a_{i,j}(N, x)$ are as in Theorem 1.

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Quenching for the discrete heat equation with a singular absorption term on finite graphs

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Abstract

We study the quenching for the discrete semi-linear heat equation with singular absorption $u_t = \Delta_\omega u - \lambda u^{-p}$ on finite graph with Dirichlet boundary condition and the positive initial condition $u_0(x)$. When $\lambda^{-p} \geq \max_{x \in S} u_0(x)$, we prove that the solution will quench in finite time by comparison principal. Meanwhile, we study the quenching rate. Moreover, we also prove that there exists a critical exponent λ^* such that the problem admits a global solution for all $\lambda \leq \lambda^*$. Finally, a numerical experiment on two finite graphs is given to illustrate our results.

Keywords: Discrete heat equation; singular absorption; quenching; graphs.

MSC: 35B05, 35B33, 45G05

1 Introduction

Let G be a graph with vertex set V and edge set E , where the vertex set is divided into the boundary vertices ∂S and the interior vertices S which is connected, and we always assume G is a finite, connected, simple (without multiple edges and loops) graph in the following context. In this paper, we mainly study the quenching phenomena for the following semi-linear discrete heat equation with singular absorption on finite graph

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$$\begin{cases} u_t = \Delta_\omega u - \lambda u^{-p}, & x \in S \text{ and } t \in (0, T), \\ u(x, t) = 1, & x \in \partial S \text{ and } t \in (0, T), \\ u(x, 0) = u_0(x), & x \in S, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

here p, λ and T are positive constants, the initial value $u_0(x) \in C(V)$ and satisfies $0 < u_0(x) \leq 1$ for any $x \in S$. The function space $C(V)$ denotes the set of all functions which are definite on the vertices V of the graph G , and Δ_ω denotes the discrete Laplacian operator on finite graph, which is defined as follows (see [1]),

$$\Delta_\omega u(x) = \sum_{y \in V} [u(y) - u(x)] \cdot \omega(x, y),$$

where the function $\omega(x, y)$ is called the weighted function, and satisfies

- (i) $\omega(x, x) = 0$, for any $x \in V$,
- (ii) $\omega(x, y) = \omega(y, x) \geq 0$, for any $x, y \in V$,
- (iii) $\omega(x, y) = 0$, if and only if $(x, y) \notin E$.

Moreover, $d_\omega(x) = \sum_{x \in V} \omega(x, y)$ denotes the degree of the node $x \in V$ of the weighted graph G , and we assume that $d_\omega(x) \leq 1$ for any $x \in S$.

By introducing $v(x, t) = 1 - u(x, t)$, it is not difficult to verify that the function $v(x, t)$ satisfies the following initial boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} v_t = \Delta_\omega v + \lambda(1 - v)^{-p}, & x \in S \text{ and } t \in (0, T), \\ v(x, t) = 0, & x \in \partial S \text{ and } t \in (0, T), \\ v(x, 0) = 1 - u_0(x), & x \in S. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

In the continuous case including the local and nonlocal diffusion equation likes (1) or (2), its quenching phenomena has attracted much attention from the work of H. Kawarada [2] in 1975. This type of the diffusion equation with a singular absorption term (or a reaction term) comes from the polarization phenomena in ionic conductors [2], and can be considered as a limiting case of models in chemical catalyst kinetics or models of in enzyme kinetics [4, 5, 3, 6]. The detailed researches on the quenching phenomena can be found in [9, 6, 7, 8] and the references therein. Especially, for the nonlinear diffusion equation

$$u_t - u_{xx} = -u^{-p}, -l < x < l$$

with non-homogeneous Dirichlet boundary condition and the positive initial value, its quenching occurs in finite time for sufficiently large l in [2, 7]. Moreover, the quenching of the semilinear parabolic equation

$$u_t - \Delta u = g(u)$$

with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary condition and the positive initial value was also studied, the readers can refer to [10, 11]. On the other hand, the authors of [9] considered the quenching behaviour of the following nonlocal diffusion equation

$$u_t = J * u - u - \lambda u^{-p},$$

the critical parameter λ^* and the quenching rate and the quenching set were also given.

Recently, the ω -harmonic function and the ω -heat equation were considered by many authors since the discrete heat equation has been widely applied to the fields of heat and energy transfer, electrical networks, image processing and so on [1, 12, 13]. In [14], Y.S. Chung, Y.S. Lee et.al considered the extinction and positivity of the discrete heat equation with absorption on network

$$u_t = \Delta_\omega u - u^p,$$

where $p > 0$. Furthermore, the extinction and positivity for the p, ω -heat equation with absorption was also studied in [16, 15]. Blow-up for the ω -heat equation with a reaction term on graphs

$$u_t = \Delta_\omega u + \lambda u^p,$$

where $p > 0$ was researched in [17, 18]. The asymptotic behavior of solutions for the ω -heat equation with reaction and absorption term was considered in [19].

Motivated by the above works, the purpose of this paper is to discuss the quenching phenomena for the discrete heat equation with singular absorption term and the non-homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions. The local existence and uniqueness of solutions are obtained in the next section. In the third section, we will show the comparison principle for the discrete heat equation (1). The sufficient conditions on quenching and quenching rate are proved in the section 4. In the section 5, we mainly discuss the existence of the global solution. In the last section, we give some numerical experiments to illustrate our results.

2 Local existence and uniqueness of solutions

Lemma 2.1 *Suppose $0 < u_0(x) \leq 1$, then, there exists a unique solution $u \in C[0, T) \times C(V)$ for the problem (1). Moreover, if T is finite, then*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow T^-} u(x, t) = 0 \tag{3}$$

for some $x \in S$.

Proof. Since $0 < u_0(x) \leq 1$, there exists a positive constant ε , such that $2\varepsilon < u_0(x) \leq 1$. Set

$$X_0 = \{u \in C[0, t_0] \times C(V), \varepsilon \leq u \leq K \text{ and } u(x) \equiv 1 \text{ for any } x \in \partial S\},$$

where $K > 1$ and

$$t_0 < \min \left\{ \frac{K-1}{K}, \frac{\varepsilon}{K + \lambda\varepsilon^{-p}}, \frac{1}{2 + \lambda p\varepsilon^{-p-1}} \right\}. \tag{4}$$

Now, we define the operator as follows:

$$T_{u_0}[u](x, t) = \begin{cases} u_0(x) + \int_0^t \Delta_\omega u(x, s) ds - \lambda \int_0^t u^{-p}(x, s) ds, & x \in S, 0 \leq t \leq t_0, \\ 1, & x \in \partial S, 0 \leq t \leq t_0, \end{cases}$$

and the norm of the Banach space X_0

$$\|u(x, t)\|_{X_0} = \max_{x \in V} \max_{t \in [0, t_0]} |u(x, t)|$$

for any $u(x, t) \in X_0$.

First, we prove that the operator T_{u_0} maps X_0 into X_0 . It is easy to verify that $T_{u_0}[u](x, t)$ is continuous about the time t for any fixed node $x \in V$. On the other hand, for any $u(x, t) \in X_0$, we have

$$T_{u_0}[u](x, t) \geq 2\varepsilon - (K + \lambda\varepsilon^{-p})t_0 \geq \varepsilon, \tag{5}$$

moreover, we also have

$$T_{u_0}[u](x, t) \leq 1 + Kt_0 = K\left(\frac{1}{K} + t_0\right) \leq K. \tag{6}$$

Next, we show that T_{u_0} is a strict contraction in X_0 . That is to say, for any $u, v \in X_0$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|u - v\|_{X_0} &\leq \left\| \int_0^t \sum_{y \in V} [u(y, s) - v(y, s)] \omega(x, y) ds \right\|_{X_0} \\ &\quad + \left\| \int_0^t [u(x, s) - v(x, s)] ds \right\|_{X_0} + \lambda \left\| \int_0^t [v^{-p}(x, s) - u^{-p}(x, s)] ds \right\|_{X_0} \\ &\leq 2t_0 \|u - v\|_{X_0} + \lambda p \left\| \int_0^t |\xi|^{-p-1} |u(x, s) - v(x, s)| ds \right\|_{X_0} \\ &\leq t_0(2 + \lambda p\varepsilon^{-p-1}) \|u - v\|_{X_0} < \|u - v\|_{X_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Banach fixed point theorem, there exists a unique $u \in X_0$ such that $u = T_{u_0(x)}[u]$, so, for any $x \in S$, we have

$$u(x, t) = \begin{cases} u_0(x) + \int_0^t \Delta_\omega u(x, s) ds - \lambda \int_0^t u^{-p}(x, s) ds, & x \in S \\ 1, & x \in \partial S, \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

thus, we can get $u(x, t)$ is the unique solution to the problem (1) in $t \in [0, t_0]$. Now, if $u(x, t_0) > 0$, we can continue the above procedure, and then, the solution can be extend to the time interval $[t_0, t_1]$. This procedure can be continued again and again until $\lim_{t \rightarrow T^-} u(x, t) \rightarrow 0$ for some time T which may be infinite.

3 Comparison principle

In this section, we mainly show a comparison principle. To do this, we begin with the definition of the super-solution and sub-solution to the problem (1).

Definition 3.1 A function $\bar{u} \in C(V) \times C[0, T]$ is a super-solution to the problem (1) if \bar{u} is a positive function and satisfies

$$\begin{cases} \bar{u}_t \geq \Delta_\omega \bar{u} - \lambda \bar{u}^{-p}, & x \in S \text{ and } t \in (0, T), \\ \bar{u}(x, t) \geq 0, & x \in \partial S \text{ and } t \in (0, T), \\ \bar{u}(x, 0) \geq u_0(x), & x \in S, \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Analogously, we say that $\underline{u} \in C(V) \times C[0, T]$ is a sub-solution if it satisfies the reverses above inequalities.

Now, we have the following comparison principle.

Theorem 3.1 (Comparison principle) Suppose \bar{u} and \underline{u} be a super-solution and a sub-solution to the problem (1.1), respectively, then $\bar{u} \geq \underline{u}$ in $(x, t) \in V \times [0, T]$.

Proof. For any $0 < t_0 < T$, set $m = \min_{S \times [0, t_0]} \{\bar{u}, \underline{u}\}$ and $M = \max_{S \times [0, t_0]} \{\bar{u}, \underline{u}\}$, thus, we know that m, M are the positive constants. And then, suppose $v(x, t) = \underline{u} - \bar{u}$. Notice that $v(x, 0) > 0$ for any $x \in S$. By the definitions of the super-solution and the sub-solution, we can get

$$v_t \geq \Delta_\omega v - \lambda(\underline{u}^{-p} - \bar{u}^{-p}), \quad (9)$$

let $v^+(x, t) = \max\{v(x, t), 0\} \geq 0$. Thus, multiplying v^+ both sides of the above inequality, and integrating on S , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_{x \in S} (v^+(x, t))^2 \right)_t \\ & \leq \int_{x \in S} \Delta_\omega v(x, t) v^+(x, t) + \int_{x \in S} (\underline{u}^{p(x)} - \bar{u}^{p(x)}) v^+(x, t), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

For the first term of the right part of the above inequality, we have

$$\int_{x \in S} \Delta_\omega v(x, t) v^+(x, t) \leq 0. \quad (11)$$

In fact, let $J(t) = \{x \in V : v(x, t) > 0\}$, if $J(t)$ is empty set, we have the desired results. Now, assume $J(t)$ is not an empty set. Due to $\underline{u}(x, t) \leq 0, \bar{u}(x, t) \geq 0$ for any $x \in \partial S$ and $0 \leq t \leq t_0$, so $v(x, t) = \underline{u}(x, t) - \bar{u}(x, t) \leq 0$ for any $x \in \partial S$ and $0 \leq t \leq t_0$.

Now, we get $J(t) \subset S$. Thus, if $x \in J(t)$ and $y \in V \setminus J(t)$, we have $v(x, t) > 0$ and $v(y, t) - v(x, t) < 0$, hence, we have

$$\sum_{x \in J(t)} \sum_{y \in V \setminus J(t)} v(x, t)[v(y, t) - v(x, t)]\omega(x, y) < 0.$$

Furthermore, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{x \in S} \sum_{y \in V} v^+(x, t)[v(y, t) - v(x, t)]\omega(x, y) \\ &= \sum_{x \in J(t)} \sum_{y \in J(t)} v(x, t)[v(y, t) - v(x, t)]\omega(x, y) \\ &+ \sum_{x \in J(t)} \sum_{y \in V \setminus J(t)} v(x, t)[v(y, t) - v(x, t)]\omega(x, y) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in J(t)} \sum_{y \in J(t)} [v(y, t) - v(x, t)]^2 \omega(x, y) \\ &+ \sum_{x \in J(t)} \sum_{y \in V \setminus J(t)} v(x, t)[v(y, t) - v(x, t)]\omega(x, y) < 0. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

On the other hand, for any fixed $x \in S$, by mean value theorem, we have

$$\underline{u}^{-p}(x, t) - \bar{u}^{-p}(x, t) = -p\xi^{-p-1}(x, t)v(x, t),$$

where $\xi(x, t) = \theta(x)\underline{u}(x, t) + (1 - \theta(x))\bar{u}(x, t)$ and $0 \leq \theta(x) \leq 1$. And then, we have $m \leq \xi(x, t) \leq M$. Thus, for the second term of the right part of the inequality (10), we also have

$$\int_{x \in S} (\underline{u}^{p(x)} - \bar{u}^{p(x)})v^+(x, t) \leq -m^{-p-1} \int_{x \in S} (v^+(x, t))^2. \tag{13}$$

Combine the inequalities (10), (12) and (13), we obtain

$$\left(\int_{x \in V} (v^+(x, t))^2 \right)_t < 0. \tag{14}$$

There exists a contradiction. Hence $J(t) = \emptyset$. By the arbitrariness of t_0 , we obtain $\bar{u}(x, t) \geq \underline{u}(x, t)$, for $(x, t) \in V \times [0, T)$.

4 Quenching phenomena and quenching rate

In this section, similar to the method used in [9], we mainly propose the quenching condition and quenching rate. Before the discussions and proofs, we firstly give some notes about the initial value condition and also the boundary condition. Since the absorption term is singular at points which satisfy $u(x) = 0$, we need the initial value $u_0(x) > 0$. Moreover, if $\max_{x \in S} u_0(x) > 1$, we can set

$$U(t) = (\lambda p)^{\frac{1}{p+1}} (A - t)^{\frac{1}{p+1}},$$

where $A = \max_{x \in S} u_0(x)$, and then, it is easy to verify that $U(t)$ is a super-solution to the discrete diffusion equation (1) when $U(t) \geq 1$. Thus, by the comparison principle, there exists t_0 such that $1 \geq U(t_0) \geq u(x, t_0)$. Hence, we can discuss the quenching pheromone to the problem (1) with the large initial value beginning with the initial time time $t = t_0$. The following proof can be similarly done. Finally, if we choose the homogenous Dirichlet boundary condition, i.e. set $u(x, t) = 0$ for any $x \in \partial S$, and then, we can also get $U(t)$ is also a super-solution to the problem (1) for any $t < A$, and then, we have $u(x, t)$ always quenches in finite time, i.e. the solution to the problem (1) is not global.

Next, we give the proof of the quenching phenomena about the problem (1), we mainly have the following two results.

Theorem 4.1 *If the initial value $u_0(x)$ satisfies that*

$$\max_{x \in S} u_0(x) \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}} < 1, \tag{15}$$

and then, the solution to the problem (1) quenches in finite time T .

Proof. It is easy to verify that

$$v(x, t) = \begin{cases} \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}, & x \in S, \\ 1, & x \in \partial S, \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

is the super-solution to the problem (1), thus, by the comparison principle, we have $u(x, t) \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}$ for any $x \in S$ and $t \in [0, T)$.

Now, assume $u(x, t)$ attains its minimum value at the nodes x^* for any fix time t . At this point, we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_t(x^*, t) &= \sum_{y \in V} u(y, t)\omega(x^*, y) - d^*u(x^*, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq d^* - d^*u(x^*, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq -d^*u(x^*, t), \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

where $d^* = d_\omega(x^*)$. Integrating both sides of the above inequality in $[0, t]$, we can get

$$u(x^*, t) \leq u_0(x^*)e^{-d^*t} \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p}}e^{-d^*t}. \tag{18}$$

Thus, for the equality in (17), note that the function $-s^{-p}$ is increasing, hence, choose $t_0 \geq \frac{\ln(2d^*)}{pd^*}$, and then, for any $t \geq t_0$, we can also get

$$\begin{aligned} u_t(x^*, t) &\leq d^* - d^*u(x^*, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq d^* - \frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t) - \frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq d^* - \frac{1}{2}e^{pd^*t} - \frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq -\frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t), \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Integrating both sides of the above inequality in $[t_0, t]$, we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & u^{p+1}(u(x^*, t)) \\ & \leq u^{p+1}(u(x^*, t_0)) - \frac{(p+1)\lambda}{2}(t-t_0) \\ & \leq u_0^{p+1}(x^*)e^{-d^*(p+1)t_0} - \frac{(p+1)\lambda}{2}(t-t_0), \end{aligned}$$

from this inequality, we have $u(x, t)$ quenches at finite time T , moreover, we have

$$T \leq t_0 + \frac{(p+1)\lambda}{2} u_0^{p+1}(x^*) e^{-d^*(p+1)t_0}. \tag{20}$$

Theorem 4.2 *If $\lambda \geq 1$, then the solution to the problem (1) also quenches in finite time.*

Proof. Since $\lambda \geq 1$ and $0 < u_0(x) \leq 1$, we have $\max_{x \in V} u_0(x) \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}}$. Now, it is easy to verify that $v(x, t) \equiv \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}}, x \in V$ is a super-solution to the problem (1). Thus, by the comparison principle, we also have $u(x, t) \leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}}$ for any $x \in V$.

Now, also assume $u(x, t)$ attains its minimum value at the nodes x^* for any fix time t . At this point, we have

$$\begin{aligned} u_t(x^*, t) &= \sum_{y \in V} u(y, t)\omega(x^*, y) - d^*u(x^*, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}} - d^*u(x^*, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq -d^*u(x^*, t), \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

Integrating both sides of the above inequality on $[0, t]$, we can get

$$u(x^*, t) \leq u_0(x^*)e^{-d^*t}. \tag{22}$$

Thus, for any $t \geq t_0$, from the inequality in (21) and by choosing $t_0 \geq \frac{\ln 2 - \frac{p \ln \lambda}{p+1}}{pd^*}$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} u_t(x^*, t) &\leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}} - d^*u(x^*, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &= \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}} - d^*u(x^*, t) - \frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t) - \frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq \lambda^{\frac{1}{p+1}} - \frac{\lambda}{2}e^{pd^*t} - \frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t) \\ &\leq -\frac{\lambda}{2}u^{-p}(x^*, t), \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Integrating both sides of the above inequality on $[t_0, t]$, we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & u^{p+1}(u(x^*, t)) \\ & \leq u^{p+1}(u(x^*, t_0)) - \frac{(p+1)\lambda}{2}(t-t_0) \\ & \leq u_0^{p+1}(x^*)e^{-(p+1)d^*t_0} - \frac{(p+1)\lambda}{2}(t-t_0), \end{aligned}$$

by this inequality, we get $u(x, t)$ quenches at finite time T , moreover, we also have

$$T \leq t_0 + \frac{(p+1)\lambda}{2} u_0^{p+1}(x^*) e^{-(p+1)d^*t_0}. \tag{24}$$

Theorem 4.3 (The quenching rate) *If the solution $u(x, t)$ to the problem (1) quenches in finite time T at the node x^* , and then, we have*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow T^-} (T - t)^{\frac{-1}{p+1}} u(x^*, t) = [(p+1)\lambda]^{\frac{1}{p+1}}.$$

Proof. Since $0 < u_0(x) \leq 1$, and then, it is easy to verify that $v(x, t) \equiv 1$ is a super-solution to the problem (1), by the comparison principle, we know that $0 < u(x, t) \leq 1$ for any $x \in V$ and $t \in [0, T)$.

Now, multiply u^p on the both sides of the discrete heat equation in the problem (1), and then, we get

$$u^p u_t = u^p \Delta_\omega u - \lambda, x \in S, t \in [0, T). \tag{25}$$

Next, we establish the upper bound of the quenching rate. Due to $0 < u(x, t) \leq 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} u^p u_t &= u^p \Delta_\omega u - \lambda \\ &= u^p \sum_{y \in V} u(y, t) \omega(x, y) - d_\omega(x) u^{p+1} - \lambda \\ &\geq -u^{p+1} - \lambda \geq -1 - \lambda \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

for any $x \in S, t \in [0, T)$. Assume that $u(x, t)$ quenches in finite time T at the node x^* , and then, integrating the inequality $u^p u_t \geq -1 - \lambda$ on the time t on $[t, T]$ on the node x^* , due to $u(x, t) \rightarrow 0$ when $t \rightarrow T^-$, we can get

$$u^{p+1}(x^*, t) \leq (p+1)(\lambda+1)(T-t).$$

Moreover, due to the inequality $u^p u_t \geq -u^{p+1} - \lambda$, thus, at the quenching node x^* , we also have

$$u^p u_t(x^*, t) \geq -(p+1)(\lambda+1)(T-t) - \lambda, \tag{27}$$

Integrating again in the time interval $[t, T]$, we have

$$-\frac{1}{p+1} u^{p+1}(x^*, t) \geq \frac{1}{2} (p+1)(\lambda+1)(T-t)^2 - \lambda(T-t), \tag{28}$$

thus, we get

$$\frac{u^{p+1}(x^*, t)}{T-t} \leq (p+1)\lambda \left(-(p+1) \frac{2(\lambda+1)}{\lambda} (T-t) + 1 \right). \tag{29}$$

Now, we establish the lower bound of the quenching rate. By the equation (31) and $0 < u(x, t) \leq 1$, we also have

$$u^p u_t = u^p \sum_{y \in V} u(y, t) \omega(x, y) - d_\omega(x) u^{p+1} - \lambda \leq u^p - \lambda.$$

Thus, by the inequality (26), at the quenching node x^* , we can obtain the following inequality

$$u^p u_t \leq [(p + 1)(\lambda + 1)(T - t)]^{\frac{p}{p+1}} - \lambda.$$

Integrating in the time interval $[t, T]$, we have

$$\frac{u^{p+1}(x^*, t)}{T - t} \geq (p + 1)\lambda \left(-\frac{(p + 1)^{\frac{2p+1}{p+1}} (\lambda + 1)^{\frac{p}{p+1}}}{(2p + 1)\lambda} (T - t) + 1 \right). \tag{30}$$

Combine the inequalities (29) and (30), and let $t \rightarrow T^-$, we can obtain the need results.

5 The existence of a global solution

In this section, we investigate the existence of a global solution to the problem (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) \equiv 1$ for any $x \in S$. To do this, we begin with the following lemma.

Lemma 5.1 *There exists a small nonnegative constant λ^* , such that if $\lambda \leq \lambda^*$, then the eigenvalue problem*

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_\omega u(x) = \lambda u^{-p}(x), & x \in S, \\ u(x) = 1, & x \in \partial S, \end{cases} \tag{31}$$

exists at least one solution.

Proof. Let $C(V)$ denotes the set of all the functions which are defined on the finite graph G with its nodes V , and then, the norm on $C(V)$ is as follows:

$$\|v\|_{C(V)} = \max_{x \in V} v(x). \tag{32}$$

Furthermore, set $C_0(V) = \{v(x) \in C(V) \text{ and } v(x) \equiv 0 \text{ for any } x \in \partial S\}$ and assume that $A = \{v \in C_0(V) : -\varepsilon < v(x) < 1\}$ is a open subset of $C_0(V)$, the nonlinear function $F(\lambda, v) : (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \times A \rightarrow C(S)$ is defined as

$$F(\lambda, v) = \Delta_\omega v + \lambda(1 - v)^{-p}, \tag{33}$$

where ε is a small enough constant.

It is obviously that $F(\lambda, v)$ is differentiable function and $F(0, 0) = 0$. Moreover, the Fréchet derivative of $F(\lambda, v)$ at $(0, 0)$ is

$$F_v(0, 0)[z(x)] = \Delta_\omega z(x) \tag{34}$$

is a continuous linear operator for any $z(x) \in A$. In fact, for any sequence $z_m(x) \rightarrow z(x)$, we have $\|\Delta_\omega[z_m(x) - z(x)]\|_{C(V)} \leq |V| \|z_m - z\|_{C(V)}$, so $F_v(0, 0)$ is a continuous operator. Moreover, its kernel is the function $z = 0$ (see [1]), and then, it is injective. On the other hand, $F_v(0, 0)$ is a linear transformation on finite dimensional space, and then, it is also a compact linear operator, hence, it is also bijective. By the Open-Mapping Theorem we deduce that $F_v(0, 0)$ is a linear homeomorphism of $C_0(V)$ into $C_0(V)$. By the Implicit Function Theorem in the appendix A of [20], there exists a neighborhoods $U \in (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ of $\lambda = 0$ and $W \in A$ of $v(x) \equiv 0$ such that $F(\lambda, v_\lambda) = 0$ for any $\lambda \in U$, and $v_\lambda \in W$ is unique. Thus, for any $\lambda < \lambda^* \in U$, suppose $u_\lambda(x) = 1 - v_\lambda(x)$, it is easy to verify that $u_\lambda(x)$ is a solution to the equation (31).

Based on the above lemma, we have the following theorem on the existence of the global solution to the problem (1) with $u_0(x) = 1$.

Theorem 5.1 *There exists a constat λ^* , such that $\lambda \leq \lambda^*$, the problem (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) = 1$ has a global solution, while for $\lambda > \lambda^*$, then no global solution exists.*

Proof. Firstly, from the proofs of Theorem 4.1 and 4.2, we have the solution to the problem (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) = 1$ quenching in infinite time is impossible. Moreover, set $w(x, t) = u_t(x, t)$, and then, we get w satisfies

$$\begin{cases} w_t = \Delta_\omega w + p\lambda u^{-p-1}w, & (x, t) \in S \times (0, T), \\ w(x, t) = 0, & (x, t) \in \partial S \times (0, T), \\ w(x, 0) = -\lambda, & x \in S. \end{cases} \quad (35)$$

Then, by comparison principle, we obtain that $w = u_t \leq 0$. On the other hand, by the Lemma 5.1, we have λ is small enough, the equation (31) exists a positive solution $v_\lambda(x)$, in fact, it is also a sub-solution to the problem (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) = 1$. Hence, the solution of (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) = 1$ satisfies that, either it quenches in finite time, or it converges to a stationary solution

Next, we discuss the critical exponent of the quenching and the global existence. In fact, If $u(x, t)$ is a global solution to the problem (1), then, we know that $u(x, t) \rightarrow u_\infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and u_∞ is a solution the the problem (31), is a stationary solution to the equation (31). Moreover, for any fix constant λ_1 , if there exists a solution $v_{\lambda_1}(x)$ to the problem (31), i.e. $v_{\lambda_1}(x)$ satisfies

$$\Delta_\omega v_{\lambda_1}(x) = \lambda v_{\lambda_1}^{-p}(x), \quad (36)$$

furthermore, it is easy to verify that $v_{\lambda_1}(x)$ is a sub-solution to the problem (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) = 1$ and $\lambda \leq \lambda_1$. Thus, the solution to the problem (1) with the initial value $u_0(x) = 1$ is global when $\lambda \leq \lambda_1$. By this monotonicity property given

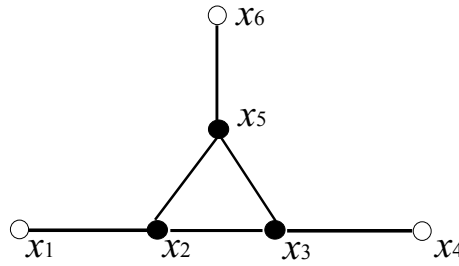


Figure 1: The graph G_1

above discussion, set $\lambda^* = \sup_{\lambda \in B} \lambda$, where the set $B = \{\lambda : v_\lambda(x) \text{ exists to (36)}\}$. This completes the proof.

6 Numerical experiments

In this section, we consider a graph G_1 (as shown in Figure 1), which has six nodes x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6 , where x_2, x_3, x_5 are interior and x_1, x_4, x_6 are the boundary. Moreover, we only consider the weight function $\omega \equiv \frac{1}{3}$. Thus, the discrete heat equation in (1) is

$$\begin{cases} u_t(x_2, t) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}u(x_3, t) + \frac{1}{3}u(x_5, t) - u(x_2, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x_2, t) \\ u_t(x_3, t) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}u(x_2, t) + \frac{1}{3}u(x_5, t) - u(x_3, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x_3, t) \\ u_t(x_5, t) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}u(x_2, t) + \frac{1}{3}u(x_3, t) - u(x_5, t) - \lambda u^{-p}(x_5, t) \end{cases} \quad (37)$$

Now, we also suppose that the exponent $p = 1.2, \lambda = 0.8$. Moreover, the discrete Laplacian operator Δ_ω on the graph G_1 is as follows:

$$\Delta_\omega = -\frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 3 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (38)$$

Thus, set $U(t) = (u(x_2, t), u(x_3, t), u(x_5, t))^T$, and then, we have the equation (37) can be rewrote as follows:

$$U_t = \frac{\mathbf{1}}{3} + \Delta_\omega * U(t) - 0.8U^{-2}(t), \text{ with } U(0) = (0.3, 0.35, 0.4)^T, \quad (39)$$

where $\mathbf{1} = (1, 1, 1)^T$.

By Theorem 4.1, we get $U(t)$ quenches in finite time, moreover, U_t blows up in finite time. Since the system (39) is nonlinear, it is difficult to compute its analytic solutions. Hence, we consider its numerical solutions. The explicit difference scheme to the system (39) is as follows:

$$U_{n+1} = U_n + \Delta t \left(\frac{\mathbf{1}}{3} + \Delta_\omega * U_n - 0.8U_n^{-2} \right), \text{ with } U_0 = (0.3, 0.35, 0.4)^T, \quad (40)$$

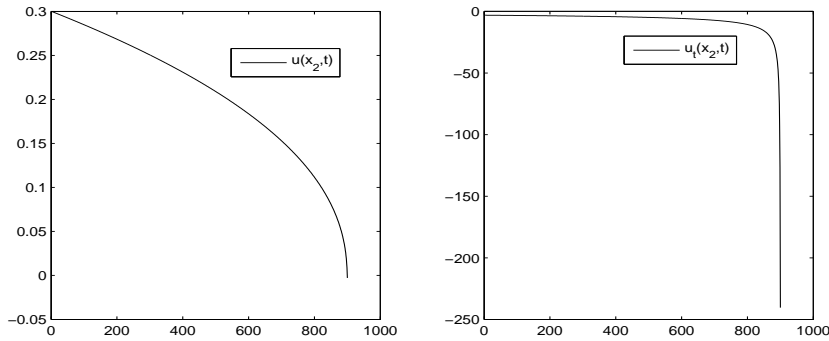


Figure 2: Quenching of $u(x_2, t)$ and Blow-up of $u_t(x_2, t)$ in finite time

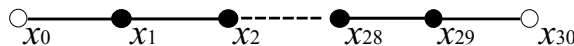


Figure 3: The graph G_2

where U_n denotes $U(n\Delta t)$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and Δt is the time step which taking as $0.043/n$ in the numerical experiment. The numerical experiment result is shown in Figure 2. From this numerical experiment, we know that the solution $U(t)$ quenches and U_t blows up in finite time.

At the end of this section, we give another example. Now, we consider the discrete heat equation (1) on the following finite graph G_2 (as shown in Figure 3), which has six nodes x_0, x_2, \dots, x_{30} , where x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{29} are interior and x_0, x_{30} are the boundary. Moreover, we only consider the weight function $\omega(x_i, x_j) \equiv \frac{1}{4}$. Thus, the discrete heat equation in (1) is

$$\begin{cases} u_t(x_1, t) = \frac{1}{4}(1 + u(x_2, t) - 2u(x_1, t)) - \lambda u^{-p}(x_1, t), \\ u_t(x_i, t) = \frac{1}{4}(u(x_{i-1}, t) + u(x_{i+1}, t) - 2u(x_i, t)) - \lambda u^{-p}(x_i, t), 1 \leq i \leq 28, \\ u_t(x_{29}, t) = \frac{1}{4}(1 + u(x_{28}, t) - 2u(x_{29}, t)) - \lambda u^{-p}(x_{29}, t), \end{cases} \quad (41)$$

where $\lambda = 1$, $p = 1.2$, and then, let the initial value $u_0(x_i) = 1 - 0.9 \sin(\frac{i}{30}\pi)$, where $1 \leq i \leq 29$ and $u(x_0, t) = u(x_{30}, t) = 1$. Thus, by the theorem 4.2, we have the solution $u(x_i, t)$ will quench in finite time. Also since the nonlinear of the system (41), we consider the following difference scheme:

$$V_{n+1} = V_n + \Delta t (B + \Delta_\omega V_n - \lambda V_n^{-p}), n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad (42)$$

where $V_n = (u(x_1, n\Delta t), u(x_2, n\Delta t), \dots, u(x_{29}, n\Delta t))^T$, $B = (1/4, 0, \dots, 0, 1/4)^T$ is a 29- dimensions vector, $\Delta t = 0.0001/n$ is the time step, and the discrete Laplacian

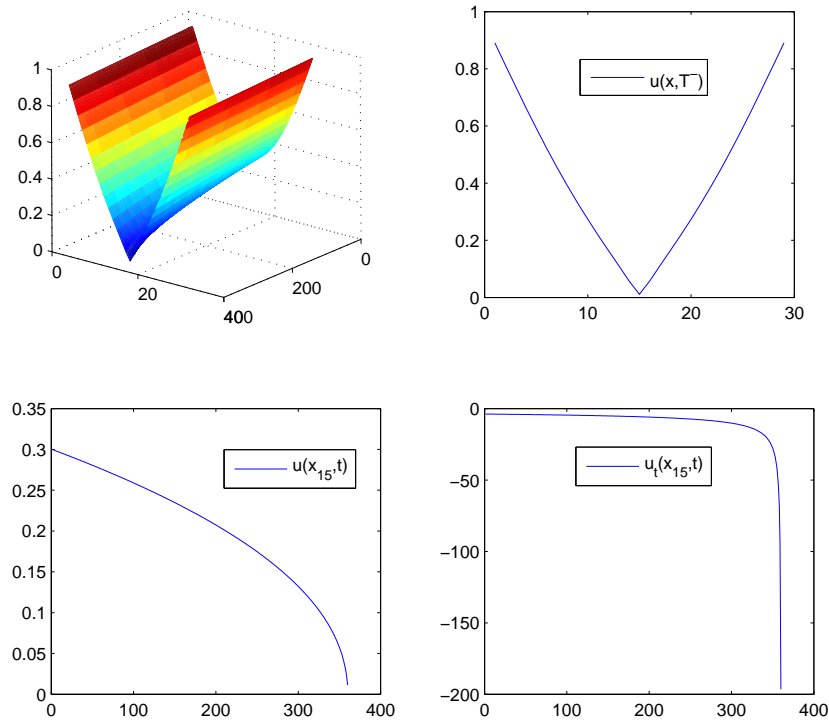


Figure 4: Quenching of $u(x, t)$ and Blow-up of $u_t(x_{15}, t)$ in finite time

operator on the graph G_2 is as follows:

$$\Delta_\omega = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}_{29 \times 29}. \tag{43}$$

Moreover, the initial value $V_0 = (u_0(x_1), u_0(x_2), \dots, u_0(x_{29}))$. The numerical experiment results can be found in Figure 4.

7 Conclusion

In this paper, we mainly consider the quenching problem and the global solution of the discrete heat equation with a singular absorption, the quenching time, quenching rate and the critical exponent were also given. We only prove the existence of the critical exponent, its upper and lower bounds may be established by the Kaplan’s method in the further work.

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Nonlocal fractional-order boundary value problems with generalized Riemann-Liouville integral boundary conditions

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Abstract

In this paper, we study existence and uniqueness of solutions for nonlocal boundary value problems of Caputo fractional differential equations equipped with generalized Riemann-Liouville integral boundary conditions. A variety of fixed point theorems such as Banach's fixed point theorem, nonlinear contractions, Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem, Schaefer's fixed point theorem, Leray-Schauder's nonlinear alternative and Leray-Schauder degree theory are applied to obtain the desired results. Several examples are discussed for illustration of the obtained results.

Key words and phrases: Caputo fractional derivative; generalized Riemann-Liouville integral; nonlocal boundary conditions; fixed point theorems.

AMS (MOS) Subject Classifications: 26A33; 34A08

1 Introduction

We investigate the sufficient criteria for existence of solutions for the following Caputo fractional differential equation

$$D^q x(t) = f(t, x(t)), \quad 0 < t < T, \quad (1)$$

subject to nonlocal generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral boundary conditions of the form

$$\begin{aligned} x(0) &= \gamma \frac{\rho^{1-\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\zeta \frac{s^{\rho-1} x(s)}{(\zeta^\rho - s^\rho)^{1-\alpha}} ds := \gamma {}^\rho I^\alpha x(\zeta), \\ x(T) &= \delta \frac{\rho^{1-\beta}}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^\xi \frac{s^{\rho-1} x(s)}{(\xi^\rho - s^\rho)^{1-\beta}} ds := \delta {}^\rho I^\beta x(\xi), \quad 0 < \zeta, \xi < T, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where D^q denote the Caputo fractional derivative of order q , ${}^\rho I^z$, $z \in \{\alpha, \beta\}$, is the generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order $z > 0$, $\rho > 0$, ζ, ξ arbitrary, with $\zeta, \xi \in (0, T)$, $\gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{R}$ and $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function.

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As a second problem, we study Caputo fractional differential equation (1) supplemented with a combination of Riemman-Liouville and generalized Riemman-Liouville integral boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(0) &= \gamma \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\zeta (\zeta - s)^{\alpha-1} x(s) ds := \gamma J^\alpha x(\zeta), \\
 x(T) &= \delta \frac{\rho^{1-\beta}}{\Gamma(\beta)} \int_0^\xi \frac{s^{\rho-1} x(s)}{(t^\rho - s^\rho)^{1-\beta}} ds := \delta {}^\rho I^\beta x(\xi), \quad 0 < \zeta, \xi < T,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3}$$

where J^q is the Riemman-Liouville fractional integral of order $q > 0$ while ${}^\rho I^\beta$ denote generalized Riemman-Liouville fractional integral of order $\beta > 0, \rho > 0$.

The subject of fractional differential equations has evolved into an interesting and popular field of research during the last few decades. The surge in developing several aspects of fractional calculus owes to its extensive applications in several branches of engineering and technical sciences such as physics, chemical technology, population dynamics, biotechnology, biosciences, control theory and economics. The nonlocal nature of fractional derivatives, which takes into account memory and hereditary properties of various materials and processes, has played a key role in improving the mathematical modeling based on integer-order derivatives, for instance, see [1, 2, 3, 4].

Fractional-order boundary value problems supplemented with different kinds of boundary conditions have been studied by several researchers. In particular, integral boundary conditions involving classical, Riemann-Liouville or Hadamard or Erdélyi-Kober type integral operators have received significant attention. In [5], Riemann-Liouville and Hadamard fractional integrals are jointly represented by a single integral, which is called generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral (see Definition 2.2). For some recent works on the topic we refer the reader to a series of papers [6]-[20] and the references cited therein.

The purpose of the present study is to develop the existence theory for problems (1)-(2) and (1)-(3) by means of standard tools of fixed point theory. In Section 2 we recall some preliminary facts that we need in the sequel. In Section 3 we present our main results, while Section 4 contains examples illustrating the results obtained in Section 3.

2 Preliminaries

In this section, we introduce some notations and definitions of fractional calculus [2, 3] and present preliminary results needed in our proofs later.

Definition 2.1 *The Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order $q > 0$ of a continuous function $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by*

$$J^q f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t (t - s)^{q-1} f(s) ds,$$

provided the right-hand side is point-wise defined on $(0, \infty)$.

Definition 2.2 [5] *The generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral of order $q > 0$ and $\rho > 0$ of a function $f(t)$ for all $0 < t < \infty$, is defined as*

$${}^\rho I^q f(t) = \frac{\rho^{1-q}}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t \frac{s^{\rho-1} f(s)}{(t^\rho - s^\rho)^{1-q}} ds,$$

provided the right-hand side is point-wise defined on $(0, \infty)$.

Remark 2.3 *From the above definition it follows that when $\rho = 1$ we arrive at the standard Riemann-Liouville fractional integral, which is used to define both the Riemann-Liouville and Caputo fractional derivatives, while when $\rho \rightarrow 0$ we have*

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} {}^\rho I^q f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t \left(\log \frac{t}{s}\right)^{q-1} \frac{f(s)}{s} ds,$$

which is the famous Hadamard fractional integral. See [5].

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Definition 2.4 The Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of order $q > 0$, $n - 1 < q < n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, is defined as

$$D_{0+}^q f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n - q)} \left(\frac{d}{dt} \right)^n \int_0^t (t - s)^{n-q-1} f(s) ds,$$

where the function $f(t)$ has absolutely continuous derivative up to order $(n - 1)$.

Definition 2.5 The Caputo derivative of order q for a function $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ can be written as

$${}^c D^q f(t) = D^q \left(f(t) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{t^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0) \right), \quad t > 0, \quad n - 1 < q < n.$$

Remark 2.6 If $f(t) \in C^n[0, \infty)$, then

$${}^c D^q f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n - q)} \int_0^t \frac{f^{(n)}(s)}{(t - s)^{q+1-n}} ds = I^{n-q} f^{(n)}(t), \quad t > 0, \quad n - 1 < q < n.$$

Lemma 2.7 Let constants $q > 0$ and $p > 0$. Then:

$${}^\rho I^q t^p = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{p+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{p+\rho q+\rho}{\rho}\right)} \frac{t^{p+\rho q}}{\rho^q}. \tag{4}$$

Proof. By Definition 2.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} {}^\rho I^q t^p &= \frac{\rho^{1-q}}{\Gamma(q)} \int_0^t \frac{s^{\rho-1} s^p}{(t^\rho - s^\rho)^{1-q}} ds = \frac{\rho^{1-q}}{\Gamma(q)} \frac{t^{p+\rho q}}{\rho} \int_0^1 \frac{u^{\frac{p}{\rho}}}{(1-u)^{1-q}} du \\ &= \frac{\rho^{1-q}}{\Gamma(q)} \frac{t^{p+\rho q}}{\rho} B\left(\frac{p+\rho}{\rho}, q\right) = \frac{t^{p+\rho q}}{\rho^q} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{p+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{p+\rho q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

Lemma 2.8 For any $y \in AC([0, T], \mathbb{R})$, x is a solution of the linear fractional boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} {}^c D^q x(t) = y(t), & 1 < q \leq 2, \\ x(0) = \gamma {}^\rho I^\alpha x(\zeta), \quad x(T) = \delta {}^\rho I^\beta x(\xi), & 0 < \zeta, \xi < T, \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

if and only if

$$x(t) = J^q y(t) + \frac{\gamma}{\Lambda} (v_4 - tv_3) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q y(\zeta) + \frac{1}{\Lambda} (v_2 + tv_1) \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q y(\xi) - J^q y(T) \right), \tag{6}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 &= 1 - \gamma \frac{\zeta^{\rho\alpha}}{\rho^\alpha} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)}, & v_2 &= \gamma \frac{\zeta^{\rho\alpha+1}}{\rho^\alpha} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)}, \\ v_3 &= 1 - \delta \frac{\xi^{\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta + 1)}, & v_4 &= T - \delta \frac{\xi^{\rho\beta+1}}{\rho^\beta} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)}, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

and

$$\Lambda = v_1 v_4 + v_2 v_3 \neq 0. \tag{8}$$

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Proof. For arbitrary constants $c_0, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, the general solution of the fractional differential equation in (5) can be written as [2]

$$x(t) = c_0 + c_1 t + J^q y(t). \tag{9}$$

Applying the generalized fractional integral operator on (9) and using Lemma 2.7, we get

$${}^\rho I^z x(t) = {}^\rho I^z J^q y(t) + c_0 \frac{t^{\rho z}}{\rho^z} \frac{1}{\Gamma(z+1)} + c_1 \frac{t^{\rho z+1}}{\rho^z} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho}{\rho})}{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho z+\rho}{\rho})}. \tag{10}$$

Using (9) and (10) in boundary conditions of (5), we get the system

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 - \gamma \frac{\zeta^{\rho\alpha}}{\rho^\alpha} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}\right) c_0 - \gamma \frac{\zeta^{\rho\alpha+1}}{\rho^\alpha} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho}{\rho})}{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho})} c_1 &= \gamma {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q y(\zeta), \\ \left(1 - \delta \frac{\xi^{\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta+1)}\right) c_0 + \left(T - \delta \frac{\xi^{\rho\beta+1}}{\rho^\beta} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho}{\rho})}{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho})}\right) c_1 &= \delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q y(\xi) - J^q y(T). \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Solving (11) together with the notations (7) and (8), we find that

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 &= \frac{1}{\Lambda} \left\{ \gamma v_4 {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q y(\zeta) + v_2 \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q y(\xi) - J^q y(T) \right) \right\}, \\ c_1 &= \frac{1}{\Lambda} \left\{ v_1 \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q y(\xi) - J^q y(T) \right) - \gamma v_2 {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q y(\zeta) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the values of c_0 and c_1 in (9) yields the solution (6). Conversely, it can easily be shown by direct computation that the integral equation (6) satisfies the problem (5). This completes the proof. \square

Our next lemma deals with the linear variant of (1)-(3). We do not provide the proof of this result as it is similar to the preceding one.

Lemma 2.9 For any $y \in AC([0, T], \mathbb{R})$, x is a solution of the linear fractional boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} {}^c D^q x(t) = y(t), & 1 < q \leq 2, \\ x(0) = \gamma J^\alpha x(\zeta), \quad x(T) = \delta {}^\rho I^\beta x(\xi), & 0 < \zeta, \xi < T, \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

if and only if

$$x(t) = J^q y(t) + \frac{\gamma}{\Lambda_1} (u_4 - t u_3) J^{q+\alpha} y(\zeta) + \frac{1}{\Lambda_1} (u_2 + t u_1) \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q y(\xi) - J^q y(T) \right), \tag{13}$$

where

$$u_1 = 1 - \gamma \frac{\zeta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}, \quad u_2 = \gamma \frac{\zeta^{\alpha+1}}{\Gamma(\alpha+2)}, \quad u_3 = 1 - \delta \frac{\xi^{\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\beta+1)}, \quad u_4 = T - \delta \frac{\xi^{\rho\beta+1}}{\rho^\beta} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho}{\rho})}{\Gamma(\frac{1+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho})}, \tag{14}$$

and

$$\Lambda_1 = u_1 u_4 + u_2 u_3 \neq 0. \tag{15}$$

3 Existence results

Let us denote by $\mathcal{C} = C([0, T], \mathbb{R})$ the Banach space of all continuous functions from $[0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ endowed with a topology of uniform convergence with the norm defined by $\|x\| = \sup\{|x(t)| : t \in [0, T]\}$. By $L^1([0, T], \mathbb{R})$ we mean the Banach space of measurable functions $x : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which are Lebesgue integrable and normed by $\|x\|_{L^1} = \int_0^T |x(t)| dt$.

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In view of Lemma 2.8, we introduce operators $\mathcal{Q}, \widehat{\mathcal{Q}} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ associated with problems (1)-(2) and (1)-(3) respectively by

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\mathcal{Q}x)(t) &= J^q f(s, x(s))(t) + \frac{\gamma}{\Lambda} (v_4 - tv_2) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q f(s, x(s))(\zeta) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{\Lambda} (v_2 + tv_1) \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q f(s, x(s))(\xi) - J^q f(s, x(s))(T) \right), \quad t \in [0, T],
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{16}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\widehat{\mathcal{Q}}x)(t) &= J^q f(s, x(s))(t) + \frac{\gamma}{\Lambda_1} (u_4 - tu_3) J^{q+\alpha} f(s, x(s))(\zeta) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{\Lambda_1} (u_2 + tu_1) \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q f(s, x(s))(\xi) - J^q f(s, x(s))(T) \right), \quad t \in [0, T].
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{17}$$

In the sequel, we use the following expression:

$${}^\rho I^h f(s, x(s))(y) = \frac{\rho^{1-h}}{\Gamma(h)} \int_0^y \frac{s^{\rho-1} f(s, x(s))}{(y^\rho - s^\rho)^{1-h}} ds, \quad h \in \{\alpha, \beta\}.$$

Further, we set the constants

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Omega : &= \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{|\gamma|(|v_4| + T|v_2|)\zeta^{q+\rho\alpha}}{|\Lambda|\rho^\alpha\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)} \\
 &+ \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{|\delta|\xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{18}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Omega_1 : &= \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{|\gamma|(|u_4| + T|u_2|)\zeta^{\alpha+q}}{|\Lambda_1|\Gamma(\alpha+q+1)} \\
 &+ \frac{(|u_2| + T|u_1|)}{|\Lambda_1|} \left(\frac{|\delta|\xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

In the following subsections, we establish several existence and uniqueness results for problems (1)-(2) and (1)-(3) by applying a variety of fixed point theorems. We present in details the proofs for problem (1)-(2), while the proofs for problem (1)-(3) are omitted as they are similar to the ones obtained for problem (1)-(2).

3.1 Existence and uniqueness result via Banach’s fixed point theorem

Theorem 3.1 Assume that:

(H₁) there exists a positive constant L such that $|f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq L|x - y|$, for each $t \in [0, T]$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$.

If

$$L\Omega < 1, \tag{20}$$

where Ω is defined by (18), then the boundary value problem (1)-(2) has a unique solution on $[0, T]$.

Proof. Observe that a fixed point problem equivalent to problem (1)-(2) is $x = \mathcal{Q}x$, where the operator \mathcal{Q} is defined by (16), and that the existence of a fixed point of the operator \mathcal{Q} implies the existence of a solution for problem (1)-(2). Applying the Banach contraction mapping principle, we shall show that \mathcal{Q} has a unique fixed point. For that we let $\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |f(t, 0)| = M < \infty$ and choose $r \geq \frac{M\Omega}{1-L\Omega}$. To show that $\mathcal{Q}B_r \subset B_r$, where $B_r = \{x \in \mathcal{C} : \|x\| \leq r\}$, we have for any $x \in B_r$ that

$$|(\mathcal{Q}x)(t)| \leq \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ J^q |f(s, x(s))|(t) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\zeta) \right.$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(\delta \rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \\
 \leq & J^q (|f(s, x(s)) - f(s, 0)| + |f(s, 0)|)(T) \\
 & + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q (|f(s, x(s)) - f(s, 0)| + |f(s, 0)|)(\zeta) \\
 & + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q (|f(s, x(s)) - f(s, 0)| + |f(s, 0)|)(\xi) \right. \\
 & \left. + J^q (|f(s, x(s)) - f(s, 0)| + |f(s, 0)|)(T) \right) \\
 \leq & (L\|x\| + M) J^q(1)(T) + (L\|x\| + M) \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q(1)(\zeta) \\
 & + (L\|x\| + M) \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q(1)(\xi) + J^q(1)(T) \right) \\
 \leq & (Lr + M) \left\{ \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{|\gamma| (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \zeta^{q+\rho\alpha}}{|\Lambda| \rho^\alpha \Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)} \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{|\delta| \xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta \Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right) \right\} \\
 \leq & (Lr + M)\Omega \leq r,
 \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $\mathcal{Q}B_r \subset B_r$.

Next, we let $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$. Then for $t \in [0, T]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\mathcal{Q}x(t) - \mathcal{Q}y(t)| & \leq \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(t) \right. \\
 & + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(\zeta) \\
 & + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(\delta \rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(\xi) \right. \\
 & \left. + J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(T) \right) \\
 & \leq L\|x - y\| J^q(1)(T) + L\|x - y\| \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q(1)(\zeta) \\
 & + L\|x - y\| \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q(1)(\xi) + J^q(1)(T) \right) \\
 & = L\Omega \|x - y\|,
 \end{aligned}$$

which leads to $\|\mathcal{Q}x - \mathcal{Q}y\| \leq L\Omega \|x - y\|$. As $L\Omega < 1$, \mathcal{Q} is a contraction. Therefore, it follows by the Banach's contraction mapping principle that \mathcal{Q} has a fixed point which in fact is the unique solution of problem (1)-(2). The proof is completed. \square

Theorem 3.2 Assume that (H_1) holds. If

$$L\Omega_1 < 1, \tag{21}$$

where Ω_1 is defined by (19), then the boundary value problem (1)-(3) has a unique solution on $[0, T]$.

3.2 Existence result via Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem

Lemma 3.3 (Krasnoselskii's fixed point theorem) [21]. Let M be a closed, bounded, convex and nonempty subset of a Banach space X . Let A, B be the operators such that (a) $Ax + Bx \in M$ whenever

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$x, y \in M$; (b) A is compact and continuous; (c) B is a contraction mapping. Then there exists $z \in M$ such that $z = Az + Bz$.

Theorem 3.4 Let $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function satisfying (H_1) . In addition we assume that

$$(H_2) \quad |f(t, x)| \leq \varphi(t), \quad \forall (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}, \text{ and } \varphi \in C([0, T], \mathbb{R}^+).$$

Then the problem (1)-(2) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$ provided

$$L \left\{ \frac{|\gamma|(|v_4| + T|v_2|)\zeta^{q+\rho\alpha}}{|\Lambda|\rho^\alpha\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{|\delta|\xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right) \right\} < 1. \tag{22}$$

Proof. Define the operators $\mathcal{Q}_1, \mathcal{Q}_2 : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}_1 x(t) &= J^q f(s, x(s))(t), \quad t \in [0, T], \\ \mathcal{Q}_2 x(t) &= \frac{\gamma}{\Lambda} (v_4 - tv_2) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q f(s, x(s))(\zeta) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Lambda} (v_2 + tv_1) \left(\delta {}^\rho I^\beta J^q f(s, x(s))(\xi) - J^q f(s, x(s))(T) \right), \quad t \in [0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

Setting $\sup_{t \in [0, T]} \varphi(t) = \|\varphi\|$ and choosing $\rho \geq \|\varphi\|\Omega$, where Ω is defined by (18), we consider $B_\rho = \{x \in \mathcal{C} : \|x\| \leq \rho\}$. For any $x, y \in B_\rho$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Q}_1 x(t) + \mathcal{Q}_2 y(t)| &\leq \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ J^q |f(s, x(s))|(t) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\zeta) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \right\} \\ &\leq \|\varphi\| \left\{ \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{|\gamma|(|v_4| + T|v_2|)\zeta^{q+\rho\alpha}}{|\Lambda|\rho^\alpha\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{|\delta|\xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right) \right\} \\ &= \|\varphi\|\Omega \leq \rho. \end{aligned}$$

This shows that $\mathcal{Q}_1 x + \mathcal{Q}_2 y \in B_\rho$. Using (22), it can easily be established that \mathcal{Q}_2 is a contraction.

Continuity of f implies that the operator \mathcal{Q}_1 is continuous. Also, \mathcal{Q}_1 is uniformly bounded on B_ρ as

$$\|\mathcal{Q}_1 x\| \leq \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \|\varphi\|.$$

Now we prove the compactness of the operator \mathcal{Q}_1 .

We define $\sup_{(t,x) \in [0, T] \times B_\rho} |f(t, x)| = \bar{f} < \infty$, and consequently, for $t_1, t_2 \in [0, T], t_1 < t_2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Q}_1 x(t_2) - \mathcal{Q}_1 x(t_1)| &= \left| J^q f(s, x(s))(t_2) - J^q f(s, x(s))(t_1) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{\bar{f}}{\Gamma(q)} \left| \int_0^{t_1} [(t_2 - s)^{q-1} - (t_1 - s)^{q-1}] ds + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (t_2 - s)^{q-1} ds \right| \end{aligned}$$

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$$\leq \frac{\bar{f}}{\Gamma(q+1)} [|t_2^q - t_1^q| + |t_2 - t_1|^q],$$

which tends to zero as $t_2 - t_1 \rightarrow 0$ is independent of x . Thus, \mathcal{Q}_1 is equicontinuous. So \mathcal{Q}_1 is relatively compact on B_ρ . Hence, by the Arzelá-Ascoli theorem, \mathcal{Q}_1 is compact on B_ρ . Thus all the assumptions of Lemma 3.3 are satisfied. So the conclusion of Lemma 3.3 implies that problem (1)-(2) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$ \square

Theorem 3.5 Assume that (H_1) and (H_2) hold. Then the problem (1)-(3) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$ provided

$$L \left\{ \frac{|\gamma|(|u_4| + T|u_2|)\zeta^{\alpha+q}}{|\Lambda_1|\Gamma(\alpha+q+1)} + \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda_1|} \left(\frac{|\delta|\xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta\Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} + \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right) \right\} < 1. \tag{23}$$

3.3 Existence and uniqueness result via nonlinear contractions

Definition 3.6 Let E be a Banach space and let $\mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow E$ be a mapping. \mathcal{F} is said to be a nonlinear contraction if there exists a continuous nondecreasing function $\Theta : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ such that $\Theta(0) = 0$ and $\Theta(\varepsilon) < \varepsilon$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$ with the property:

$$\|\mathcal{F}x - \mathcal{F}y\| \leq \Theta(\|x - y\|), \quad \forall x, y \in E.$$

Lemma 3.7 (Boyd and Wong)[22]. Let E be a Banach space and let $\mathcal{F} : E \rightarrow E$ be a nonlinear contraction. Then \mathcal{F} has a unique fixed point in E .

Theorem 3.8 Let $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function satisfying the assumption:

(H_3) $|f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq z(t) \frac{|x - y|}{A^* + |x - y|}$, for $t \in [0, T]$, $x, y \geq 0$, where $z : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is continuous and A^* is the constant given by

$$A^* := J^q z(T) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q z(\zeta) + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left\{ |\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q z(\xi) + J^q z(T) \right\}.$$

Then the problem (1)-(2) has a unique solution on $[0, T]$.

Proof. Consider the operator $\mathcal{Q} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ defined by (16) and a continuous nondecreasing function $\Theta : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ defined by

$$\Theta(\varepsilon) = \frac{A^* \varepsilon}{A^* + \varepsilon}, \quad \forall \varepsilon \geq 0.$$

Note that the function Θ satisfies $\Theta(0) = 0$ and $\Theta(\varepsilon) < \varepsilon$ for all $\varepsilon > 0$.

For any $x, y \in \mathcal{C}$ and for each $t \in [0, T]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |\mathcal{Q}x(t) - \mathcal{Q}y(t)| \\ & \leq \sup_{t \in [0, T]} \left\{ J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(t) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(\zeta) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s)) - f(s, y(s))|(T) \right) \right\} \\ & \leq J^q \left(z(s) \frac{|x - y|}{A^* + |x - y|} \right) (T) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q \left(z(s) \frac{|x - y|}{A^* + |x - y|} \right) (\zeta) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left\{ |\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q \left(z(s) \frac{|x-y|}{A^* + |x-y|} \right) (\xi) + J^q \left(z(s) \frac{|x-y|}{A^* + |x-y|} \right) (T) \right\} \\
 \leq & \frac{\Theta(\|x-y\|)}{A^*} \left[J^q z(T) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q z(\zeta) + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left\{ |\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q z(\xi) + J^q z(T) \right\} \right] \\
 = & \Theta(\|x-y\|).
 \end{aligned}$$

This implies that $\|Qx - Qy\| \leq \Theta(\|x-y\|)$. Therefore Q is a nonlinear contraction. Hence, by Lemma 3.7 the operator Q has a unique fixed point which is the unique solution of the problem (1)-(2). This completes the proof. \square

Theorem 3.9 Let $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function satisfying the assumption:

$$(H_3)' \quad |f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq z(t) \frac{|x-y|}{A_1^* + |x-y|}, \text{ for } t \in [0, T], x, y \geq 0, \text{ where } z : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \text{ is continuous and } A_1^* \text{ is the constant given by}$$

$$A_1^* := J^q z(T) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|u_4| + T|u_2|) J^{\alpha+q} z(\zeta) + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|u_2| + T|u_1|) \left\{ |\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q z(\xi) + J^q z(T) \right\}.$$

Then the problem (1)-(3) has a unique solution on $[0, T]$.

3.4 Existence result via Schaefer fixed point theorem

Lemma 3.10 [23] Let X be a Banach space. Assume that $T : X \rightarrow X$ is a completely continuous operator and the set $V = \{u \in X \mid u = \mu Tu, 0 < \mu < 1\}$ is bounded. Then T has a fixed point in X .

Theorem 3.11 Assume that there exists a positive constant L_1 such that $|f(t, x)| \leq L_1$ for $t \in [0, 1], x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the boundary value problem (1)-(2) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$.

Proof. As a first step, it will be shown that the operator Q defined by (16) is completely continuous. Observe that continuity of Q follows from the continuity of f . For a positive constant r , let $B_r = \{x \in \mathcal{C} : \|x\| \leq r\}$ be a bounded ball in \mathcal{C} . Then for $t \in [0, T]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |Qx(t)| & \leq J^q |f(s, x(s))|(t) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\zeta) \\
 & \quad + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \\
 & \leq L_1 J^q(1)(T) + L_1 \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q(1)(\zeta) \\
 & \quad + L_1 \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q(1)(\xi) + J^q(1)(T) \right), \\
 & \leq L_1 \left\{ \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{|\gamma| (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \zeta^{q+\rho\alpha}}{|\Lambda| \rho^\alpha \Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{|\delta| \xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta \Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} - \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right) \right\} \\
 & = L_1 \Omega.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now, for $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in [0, 1]$ with $\tau_1 < \tau_2$, we get

$$|Qx(\tau_2) - Qx(\tau_1)| \leq |J^q f(s, x(s))(\tau_2) - J^q f(s, x(s))(\tau_1)| + \frac{|\gamma| |v_2| |\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\zeta)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & + \frac{|v_1||\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \\ \leq & \frac{L_1}{\Gamma(q)} \left| \int_0^{\tau_1} [(\tau_2 - s)^{q-1} - (\tau_1 - s)^{q-1}] ds + \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_2} (\tau_2 - s)^{q-1} ds \right| \\ & + \frac{L_1 |\gamma| |v_2| |\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q (\zeta) + \frac{L_1 |v_1| |\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q (\xi) + J^q (T) \right). \end{aligned}$$

As $\tau_2 - \tau_1 \rightarrow 0$, the right-hand side of the above inequality tends to zero independently of $x \in B_r$. Therefore by the Arzelà-Ascoli theorem the operator $\mathcal{Q} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is completely continuous.

Next, we consider the set $V = \{x \in \mathcal{C} : x = \mu \mathcal{Q}x, 0 < \mu < 1\}$. In order to show that V is bounded, let $x \in V$ and $t \in [0, T]$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|x\| & \leq L_1 \left\{ \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} + \frac{|\gamma| (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \zeta^{q+\rho\alpha}}{|\Lambda| \rho^\alpha \Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\alpha+\rho}{\rho}\right)} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \frac{(|v_2| + T|v_1|)}{|\Lambda|} \left(\frac{|\delta| \xi^{q+\rho\beta}}{\rho^\beta \Gamma(q+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho}{\rho}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{q+\rho\beta+\rho}{\rho}\right)} - \frac{T^q}{\Gamma(q+1)} \right) \right\} \\ & = L_1 \Omega. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, V is bounded. Hence, by Lemma 3.10, the boundary value problem (1)-(2) has at least one solution. \square

Theorem 3.12 Assume that there exists a positive constant L_1 such that $|f(t, x)| \leq L_1$ for $t \in [0, 1]$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the boundary value problem (1)-(3) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$.

3.5 Existence result via Leray-Schauder's Degree Theory

Theorem 3.13 Let $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function. Suppose that

(H₄) there exist constants $0 \leq \nu < \Omega^{-1}$, and $M > 0$ such that

$$|f(t, x)| \leq \nu|x| + M \text{ for all } (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R},$$

where Ω is defined by (18).

Then the boundary value problem (1)-(2) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$.

Proof. In view of the fixed point problem

$$x = \mathcal{Q}x, \tag{24}$$

where the operator $\mathcal{Q} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is given by (16), we have to establish that there exists at least one solution $x \in C[0, T]$ satisfying (24). Set a ball $B_R \subset C[0, T]$ with a constant radius $R > 0$ as

$$B_R = \{x \in \mathcal{C} : \max_{t \in [0, T]} |x(t)| < R\}.$$

Then we have to show that the operator $\mathcal{Q} : \overline{B}_R \rightarrow C[0, T]$ satisfies the condition

$$x \neq \theta \mathcal{Q}x, \quad \forall x \in \partial B_R, \quad \forall \theta \in [0, 1]. \tag{25}$$

Next, we introduce

$$H(\theta, x) = \theta \mathcal{Q}x, \quad x \in \mathcal{C}, \quad \theta \in [0, 1].$$

As shown in Theorem 3.16 we have that the operator \mathcal{Q} is continuous, uniformly bounded and equicontinuous. Then, by the Arzelà-Ascoli theorem, a continuous map h_θ defined by $h_\theta(x) = x - H(\theta, x) =$

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$x - \theta Qx$ is completely continuous. If (25) holds, then the following Leray-Schauder degrees are well defined and by the homotopy invariance of topological degree, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(h_\theta, B_R, 0) &= \deg(I - \theta Q, B_R, 0) = \deg(h_1, B_R, 0) \\ &= \deg(h_0, B_R, 0) = \deg(I, B_R, 0) = 1 \neq 0, \quad 0 \in B_R, \end{aligned}$$

where I denotes the unit operator. By the nonzero property of Leray-Schauder degree, we have $h_1(x) = x - Qx = 0$ for at least one $x \in B_R$. Let us assume that $x = \theta Qx$ for some $\theta \in [0, 1]$ and for all $t \in [0, T]$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &= |\theta Qx(t)| \\ &\leq J^q|f(s, x(s))|(t) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|}(|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q|f(s, x(s))|(\zeta) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|}(|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q|f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q|f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \\ &\leq (\nu|x| + M)J^q p(s)(T) + (\nu|x| + M) \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|}(|v_4| + T|v_2|) {}^\rho I^\alpha J^q(1)(\zeta) \\ &\quad + (\nu|x| + M) \frac{1}{|\Lambda|}(|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q(1)(\xi) + J^q(1)(T) \right) \\ &= (\nu|x| + M)\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

which, on taking the norm $\sup_{t \in [0, T]} |x(t)| = \|x\|$ and solving for $\|x\|$, yields

$$\|x\| \leq \frac{M\Omega}{1 - \nu\Omega}.$$

If $R = \frac{M\Omega}{1 - \nu\Omega} + 1$, (25) holds. This completes the proof. □

Theorem 3.14 Let $f : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function. Suppose that

(H₄)' there exist constants $0 \leq \nu < \Omega_1^{-1}$, and $M > 0$ such that

$$|f(t, x)| \leq \nu|x| + M \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R},$$

where Ω_1 is defined by (19).

Then the boundary value problem (1)-(3) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$.

3.6 Existence result via Leray-Schauder's nonlinear alternative

Lemma 3.15 (Nonlinear alternative for single valued maps [24]). Let E be a Banach space, C a closed, convex subset of E , U an open subset of C and $0 \in U$. Suppose that $\mathcal{A} : \bar{U} \rightarrow C$ is a continuous, compact (that is, $\mathcal{A}(\bar{U})$ is a relatively compact subset of C) map. Then either

- (i) \mathcal{A} has a fixed point in \bar{U} , or
- (ii) there is a $x \in \partial U$ (the boundary of U in C) and $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ with $x = \lambda \mathcal{A}(x)$.

Theorem 3.16 Assume that

(H₅) there exists a continuous nondecreasing function $\Phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ and a function $p \in L^1([0, T], \mathbb{R}^+)$ such that

$$|f(t, x)| \leq p(t)\Phi(\|x\|) \quad \text{for each } (t, x) \in [0, T] \times \mathbb{R};$$

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(H₆) there exists a constant $N > 0$ such that

$$\frac{N}{\Phi(N)\{J^q p(s)(T) + A_1 + A_2\}} > 1,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q p(s)(\zeta), \\ A_2 &= \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q p(s)(\xi) + J^q p(s)(T) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then the boundary value problem (1)-(2) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$.

Proof. Let the operator \mathcal{Q} be defined by (16). We first show that \mathcal{Q} maps bounded sets (balls) into bounded sets in $C([0, T], \mathbb{R})$. For a positive constant r , let $B_r = \{x \in \mathcal{C} : \|x\| \leq r\}$ be a bounded ball in \mathcal{C} . Then for $t \in [0, T]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Q}x(t)| &\leq J^q |f(s, x(s))|(t) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\zeta) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \\ &\leq \Phi(\|x\|) J^q p(s)(T) + \Phi(\|x\|) \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q p(s)(\zeta) \\ &\quad + \Phi(\|x\|) \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q p(s)(\xi) + J^q p(s)(T) \right), \end{aligned}$$

and consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{Q}x\| &\leq \Phi(r) \left\{ J^q p(s)(T) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q p(s)(\zeta) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q p(s)(\xi) + J^q p(s)(T) \right) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Next we will show that the operator \mathcal{Q} maps bounded sets into equicontinuous sets of \mathcal{C} . Let $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in [0, T]$ with $\tau_1 < \tau_2$ and $x \in B_r$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{Q}x(\tau_2) - \mathcal{Q}x(\tau_1)| &\leq |J^q f(s, x(s))(\tau_2) - J^q f(s, x(s))(\tau_1)| + \frac{|\alpha||v_2||\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \rho I^\alpha J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\zeta) \\ &\quad + \frac{|v_1||\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q |f(s, x(s))|(\xi) + J^q |f(s, x(s))|(T) \right) \\ &\leq \frac{\Phi(r)}{\Gamma(q)} \left| \int_0^{\tau_1} [(\tau_2 - s)^{q-1} - (\tau_1 - s)^{q-1}] p(s) ds + \int_{\tau_1}^{\tau_2} (\tau_2 - s)^{q-1} p(s) ds \right| \\ &\quad + \frac{\Phi(r)|\gamma||v_2||\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \rho I^\alpha J^q p(s)(T) \\ &\quad + \frac{\Phi(r)|v_1||\tau_2 - \tau_1|}{|\Lambda|} \left(|\delta| \rho I^\beta J^q p(s)(\xi) + J^q p(s)(T) \right). \end{aligned}$$

As $\tau_2 - \tau_1 \rightarrow 0$, the right-hand side of the above inequality tends to zero independently of $x \in B_r$. Therefore by the Arzelà-Ascoli theorem the operator $\mathcal{Q} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is completely continuous.

Finally, we show that there exists an open set $U \subset \mathcal{C}$ with $x \neq \theta \mathcal{P}x$ for $\theta \in (0, 1)$ and $x \in \partial U$.

Let x be a solution. Then, for $t \in [0, T]$, and following the similar computations as in the first step, we have

$$|x(t)| \leq \Phi(\|x\|) \left\{ J^q p(s)(T) + \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda|} (|v_4| + T|v_2|) \rho I^\alpha J^q p(s)(\zeta) \right.$$

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$$+ \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} (|v_2| + T|v_1|) \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q p(s)(\xi) + J^q p(s)(T) \right) \Big\}$$

which leads to

$$\frac{\|x\|}{\Phi(\|x\|) \{ J^q p(s)(T) + A_1 + A_2 \}} \leq 1.$$

In view of (H_6) , there exists N such that $\|x\| \neq N$. Let us set

$$\mathcal{U} = \{x \in C([0, T], \mathbb{R}) : \|x\| < N\}.$$

We see that the operator $\mathcal{Q} : \bar{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow C([0, T], \mathbb{R})$ is continuous and completely continuous. From the choice of \mathcal{U} , there is no $x \in \partial\mathcal{U}$ such that $x = \theta\mathcal{Q}x$ for some $\theta \in (0, 1)$. Consequently, by the nonlinear alternative of Leray-Schauder type, we deduce that \mathcal{Q} has a fixed point $x \in \bar{\mathcal{U}}$ which is a solution of the boundary value problem (1)-(2). This completes the proof. \square

Theorem 3.17 Assume that (H_5) holds. In addition we suppose that:

$(H_6)'$ there exists a constant $N' > 0$ such that

$$\frac{N'}{\Phi_1(N') \{ J^q p(s)(T) + A'_1 + A'_2 \}} > 1, \tag{26}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A'_1 &= \frac{|\gamma|}{|\Lambda_1|} (|u_4| + T|u_2|) J^{\alpha+q} p(s)(\zeta), \\ A'_2 &= \frac{1}{|\Lambda_1|} (|u_2| + T|u_1|) \left(|\delta| {}^\rho I^\beta J^q p(s)(\xi) + J^q p(s)(T) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then the boundary value problem (1)-(3) has at least one solution on $[0, T]$.

4 Examples

In this section, we present some examples to illustrate our results.

Example 4.1 Consider the following nonlocal boundary value problem involving generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} D^{\frac{3}{2}} x(t) = \frac{3}{25} \left(\frac{4x^2(t) + 5|x(t)|}{3 + 4|x(t)|} \right) e^{-2t} + \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 t + 1, & t \in \left[0, \frac{5}{3} \right], \\ x(0) = \frac{1}{2} I^{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}} I^{\frac{4}{\sqrt{3}}} x \left(\frac{2}{3} \right), \quad x \left(\frac{5}{3} \right) = \frac{3}{4} I^{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}} x \left(\frac{4}{3} \right), \end{cases} \tag{27}$$

where $q = 3/2$, $T = 5/3$, $\gamma = 1/2$, $\rho = \sqrt{3}/2$, $\alpha = 4/\sqrt{3}$, $\zeta = 2/3$, $\delta = 3/4$, $\beta = \pi/2$, $\xi = 4/3$ and $f(t, x) = (3/25)((4x^2 + 5|x|)/(3 + 4|x|))e^{-2t} + (1/2) \cos^2 t + 1$. Using given information, we find that $v_1 = 0.8856776719$, $v_2 = 0.02007036728$, $v_3 = 0.0060494642$, $v_4 = 1.202612652$, $\Lambda = 1.065248589$ and $\Omega = 4.304419870$. Also $|f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq (1/5)|x - y|$. Thus the condition (H_1) is satisfied with $L = 1/5$ and $L\Omega = 0.8608839740 < 1$. Therefore, by Theorem 3.1, problem (27) has a unique solution on $[0, 5/3]$.

Example 4.2 Consider the following nonlocal boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} D^{\frac{5}{3}} x(t) = \frac{5}{48} (1 + \sin^2 t) \frac{|x(t)|}{1 + |x(t)|} + 3t^2 + \frac{2}{3}, & t \in \left[0, \frac{7}{4} \right], \\ x(0) = \frac{3}{2} I^{\frac{5}{6}} I^{\frac{e}{\sqrt{2}}} x \left(\frac{5}{4} \right), \quad x \left(\frac{7}{4} \right) = \frac{4}{5} I^{\frac{5}{6}} I^{\frac{11}{13}} x \left(\frac{3}{4} \right). \end{cases} \tag{28}$$

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Here $q = 5/3$, $T = 7/4$, $\gamma = 3/2$, $\rho = 5/6$, $\alpha = e/\sqrt{2}$, $\zeta = 5/4$, $\delta = 4/5$, $\beta = 11/13$, $\xi = 3/4$ and $f(t, x) = (5(1 + \sin^2 t)/48)(|x|/(1 + |x|)) + 3t^2 + (2/3)$. Using the given data, we obtain $v_1 = -0.633695322$, $v_2 = 0.5982054854$, $v_3 = 0.1931118977$, $v_4 = 1.448388097$, $\Lambda = -0.8023161650 \neq 0$. As $|f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq (5/24)|x - y|$, we have that (H_1) is satisfied with $L = 5/24$. Further, we have $\Omega_2 = 0.9828570350 < 1$. Also

$$|f(t, x)| \leq \frac{5}{48}(1 + \sin^2 t) + 3t^2 + \frac{2}{3} := \varphi(t),$$

which implies that the condition (H_2) holds true. In consequence, the conclusion of Theorem 3.4 applies and problem (28) has at least one solution on $[0, 7/4]$.

Example 4.3 Consider the following nonlocal boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} D^{\frac{4}{3}}x(t) = \frac{1}{4}(t^{\frac{1}{3}} + 1) \left(\frac{|x(t)|}{1 + |x(t)|} \right) + \frac{3}{2}t + \frac{1}{3}, & t \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2}\right], \\ x(0) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} I^{\frac{7}{4}}x \left(\frac{1}{4} \right), \quad x \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{3}{e^2} I^{\frac{8}{13}}x \left(\frac{1}{8} \right). \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

Here $q = 4/3$, $T = 1/2$, $\gamma = 2/\sqrt{\pi}$, $\rho = 1/\sqrt{3}$, $\alpha = 7/4$, $\zeta = 1/4$, $\delta = 3/e^2$, $\beta = 8/13$, $\xi = 1/8$ and $f(t, x) = ((t^{1/3} + 1)/4)(|x|/(1 + |x|)) + (3/2)t + (1/3)$. Using the previous information, we have $v_1 = 0.5478797820$, $v_2 = 0.02539640314$, $v_3 = 0.6962686485$, $v_4 = 0.4808910650$ and $\Lambda = 0.2811532112$. Choosing $z(t) = (t^{1/3} + 1)/4$, find that $A^* = 0.2768779852$ and also

$$|f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq \frac{1}{4}(t^{\frac{1}{3}} + 1) \frac{|x - y|}{0.2768779852 + |x - y|}.$$

Therefore, all assumptions of Theorem 3.8 are satisfied. Hence the problem (29) has at least one solution on $[0, 1/2]$.

Example 4.4 Consider the following nonlocal boundary value problem with both Riemann-Liouville and generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} D^{\frac{5}{4}}x(t) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x^4(t) + 3x^2(t)}{1 + |x(t)|} \right) (e^{\frac{3}{2}-t} + 1) + 3\pi, & t \in \left[0, \frac{3}{2}\right], \\ x(0) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{7}} J^{\frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}}x \left(\frac{1}{2} \right), \quad x \left(\frac{3}{2} \right) = \frac{\pi}{2} I^{\frac{3}{8}}x \left(\frac{5}{4} \right). \end{cases} \tag{30}$$

Here $q = 5/4$, $T = 3/2$, $\gamma = 4/\sqrt{7}$, $\alpha = 5/\sqrt{3}$, $\zeta = 1/2$, $\delta = \pi/2$, $\rho = 2/7$, $\beta = 3/8$, $\xi = 5/4$ and $f(t, x) = \tan^{-1}((x^4 + 3x^2)/(1 + |x|))(e^{(3/2)-t} + 1) + 3\pi$. From the given constants, we have $u_1 = 0.9607949552$, $u_2 = 0.005043420754$, $u_3 = -1.895136694$, $u_4 = -0.378780447$ and $\Lambda_1 = -0.3734883143 \neq 0$. As $f(t, x) \leq 4\pi := L_1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, therefore from Theorem 3.11, the problem 30 has at least one solution on $[0, 3/2]$.

Example 4.5 Consider the following nonlocal boundary value problem subjected to both Riemann-Liouville and generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} D^{\frac{8}{5}}x(t) = \frac{1}{(t^{\frac{1}{2}} + 10)^2} \left(\frac{10x^2(t) + 1}{3 + |x(t)|} \right) + e^{-|x(t)|} + \frac{1}{3}, & t \in [0, \pi], \\ x(0) = \frac{\log 2}{\sqrt{3}} J^{\frac{3}{4}}x \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \right), \quad x(\pi) = \frac{\log 3}{\sqrt{8}} I^{\frac{3}{\sqrt{e}}}x \left(\frac{\pi}{3} \right). \end{cases} \tag{31}$$

Here $q = 8/5$, $T = \pi$, $\gamma = \log 2/\sqrt{3}$, $\alpha = 3/4$, $\zeta = \pi/2$, $\delta = \log 3/\sqrt{8}$, $\rho = 5/\sqrt{7}$, $\beta = 3/\sqrt{e}$, $\xi = \pi/3$ and $f(t, x) = (1/(t^{1/2} + 10)^2)((10x^2 + 1)/(3 + |x|)) + e^{-|x|} + (1/3)$. By direct computation of given constants, we obtain $u_1 = 0.9607949552$, $u_2 = 0.2381638392$, $u_3 = 0.9635754531$, $u_4 = 3.121155944$ and $\Lambda_1 = 3.228279714 \neq 0$. In addition, we can find that $\Omega_1 = 8.997039531$. It is easy to see that

$$|f(t, x)| \leq \frac{1}{10}|x| + \frac{4}{3},$$

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which leads to $\nu := 1/10 < \Omega_1^{-1} = 0.1111476721$ and $M := 4/3 > 0$. Applying the conclusion of Theorem 3.13, we get that the problem (31) has at least one solution on $[0, \pi]$.

Example 4.6 Consider the following nonlocal boundary value problem supplemented with both Riemann-Liouville and generalized Riemann-Liouville fractional integral boundary conditions

$$\begin{cases} D^{\frac{7}{4}}x(t) = \frac{(\sqrt{t} + 1)}{12} \left(\frac{x^2(t) \sin^2 x(t)}{3(1 + |x(t)|)} + e^{-t} \cos^2 t \right), & t \in \left[0, \frac{12}{5} \right], \\ x(0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} J^{\frac{7}{5}}x \left(\frac{8}{5} \right), \quad x \left(\frac{12}{5} \right) = \frac{3}{16} I^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{e}}} x \left(\frac{11}{5} \right), \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

where $q = 7/4, T = 12/5, \gamma = 1/\sqrt{3}, \alpha = 7/9, \zeta = 8/5, \delta = 3/16, \rho = 1/\sqrt{\pi}, \beta = 1/\sqrt{e}, \xi = 11/15$ and $f(t, x) = ((\sqrt{t} + 1)/12)((x^2 \sin^2 x)/(3(1 + |x|)) + e^{-t} \cos^2 t)$. By the given values, we get $u_1 = 0.1010372543, u_2 = 0.8090664711, u_3 = 0.6114216572, u_4 = 1.970342759, \Lambda_1 = 0.6937587849 \neq 0$. Since

$$|f(t, x)| \leq \frac{(\sqrt{t} + 1)}{12} \left(\frac{1}{3}|x| + 1 \right) := p(t)\Phi_1(|x|),$$

the condition (H_4) is satisfied. Also $A'_1 = 0.4202876316, A'_2 = 0.7604168186$. Clearly condition (26) is satisfied for $N' > 3.560603169$. Therefore, by Theorem 3.17, problem (32) has at least one solution on $[0, 12/5]$.

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On entire function sharing a small function CM with its high order forward difference operator

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Abstract: In this paper, we investigate the uniqueness of an entire function of finite order sharing a small entire function with its high order forward difference operator. The results obtained extend some known theorems and also show the exact solutions of some certain difference equations.

Key words and phrases: uniqueness; entire function; difference equation; differential equation; small function.

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1 Introduction and main results

In this paper, a meromorphic function always means it is meromorphic in the whole complex plane \mathbb{C} . We assume that the reader is familiar with the standard notations in the Nevanlinna theory. We use the standard notations such as $T(r, f), m(r, f), N(r, f), \bar{N}(r, f)$ in value distribution theory (see [11, 18, 19]). And we denote by $S(r, f)$ any quantity satisfying $S(r, f) = o\{T(r, f)\}$, as $r \rightarrow \infty$, possibly outside of a set E with finite linear or logarithmic measure, not necessarily the same at each occurrence. A meromorphic function a is said to be a small function with respect to f if and only if $T(r, a) = S(r, f)$. We use $\lambda(f)$ and $\sigma(f)$ to denote the exponent of convergence of zeros of f and the order of f respectively. We say that two meromorphic functions f and g share a value a IM (ignoring multiplicities) if $f - a$ and $g - a$ have the same zeros. If $f - a$ and $g - a$ have the same zeros with the same multiplicities, then we say that they share the value a CM (counting multiplicities). We define the forward difference operator $\Delta f = f(z + 1) - f(z)$ and the high order forward difference operator $\Delta^n f = \Delta^{n-1}(\Delta f)$ by recurrence. Moreover, $\Delta^n f = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} f(z + j)$.

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In 1976, L. Rubel and C.C. Yang [7] studied the uniqueness of an entire function sharing two values with its derivative and they proved the following classical result.

Theorem 1 *Let f be a nonconstant entire function. If f and f' share two distinct finite values CM, then $f \equiv f'$.*

In 1996, R. Brück [2] studied the uniqueness theory about an entire function sharing one value with its first derivative and posed the following interesting conjecture.

Conjecture 1 *Let f be nonconstant entire function satisfying that the super order $\sigma_2(f) < \infty$ is not a positive integer. If f and f' share one finite value a CM, then $f' - a = c(f - a)$ holds for some nonzero constant c .*

It is well known that Δf can be considered as the difference counterpart of f' . So regarding Theorem A and Conjecture, it is natural to ask that what can be said about the relationship between Δf and f if they share one or two values CM. The difference analogue of the lemma on the logarithmic derivative and Nevanlinna theory for the difference operator have been founded recently (see [3, 8, 9]), which brings about a number of papers focusing on such uniqueness problems. The authors in [17, 16, 20], for example, obtained the following results by considering the special case of entire functions of order less than 1 or 2 respectively.

Theorem 2 [17] *Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $\sigma(f) < 1$, n be a positive integer and η be a nonzero complex number. If f and $\Delta_\eta^n f$ share a finite value a CM, then $\Delta_\eta^n f - a = c(f - a)$ holds for some nonzero complex number c .*

Theorem 3 [16] *Let f be a transcendental entire function of order $\sigma(f) < 2$ and $\eta \neq 0$ be a complex number that is not a period of f . If f and $\Delta_\eta^n f$ share the value 0 CM, then $\Delta_\eta^n f / f$ reduces to a nonzero constant.*

Theorem 4 [20] *Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $\sigma(f) < 2$ and $\lambda(f) < \sigma(f)$. If f and $\Delta^n f$ share the value 0 CM, then f must be form of $f(z) = Ae^{\alpha z}$, where A and α are two nonzero constants.*

In this paper, we deal with the general case of entire function of finite order and obtain the following results which extend Theorem 2 and Theorem 4.

Theorem 5 *Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $\sigma(f) < \infty$, let $a \neq 0$ be an entire function such that $\sigma(a) < 1$ and $\lambda(f - a) < \sigma(f)$. If f and $\Delta^n f$ share a CM, then a must reduce to a polynomial with degree at most $n - 1$ and f must be form of*

$$f(z) = a + bae^{\beta z},$$

where b and β are two nonzero constants such that $e^\beta = 1$.

Theorem 6 *Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $\lambda(f) < \sigma(f) < \infty$, let $a \neq 0$ be an entire function such that $\sigma(a) < \sigma(f)$. If f and $\Delta^n f$ share a CM, then f must be form of $f(z) = be^{\beta z}$, where b and β are two nonzero constants such that $(e^\beta - 1)^n = 1$.*

Theorem 7 *Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $\lambda(f) < \max\{\sigma(f) - 1, 1\} < \infty$. If $f(z)$ and $\Delta^n f$ share the value 0 CM, then f must be form of $f(z) = he^{\beta z}$, where h and β are two nonzero constants.*

2 Some lemmas

Lemma 1 *(see[3]) Let f be a transcendental meromorphic function with finite order σ and η be a nonzero complex number, then for each $\varepsilon > 0$, we have*

$$T(r, f(z + \eta)) = T(r, f) + O(r^{\sigma-1+\varepsilon}) + O(\log r),$$

i.e., $T(r, f(z + \eta)) = T(r, f) + S(r, f).$

Lemma 2 *(see[3]) Let f be a transcendental meromorphic function with finite order σ . Then for each $\varepsilon > 0$, we have*

$$m\left(r, \frac{f(z+c)}{f(z)}\right) = O(r^{\sigma-1+\varepsilon}).$$

Lemma 3 *(see[3]) Let η be a nonzero complex number and f be a meromorphic function of finite order σ . Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given, then there exists a subset $E \subset (1, \infty)$ with finite logarithmic measure such that for all z satisfying $|z| = r \notin E \cup [0, 1]$, we have*

$$e^{-r^{\sigma-1+\varepsilon}} \leq \left| \frac{f(z+\eta)}{f(z)} \right| \leq e^{r^{\sigma-1+\varepsilon}}.$$

Lemma 4 *(see [4]) Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function of order $\sigma < \infty$, and let λ' and λ'' be, respectively, the exponent of convergence of the zeros and poles of f . Then for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a set $E \subset (1, +\infty)$ of $|z| = r$ of finite logarithmic measure, so that*

$$2\pi i n_{z,\eta} + \log \frac{f(z+\eta)}{f(z)} = \eta \frac{f'(z)}{f(z)} + O(r^{\beta+\varepsilon}), \tag{1}$$

or equivalently,

$$\frac{f(z+\eta)}{f(z)} = e^{\eta \frac{f'(z)}{f(z)} + O(r^{\beta+\varepsilon})},$$

holds for $r \notin E \cup [0, 1]$, where $n_{z,\eta}$ in (1) is an integer depending on both z and η , $\beta = \max\{\sigma - 2, 2\lambda - 2\}$ if $\lambda < 1$ and $\beta = \max\{\sigma - 2, \lambda - 1\}$ if $\lambda \geq 1$ and $\lambda = \max\{\lambda', \lambda''\}$.

Lemma 5 (see [5]) Suppose that $P(z) = (\alpha + i\beta)z^n + \dots$ (α, β are real numbers, $|\alpha| + |\beta| \neq 0$) is a polynomial with degree $n \geq 1$, that $A(z) \neq 0$ is an entire function with $\sigma(A) < n$. Set $g(z) = A(z)e^{P(z)}$, $z = re^{i\theta}$, $\delta(P, \theta) = \alpha \cos n\theta - \beta \sin n\theta$. Then for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a set $H_1 \subset [0, 2\pi)$ that has the linear measure zero, such that for any $\theta \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus (H_1 \cup H_2)$, there is $R > 0$ such that for $|z| = r > R$, we have
 (i) if $\delta(P, \theta) > 0$, then

$$\exp \{(1 - \varepsilon)\delta(P, \theta)r^n\} < |g(re^{i\theta})| < \exp \{(1 + \varepsilon)\delta(P, \theta)r^n\};$$

(ii) if $\delta(P, \theta) < 0$, then

$$\exp \{(1 + \varepsilon)\delta(P, \theta)r^n\} < |g(re^{i\theta})| < \exp \{(1 - \varepsilon)\delta(P, \theta)r^n\},$$

where $H_2 = \{\theta \in [0, 2\pi); \delta(P, \theta) = 0\}$ is a finite set.

Lemma 6 (see [1]) Let g be a transcendental function of order less than 1, and h be a positive constant. Then there exists an ε set E such that

$$\frac{g'(z + \eta)}{g(z + \eta)} \rightarrow 0, \quad \frac{g(z + \eta)}{g(z)} \rightarrow 1, \text{ as } z \rightarrow \infty \text{ in } C \setminus E$$

uniformly in η for $|\eta| \leq h$. Further, the set E may be chosen so that if $z \notin E$ and $|z|$ is sufficiently large, the function g has no zeroes or poles in $|\zeta - z| \leq h$.

Remark 1 According to Hayman [12], an ε set is defined to be a countable union of open discs not containing the origin and subtending angles at the origin whose sum is finite. Suppose E is an ε set, then the set of $r \geq 1$ for which the circle $S(0, r)$ meets E has finite logarithmic measure and for almost all real θ the intersection of E with the ray $\arg z = \theta$ is bounded.

Lemma 7 (see [18]) Suppose that f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n ($n \geq 2$) are meromorphic functions and g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n are entire functions satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) $\sum_{j=1}^n f_j e^{g_j} \equiv 0$;
- (ii) $g_j - g_k$ are not constants for $1 \leq j < k \leq n$;
- (iii) For $1 \leq j \leq n, 1 \leq h < k \leq n, T(r, f_j) = o\{T(r, e^{g_h - g_k})\} (r \rightarrow \infty, r \notin E)$.

Then $f_j \equiv 0$ ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$).

Lemma 8 (see [6]) Let w be a transcendental meromorphic function with $\sigma < \infty$. Let $\Gamma = \{(k_1, j_1), \dots, (k_m, j_m)\}$ be a finite set of distinct pairs of integers satisfying $k_i > j_i \geq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Also let $\varepsilon > 0$ be a given constant, then there exists a set $E \subset (1, +\infty)$ that has finite logarithmic measure, such that for all z satisfying $|z| \notin E \cup [0, 1]$ and for all $(k, j) \in \Gamma$, one has

$$\left| \frac{w^{(k)}(z)}{w^{(j)}(z)} \right| \leq |z|^{(k-j)(\sigma-1+\varepsilon)}.$$

Lemma 9 (see[18]) Let f be a nonconstant meromorphic function in the complex plane and $R(f) = p(f)/q(f)$, where $p(f) = \sum_{k=0}^p a_k f^k$ and $q(f) = \sum_{j=0}^q b_j f^j$ are two mutually prime polynomials in f . If the coefficients a_k, b_j are small functions of f and $a_k \neq 0, b_j \neq 0$, then

$$T(r, R(f)) = \max\{p, q\}T(r, f) + S(r, f).$$

Lemma 10 Let g be polynomial of degree at least two. Then

$$m(r, \sum_{j=0}^n a_j e^{g(z+j)-g(z)}) = m(r, e^{g(z+n)-g(z)}) + S(r, e^{g(z+n)-g(z)}),$$

where the coefficients a_j are small meromorphic functions of $e^{g(z+n)-g(z)}$.

Proof. Set $g(z) = a_l z^l + a_{l-1} z^{l-1} + \dots + a_0, a_l \neq 0, l \geq 2$ and $H(z) = e^{la_l z^{l-1}}$. Then we get $g(z+j) - g(z) = jla_l z^{l-1} + \dots$, and then $e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} = b_j e^{jla_l z^{l-1}}$, where $\sigma(b_j) \leq l - 2$. So we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^n a_j e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} = \sum_{j=0}^n \tilde{a}_j e^{jla_l z^{l-1}} = \sum_{j=0}^n \tilde{a}_j H^j,$$

where $\tilde{a}_j = a_j b_j$ are small function of H . Application Lemma 9 to the equation above gives our conclusion immediately.

Lemma 11 Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $2 \leq \sigma(f) < \infty$, also let $a \neq 0$ be an entire function such that $\sigma(a) < \sigma(f)$ and $\lambda(f - a) < \sigma(f)$. If the difference equation

$$\Delta^n f - a = (f - a)e^Q \tag{2}$$

holds, where Q is a nonconstant entire function, then Q is a polynomial such that $\deg Q = \sigma(f) - 1$.

Proof. From our assumption and Lemma 1, it is obvious for us to get that Q is a polynomial and

$$F := f - a = he^g \tag{3}$$

holds, where g is a polynomial with degree l satisfying $l = \sigma(f) \geq 2$, and h is an entire function originated from the canonical product of $f - a$ satisfying $\lambda(h) = \sigma(h) < \sigma(f)$. Set $g(z) = a_l z^l + a_{l-1} z^{l-1} + \dots + a_0$ and $Q(z) = b_s z^s + a_{s-1} z^{s-1} + \dots + b_0$ respectively. Substitution (3) into (2) yields

$$e^Q = \frac{\Delta^n f - a}{f - a} = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{F(z+j)}{F(z)} + \frac{\Delta^n a - a}{F(z)}. \tag{4}$$

First of all, we estimate the first term $\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} F(z+j)/F(z)$ on the right side of (4). Employing the definition of F , it turns out that $\sigma(F) = \sigma(f) =$

$l \geq 2$ and $\lambda(F) = \sigma(h) < \sigma(f)$. By applying Lemma 4 to F , for any given $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, there exists a set E with finite logarithmic measure such that

$$\frac{F(z+j)}{F(z)} = e^{j \frac{F'(z)}{F(z)} + O(r^{\beta+\varepsilon})}, \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty, \text{ not in } E \cup [0, 1], \tag{5}$$

where $\beta = \sigma(f) - 2$ if $\sigma(h) < 1$ or $\beta = \max\{\sigma(f) - 2, \sigma(h) - 1\}$ if $\sigma(h) \geq 1$. Combining the fact $\sigma(h) < \sigma(f) = l$, we get $\beta < \sigma(f) - 1 = l - 1$. By Lemma 8, we see, for any given $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, that

$$\left| \frac{h'(z)}{h(z)} \right| \leq r^{\sigma(h)-1+\varepsilon} = o(r^{l-1}) \tag{6}$$

holds for $|z| = r \notin E$. Thus from (3) and (6), we obtain

$$\frac{F'(z)}{F(z)} = g'(z) + \frac{h'(z)}{h(z)} = la_l z^{l-1} (1 + o(1)) \tag{7}$$

as $|z| = r \rightarrow \infty$ not in E . So from (5) and (7), we obtain

$$\frac{F(z+j)}{F(z)} = e^{jla_l z^{l-1}(1+o(1))}, \quad r \notin E. \tag{8}$$

Secondly, we estimate the second term $(\Delta^n a - a)/F$ on the right side of (4). It is easy to see $N := \sigma(\Delta^n a - a) \leq \sigma(a) < \sigma(f) = l$ in a similar way by Lemma 1, which gives, for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, that

$$M(r, \Delta^n a - a) < e^{r^{N+\varepsilon}} \tag{9}$$

holds for all r large sufficiently. Let $\delta(\theta) = \cos((l-1)\theta + \arg a_l)$, $\delta(g, \theta) = \cos(l\theta + \arg a_l)$ and $z = re^{i\theta}$. It follows Lemma 5 that for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a set $H \subset [0, 2\pi)$ that has the linear measure zero, such that for any $\theta \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus H$, there is $R > 0$ such that for $|z| = r > R$, we have

$$\exp\{(1-\varepsilon)|a_l|\delta(g, \theta)r^l\} < |F(re^{i\theta})| \tag{10}$$

if $\delta(g, \theta) > 0$. So by (10) and (9), we see $(\Delta^n a - a)/F \rightarrow 0$, as $z = re^{i\theta} \rightarrow \infty$ such that $\delta(g, \theta) > 0$. By Lemma 3, for any for any given $\varepsilon > 0$ small enough, we have

$$e^{-r^{\sigma(h)-1+\varepsilon}} \leq \left| \frac{h(z+c)}{h(z)} \right| \leq e^{r^{\sigma(h)-1+\varepsilon}} \tag{11}$$

holds for all sufficient large $r \notin E$.

Lastly, we take such $z = re^{i\theta}$ that $\theta \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus H; \delta(g, \theta) > 0$ and consider three cases separately in the next section.

Case 1 If $\delta(\theta) < 0$, then

$$|e^{jla_l z^{l-1}(1+o(1))}| = e^{jla_l |r|^{l-1} \delta(\theta)(1+o(1))} \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } r \rightarrow \infty.$$

By (4), (9), (11) and the equation above, we obtain $e^{Q(z)} = (-1)^n + o(1)$. It means Q is bounded on such θ and $r \notin E$, which implies Q is a constant. And then by (3) and (4), we obtain

$$k := e^Q = (-1)^n + \sum_{j=1}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} + \frac{\Delta^n a - a}{h(z)e^{g(z)}}. \tag{12}$$

If $\Delta^n a - a \neq 0$, then by (11), (12), and the fact $\sigma((\Delta^n a - a)/h) < \sigma(e^g)$, we see

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{|a_l|}{\pi} r^l (1 + o(1)) + S(r, e^g) = m(r, e^{-g}) + S(r, e^g) = m(r, \frac{\Delta^n a - a}{h e^g}) \\ & \leq \sum_{j=1}^n m(r, \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)}) + \sum_{j=1}^n m(r, e^{g(z+j)-g(z)}) \\ & \leq r^{\sigma(h)-1+\varepsilon} + \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \frac{|a_l|}{\pi} r^{l-1} (1 + o(1)), r \notin E, \end{aligned}$$

which is impossible. If $\Delta^n a - a \equiv 0$, then by (12), we see

$$k = (-1)^n + \sum_{j=1}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{g(z+j)-g(z)}. \tag{13}$$

Employing representation $\sigma(h) < \deg g(z) = l$ and (11), we see

$$\left| \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} \right| = e^{j|a_l|r^{l-1}\delta(\theta)(1+o(1))}.$$

holds for $r \notin E$. And then in this situation, $(h(z+n)/h(z))e^{g(z+n)-g(z)}$ is the only maximal magnitude of module term in (13) by taking such z that $\delta(\theta) > 0$, which is also impossible.

Case 2 If $\delta(\theta) > 0$, then by (4), (8),(9) and (10), we obtain

$$e^{|b_s|r^s \cos(\arg b_s + s\theta)(1+o(1))} = |e^Q| = (1 + o(1))e^{n|a_l|r^{l-1}\delta(\theta)(1+o(1))} \rightarrow \infty.$$

It means $s = l - 1$ on such θ and $r \notin E$, which yields $s = l - 1$.

Case 3 $\delta(\theta) = 0$. Since the set $\{\theta : \delta(\theta) = 0\}$ is just a finite set and $\delta(g, \theta)$ is a continuous function of θ , so we can chose another $\tilde{\theta}$ near θ , possibly outside of a set with the linear measure zero, such that $\delta(g, \tilde{\theta}) > 0$ and $\delta(\tilde{\theta}) \neq 0$, and then this case can be transformed into case 1 or case 2.

Using the similar method in Lemma 11, we can prove the following lemma.

Lemma 12 *Let f be a transcendental entire function such that $2 \leq \sigma(f) < \infty$ and $\lambda(f) < \sigma(f)$, let $a \neq 0$ be an entire function such that $\sigma(a) < \sigma(f)$. If the difference equation $\Delta^n f - a = (f - a)e^Q$ holds, where Q is a nonconstant entire function, then Q is a polynomial such that $\deg Q = \sigma(f) - 1$.*

Lemma 13 *Let a be an entire function of order less than 1. If a satisfies the difference equation $\Delta^n a - a = 0$, then $a \equiv 0$.*

Proof. Suppose on the contrary $a \neq 0$. Then by Lemma 6, we see

$$1 = \frac{\Delta^n a}{a} = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{a(z+j)}{a} \rightarrow \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} = (1-1)^n = 0$$

as $r \rightarrow +\infty, r \notin E_\varepsilon$, where E_ε is an ε set. It is impossible.

Lemma 14 *Let a be an entire function of order less than 1. Then a satisfies the difference equation $\Delta^n a = 0$ implies a is a polynomial of degree at most $n - 1$.*

Proof. Set $H_i := \Delta^{n-i} a, j = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Then $H_1(z+1) - H_1(z) = \Delta H_1 = H_0 = \Delta^n a = 0$. If H_1 is a nonconstant entire function, then it is easy to see that $z_k = k \in Z$ are some different zeros of $H_1(z) - H_1(0)$, which implies

$$\overline{N}(r, \frac{1}{H_1(z) - H_1(0)}) \geq r(1 + o(1)).$$

So $\sigma(H_1) \geq 1$, which is a contradiction. Thus H_1 is a constant, and then $0 = H_1' = (\Delta H_2)' = \Delta H_2'$. By a similar discussion, we see H_2' is a constant and then $H_2'' = 0$. Repeating this process, we can obtain $a^{(n)} = H_n^{(n)} = 0$. Thus a is a polynomial whose degree is at most $n - 1$.

3 The proofs of main theorems

1. Proof of theorem 5.

Since $\Delta^n f$ and f share the function a CM, so there exists a polynomial Q by Lemma 1 such that

$$\Delta^n f - a = (f - a)e^Q. \tag{14}$$

It follows $\lambda(f - a) < \sigma(f)$ that

$$f - a = he^g, \tag{15}$$

where g is a polynomial whose degree l satisfying $l = \sigma(f) \geq 1$, and h is an entire function originated from the canonical product of $f - a$ satisfying $\lambda(h) = \sigma(h) < \sigma(f) = l$. By substituting (15) into (14), we can obtain

$$[\Delta^n a - a] + \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)e^{g(z+j)} = h(z)e^{g(z)+Q(z)}. \tag{16}$$

In what follows, we shall consider two cases separately to our discussion.

Case 1 $\sigma(f) \geq 2$. We rewrite (16) as the following form

$$[\Delta^n a - a] + [\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} - h(z)e^{Q(z)}]e^{g(z)} = 0. \tag{17}$$

By applying Lemma 11 to (14), we see $\deg Q = l - 1$. Applying Lemma 7 to (17) and invoking the relation $\deg Q = l - 1$, it turns out that $\Delta^n a - a = 0$, which means $a \equiv 0$ by Lemma 13. Thus we get a contradiction with our assumption.

Case 2 $l = \deg g = \sigma(f) < 2$, in other words, $\sigma(f) = 1$. Thus without loss of generality, we can rewrite (15) as the form of $f - a = he^{\beta z}$, where β is a nonzero constant. By (14), we see $\deg(Q) \leq \sigma(f) = 1$, and then we shall consider two subcases in this case respectively as follows.

Case 2.1 Q is a constant. Then we can rewrite (17) as the following form

$$[\Delta^n a - a] + [H_n - he^Q]e^{\beta z} = 0, \tag{18}$$

where $H_n = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)k^j$, $k = e^\beta$. It follows (18) and Lemma 7 that $\Delta^n a - a = 0$, which leads to a contradiction with our assumption similarly.

Case 2.2 $\deg(Q) = 1$. Set $Q(z) = \gamma z + d$, where γ is a nonzero constant. By substituting $Q(z) = \gamma z + d$ into (16), we see

$$[\Delta^n a - a] + H_n e^{\beta z} = e^d h e^{(\beta+\gamma)z}. \tag{19}$$

If $\beta + \gamma \neq 0$, then by (19) and Lemma 7, we get $h \equiv 0$, which is a contradiction. If $\beta + \gamma = 0$, then (19) reduces to

$$[\Delta^n a - a] + H_n e^{\beta z} = e^d h. \tag{20}$$

Then by (20) and Lemma 7, we see

$$H_n = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)k^j = 0 \tag{21}$$

and

$$[\Delta^n a - a] = e^d h. \tag{22}$$

Employing representation (21) and Lemma 6, it turns out that

$$0 = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h} k^j \rightarrow \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} k^j = (k-1)^n$$

as $z \rightarrow \infty$ not in an ε set. Thus we obtain $k = e^\beta = 1$ from the equation above.

Substituting $k = 1$ into (21), we see $H_n = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j) = \Delta^n h = 0$.

By Lemma 14 and the equation above, we see that h is a polynomial whose degree is at most $n - 1$. If a is a transcendental function, and we take z such that $|z| = r$ and $|a(z)| = M(r, a)$, then we have

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} e^d \frac{h(z)}{a(z)} = 0.$$

However, we have by (22) that

$$e^d \frac{h}{a} = \frac{\Delta^n a}{a} - 1 = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{a(z+j)}{a} - 1 \rightarrow \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} - 1 = -1$$

as $z \rightarrow \infty$ in $z \in \{z : |a(z)| = M(r, a)\} \setminus E_\varepsilon$, where E_ε is an ε set, which is impossible. Thus a is a polynomial and then $\deg(a) = \deg(\Delta^n a - a) = \deg e^d h = \deg h$, which leads to that a is a polynomial with degree at most $n - 1$. Furthermore we get $\Delta^n a = 0$ and $-a = e^d h$ from (22) and then f must be form of

$$f(z) = a(z) + ba(z)e^{\beta z},$$

where $b := -e^{-d}$ and β are two nonzero constants such that $e^\beta = 1$.

2. Proof of Theorem 6.

Using the same method as in Theorem 1, we see

$$\Delta^n f - a = (f - a)e^Q \tag{23}$$

and

$$f = he^g, \tag{24}$$

where g is a polynomial of degree l satisfying $l = \sigma(f) \geq 1$, h is an entire function originated from the canonical product of f satisfying $\lambda(h) = \sigma(h) < \sigma(f) = l$, and Q is a polynomial of degree at most l . From (23)-(24), we obtain

$$\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)e^{g(z+j)} = h(z)e^{g(z)+Q(z)} + a(z) - a(z)e^{Q(z)}. \tag{25}$$

In the next section, we shall consider two cases separately.

Case 1 $\sigma(f) \geq 2$. We rewrite (25) as the following form

$$\left[\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} - h(z)e^{Q(z)} \right] e^{g(z)} = a(z) - a(z)e^{Q(z)}. \tag{26}$$

From Lemma 12, we see $\deg Q = l - 1 \geq 1$. Then by (26) and Lemma 7, we obtain $a - ae^Q = 0$. Thus $e^Q \equiv 1$ or $a \equiv 0$, which is impossible.

Case 2 $l = \deg g = \sigma(f) < 2$, in other words, $\sigma(f) = 1$. Thus without loss of generality, we can rewrite (24) as the form of $f = he^{\beta z}$, where β is a nonzero constant. It is easy to see $\deg(Q) \leq 1$. We shall consider two subcases.

Case 2.1 Q is a constant. Then by (26), we see $e^Q = 1$ and

$$\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z+j)k^j - h(z) = 0, \tag{27}$$

where $k = e^\beta$. From (27), we see

$$1 = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} k^j \frac{h(z+j)}{h} \rightarrow \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} k^j = (k-1)^n \tag{28}$$

as $z \rightarrow \infty$ not in an ε set. It means $(k - 1)^n = 1$ and then

$$\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} k^j = 1. \tag{29}$$

By (27) and (29), we see

$$\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} k^j [h(z + j) - h(z)] = 0. \tag{30}$$

Set $B(z) = \Delta h = h(z + 1) - h(z)$, then from Lemma 1, it is easy for us to see $\sigma(B) \leq \sigma(h) < 1$. From the definition of $B(z)$. Using the same method in Theorem 4 [20], we can proof $B(z) \equiv 0$. That is $h(z + 1) = h(z)$. So we get h is a nonzero constant using the same method as in Lemma 14, and then f must be form of $f(z) = be^{\beta z}$, where $b := h$ and β are two nonzero constants such that $(e^\beta - 1)^n = 1$.

Case 2.2 $\deg(Q) = 1$. Set $Q(z) = \gamma z + d$, where γ is a nonzero constant. Then (25) becomes

$$\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} k^j h(z + j) e^{\beta z} - a = e^d h(z) e^{(\beta+\gamma)z} - e^d a e^{\gamma z}. \tag{31}$$

If $\beta + \gamma \neq 0$ and $\beta - \gamma \neq 0$, then by (31) and Lemma 7, we get $a \equiv 0$ and $h \equiv 0$, which is a contradiction. If $\beta - \gamma = 0$, then (31) becomes

$$\left\{ \left[\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z + j) k^j \right] + a e^d \right\} e^{\beta z} - a = e^d e^{2\beta z},$$

and we also get a contradiction by applying Lemma 7 to the equation above. If $\beta + \gamma = 0$, then (31) becomes

$$\left\{ \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} h(z + j) k^j \right\} e^{2\beta z} = (e^d h(z) + a) e^{\beta z} - a e^d,$$

we can get a contradiction in a same way.

3. Proof of theorem 7.

We shall consider the following three cases separately to our discussion.

Case 1 $\sigma(f) < 1$. By Theorem 2, we get $\Delta^n f = cf$ holds for some nonzero complex number c . Then by Lemma 6, we get

$$c = \frac{\Delta^n f}{f} = \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{f(z + j)}{f(z)} \rightarrow \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} = (1 - 1)^n = 0$$

as $z \rightarrow \infty$, possibly outside of a ε set. Therefore $c = 0$, which is a contradiction.

Case 2 $1 \leq \sigma(f) < 2$ and $\lambda(f) < 1$. Then we can get our conclusion immediately by Theorem 4.

Case 3 $\sigma(f) \geq 2$ and $\lambda(f) < \sigma(f) - 1$. Using the same method as in Theorem 5, we see

$$\Delta^n f = fe^Q \tag{32}$$

and

$$f = he^g, \tag{33}$$

where $g(z) = a_l z^l + a_{l-1} z^{l-1} + \dots + a_0$, $Q(z) = b_s z^s + a_{s-1} z^{s-1} + \dots + b_0$, $l \geq 2$, $s \leq k$, are polynomials, h is an entire function originated from the canonical product of f satisfying $\lambda(h) = \sigma(h) < \sigma(f) - 1 = l - 1$. From (32)-(33), we obtain

$$\sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{g(z+j)-g(z)} = e^{Q(z)}. \tag{34}$$

Recall $g(z+j) - g(z) = ja_l z^{l-1}(1 + o(1))$. By (34), Lemma 1 and 10, we see

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|b_s|}{\pi} r^s \sim m(r, e^Q) &= m\left(r, \sum_{j=0}^n C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{g(z+j)-g(z)}\right) \\ &= m\left(r, e^{g(z+n)-g(z)}\right) + S\left(r, e^{g(z+n)-g(z)}\right) \sim \frac{nl|a_l|}{\pi} r^{l-1}. \end{aligned}$$

It means $s = l - 1$ and $|b_s| = nl|a_l|$. We can rewrite (34) as the following form

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{ja_l z^{l-1}(1+o(1))} + \frac{h(z+n)}{h(z)} e^{A_n} e^{na_l z^{l-1}} = e^B e^{b_{l-1} z^{l-1}}, \tag{35}$$

where A_n, B are two polynomials with degree at most $l - 2$. Recalling (11) and taking any θ such that $\delta(\theta) = \cos((l - 1)\theta + \arg a_l) > 0$, then we get $\tilde{\delta}(\theta) = \cos((l - 1)\theta + \arg b_{l-1}) > 0$ by (35), and then

$$e^{nl|a_l|r^{l-1}\delta(\theta)(1+o(1))} = e^{|b_{l-1}|r^{l-1}\tilde{\delta}(\theta)(1+o(1))}.$$

That means $\delta(\theta) = \tilde{\delta}(\theta)$. By the arbitrariness of θ , we see $\arg a_l = \arg b_{l-1}$. Thus we obtain $b_s = nla_l$, and then (35) becomes

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{ja_l z^{l-1}(1+o(1))} = e^B \left(1 - \frac{h(z+n)}{h(z)} e^{A_n-B}\right) e^{nla_l z^{l-1}}. \tag{36}$$

It is obvious $\sigma(e^B(1 - (h(z+n)/h)e^{A_n-B})) \leq \max\{\sigma(h), l - 2\} < l - 1$. If $e^B - (h(z+n)/h)e^{A_n} \neq 0$, then from (36) and Lemma 10, we see

$$\frac{nl|a_l|}{\pi} r^{l-1} \sim T\left(r, e^B \left(1 - \frac{h(z+n)}{h(z)} e^{A_n-B}\right) e^{nla_l z^{l-1}}\right) \sim \frac{(n-1)l|a_l|}{\pi} r^{l-1},$$

which is impossible. If $e^B - (h(z+n)/h(z))e^{A_n} \equiv 0$, then (36) becomes

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} C_n^j (-1)^{n-j} \frac{h(z+j)}{h(z)} e^{ja_l z^{l-1}(1+o(1))} = 0, \tag{37}$$

however $(h(z+n-1)/h(z))e^{(n-1)az^{l-1}}$ is the only maximal magnitude of module term in (37) when taking $\delta(\theta) > 0$, which is impossible.

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Global Attractivity for Nonautonomous Difference Equation via Linearization

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Abstract. Consider the difference equation

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} = f(n, \vec{x}_n, \dots, \vec{x}_{n-k}), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $k \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$ and the initial conditions are real vectors. We investigate the asymptotic behavior of the solutions of the considered equation. We give some effective conditions for the global stability and global asymptotic stability of the zero or positive equilibrium of this equation. Our results are based on application of the linearizations technique. We illustrate our results with many examples that include some equations from mathematical biology.

Keywords: attractivity, difference equations, discrete dynamical system, global, linear fractional, rational, stability

AMS 2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 39A10, 39A20, 37B25, 37D10, 37M99.

1 Introduction and preliminaries

Consider the difference equation

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} = f(n, \vec{x}_n, \dots, \vec{x}_{n-k}), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{1}$$

where $k \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$ and the initial conditions are real vectors in $\mathbb{R}^p, p \geq 2$. In many cases we investigate equation(1) by embedding equation(1) into a higher iteration of the form

$$\vec{x}_{n+l} = F(n, \vec{x}_{n+l-1}, \dots, \vec{x}_{n-k}), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{2}$$

where $l \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$, see [4, 5, 8]. By linearizing equation (2) and bringing it to the form

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} = \sum_{i=1-l}^k g_i \vec{x}_{n-i}, \tag{3}$$

where g_i in general, depend on n and the state variables \vec{x}_k we can prove very general attractivity and asymptotic stability results for both autonomous and nonautonomous difference equations. The functions g_i are in general matrices but they can also be the scalars as well, see Section 3. This approach was used to get effective and applicable global asymptotic and global attractivity results for linear fractional difference equation, see [2] and quadratic fractional difference equation, see [3] with both constant and nonconstant coefficients. Furthermore, this approach produced global asymptotic and global attractivity results for nonautonomous difference equations with very general coefficients which can be discontinuous functions of n or state variables, see [4, 5, 8]. See [1, 7, 10, 11] for the case of monotone systems, where more precise results were obtained.

In this paper we use method of linearization to extend some of the results about the global attractivity and asymptotic stability of scalar equation from [4] to the case of vector equation (2). We illustrate our results with many examples that include some transition functions from mathematical biology such as linear, Beverton-Holt, sigmoid Beverton-Holt, etc., see [6, 7, 9, 11, 12] for related results. The rest of this section contains some definitions and preliminary results. Second section contains our main results on global attractivity in the case when the sum of the norms of g_i is less than 1. The third section

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gives some results on global attractivity in the delicate case when the sum of the scalar functions g_i is 1. The fourth section provides several examples which illustrate our results.

Denote by $\|\vec{x}\|$ any norm in \mathbb{R}^p .

Definition 1 *The zero equilibrium of equation (3) is stable if for $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists \delta > 0, N)$:*

$$\|\vec{x}_i\| < \delta, i = -k, \dots, 0 \implies \|\vec{x}_n\| < \epsilon, \text{ for all } n \geq N.$$

The zero equilibrium is asymptotically stable if it is stable and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \vec{0}.$$

Lemma 1 *Let $\mathbf{I} - \sum_{i=0}^k g_i$ be invertible for $n = 1, 2, \dots$, where \mathbf{I} is identity matrix. Then equation (3) has no nonzero equilibrium.*

Proof. Otherwise, equation (3) has the equilibrium $\vec{x} \neq \vec{0}$. By plugging $\vec{x}_n = \vec{x}$ in equation (3) we get

$$\left(\mathbf{I} - \sum_{i=0}^k g_i\right)\vec{x} = \vec{0},$$

which implies $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$, which is a contradiction. □

Remark 1 The matrix $\mathbf{I} - \sum_{i=0}^k g_i$ is invertible if the condition

$$\left\| \sum_{i=0}^k g_i \right\| < 1 \tag{4}$$

is satisfied in which case we have

$$\left(\mathbf{I} - \sum_{i=0}^k g_i\right)^{-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^k g_i. \tag{5}$$

The condition (4) is implied by more applicable condition

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| < 1. \tag{6}$$

Remark 2 Equation (1) admits the following generalized identity

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} - \sum_{i=0}^k g_i \vec{K} = \sum_{i=0}^k g_i (\vec{x}_{n-i} - \vec{K}), \tag{7}$$

where \vec{K} is an arbitrary vector. Generalized identity (7) implies

$$\left\| \vec{x}_{n+1} - \sum_{i=0}^k g_i \vec{K} \right\| \leq \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \|\vec{x}_{n-i} - \vec{K}\|. \tag{8}$$

Furthermore by taking $\vec{K} = \vec{0}$ in equation (8), we obtain another useful inequality

$$\|\vec{x}_{n+1}\| - L \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \leq \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| (\|\vec{x}_{n-i}\| - L), \tag{9}$$

where L is an arbitrary constant.

Lemma 2 Suppose that equation (1) has the linearization (3) and the functions $g_i : R^{p+1} \rightarrow M_{p \times p}$, where $M_{p \times p}, p \geq 1$ is the set of all real $p \times p$ matrices, are such that

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \leq 1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Then if equation (1) has the zero equilibrium it is a stable fixed point.

Proof. Assume that equation (1) has the zero equilibrium and the linearization (3). By taking $\vec{K} = \vec{0}$ in equation (8) we have

$$\|\vec{x}_{n+1}\| \leq \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \|\vec{x}_{n-i}\|.$$

Assume that $\sum_{i=0}^k \|\vec{x}_{-i}\| < \delta$. Take $\delta = \epsilon$. Then $\|\vec{x}_{-i}\| < \delta$ for $i = 0, 1, \dots$. Hence

$$\|\vec{x}_1\| \leq \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \|\vec{x}_{-i}\| < \delta \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \leq \delta = \epsilon,$$

$$\|\vec{x}_2\| \leq \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \|\vec{x}_{1-i}\| < \delta \sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \leq \delta = \epsilon$$

and so by induction $\|\vec{x}_n\| < \epsilon$ for $n \geq -k$. □

2 Main results

In this section we present our main results on global attractivity and global asymptotic stability of the equilibrium solutions of equation (1) which has the linearization (3).

Theorem 1 Let $l \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$. Suppose that equation (1) has the linearization (3) subject to the condition

$$\sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| \leq 1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{10}$$

Let $M_0 = \max\{\|\vec{x}_{l-1}\|, \dots, \|\vec{x}_{-k}\|\}$. Then every solution of equation (1) is bounded. In particular $\|\vec{x}_n\| \leq M_0$ for $n \geq -k$.

Proof. Let $L \in R$. Then equation (9) implies

$$\|\vec{x}_{n+l}\| - L \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| \leq \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| (\|\vec{x}_{n-i}\| - L), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{11}$$

By taking $L = M_0$ and $n = 0$ in equation (11), we obtain

$$\|\vec{x}_l\| - M_0 \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| \leq \|g_{1-l}\| (\|\vec{x}_{l-1}\| - M_0) + \dots + \|g_k\| (\|\vec{x}_{-k}\| - M_0) \leq 0,$$

which in view of equation (10) implies $\|\vec{x}_l\| \leq M_0$. By using induction, we obtain

$$\|\vec{x}_{n+l}\| - M_0 \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| \leq \|g_{1-l}\| (\|\vec{x}_{n+l-1}\| - M_0) + \dots + \|g_k\| (\|\vec{x}_{n-k}\| - M_0) \leq 0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

and so

$$\|\vec{x}_{n+l}\| \leq M_0 \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| \leq M_0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Thus $\|\vec{x}_{n+l}\| \leq M_0$ for $n \geq -k$. □

Theorem 2 Let $l \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$. Suppose that equation (1) has the linearization (3) where the functions $g_i : R^{k+1} \rightarrow M_{p \times p}$ are such that

$$\sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| \leq a < 1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{12}$$

Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \vec{0}.$$

Proof. Let $L \in R$. Then every solution of equation (3) satisfies the inequality (11). Let $\gamma = l + k$. Define $M_N = \max\{\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l-1}\|, \dots, \|\vec{x}_{\gamma N-k}\|\}$ for $N = 0, 1, \dots$. Observe that if $\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l-1}\| = \dots = \|\vec{x}_{\gamma N-k}\| = \vec{0}$ for some $N \geq 0$, then by (11) with $L = 0$ we get that

$$\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l+j}\| = \vec{0}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots$$

and so $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \vec{0}$.

Assume that $M_N > 0$ for all $N \geq 0$. By using (11) with $L = M_N$ and $n = \gamma N$ we obtain

$$\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l}\| - \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| M_N \leq \|g_{1-l}\|(\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l-1}\| - M_N) + \dots + \|g_k\|(\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N-k}\| - M_N) \leq 0$$

and so

$$\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l}\| \leq \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| M_N \leq a M_N < M_N.$$

Similarly, by taking $n = \gamma N + 1$ in (11) we obtain

$$\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l+1}\| - \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| M_N \leq \|g_{1-l}\|(\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l}\| - M_N) + \dots + \|g_k\|(\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N-k+1}\| - M_N) \leq 0$$

and so

$$\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l+1}\| \leq \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| M_N \leq a M_N < M_N.$$

Hence by induction we have that

$$\|\vec{x}_{\gamma N+l+j}\| \leq \sum_{i=1-l}^k \|g_i\| M_N \leq a M_N < M_N.$$

Thus

$$M_{N+1} \leq a M_N < M_N, \tag{13}$$

and so the sequence $\{M_N\}_{N=0}^\infty$ is decreasing sequence bounded below by zero. Furthermore (13) implies

$$M_N \leq a^{N+1} M_0 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Hence

$$0 \leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_{\gamma N-j} \leq \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} M_N = 0, \quad j = 1-l, \dots, k.$$

Therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \vec{0}.$$

□

Corollary 1 *Suppose that equation (1) has the linearization (3), where $l = 1$ and the functions $g_i : \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \rightarrow M_{p \times p}$ are such that*

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \|g_i\| \leq a < 1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Then if equation (1) has a zero equilibrium it is globally asymptotically stable.

Assuming that f is differentiable in some neighborhood of the equilibrium solution \bar{x} , by applying Theorem 2 and Lemma 2 to the standard linearization of equation (1) about the equilibrium solution \bar{x}

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{n-i}}(\bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}) \vec{x}_{n-i}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{14}$$

where $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{n-i}}(\bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x})$ is the Jacobian matrix evaluated at the equilibrium point, we obtain the following result, which is local in the nature because of the fact that the standard linearization is local.

Corollary 2 *Assume that f is differentiable in some neighborhood of the equilibrium solution \bar{x} . The equilibrium \bar{x} of equation (1) is locally asymptotically stable if*

$$\sum_{i=0}^k \left\| \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{n-i}}(\bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}) \right\| \leq a < 1.$$

3 The case when g_i are scalar functions

In this section we consider the case when all g_i are scalar functions. In this case the linearization (3) is equivalent to p scalar equations of the form

$$x_{n+1}^m = \sum_{i=1-l}^k g_i x_{n-i}^m, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots; m = 1, \dots, p. \tag{15}$$

For instance, in the case of second order difference equation in \mathbb{R}^2 , we have that vector equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = g_0 \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} + g_1 \begin{bmatrix} x_{n-1} \\ y_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \quad g_0, g_1 \geq 0 \tag{16}$$

is equivalent to the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= g_0 x_n + g_1 x_{n-1} \\ y_{n+1} &= g_0 y_n + g_1 y_{n-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

The next results apply to a special linearization (3) of equation (1), where all g_i are scalar functions.

Theorem 3 Let $l \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$. Suppose that equation (1) has the linearization (3), where the functions $g_i : \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ are such that

$$\sum_{i=1-l}^k g_i \geq a > 1, \quad n \geq 0.$$

Then if for some $n \geq 0$

- (a) $\vec{x}_{n+l-1}, \dots, \vec{x}_{n-k} > 0$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \infty$, componentwise;
- (b) $\vec{x}_{n+l-1}, \dots, \vec{x}_{n-k} < 0$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = -\infty$, componentwise.

Proof. Proof follows from Theorem 2 in [4] applied to equation(15). □

A delicate case when

$$\sum_{i=1-l}^k g_i = 1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{18}$$

is treated in the following three results.

Theorem 4 Suppose that on some interval I equation (1) has the linearization (3), where the functions $g_i : \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ are such that (18) is satisfied. Then there exists $A > 0$ such that for $n \geq 0$ every positive g_i satisfies

$$A \leq g_i \leq 1, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{19}$$

Proof. Proof follows from Proposition 3 in [4] applied to equation (15). □

Theorem 5 Suppose that on some interval I equation (1) has the linearization (3), where the functions $g_i : \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ are such that (18) is satisfied. Assume that there exists $A > 0$ such that

$$g_{1-l} \geq A, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{20}$$

Then if $\vec{x}_{-k}, \dots, \vec{x}_0 \in I$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \vec{L},$$

where $\vec{L} \in I^p$ is a constant vector

Proof. Proof follows from Theorem 4 in [4] applied to equation (15). □

Theorem 6 Suppose that on some interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ equation (1) has the linearization (3), where the functions $g_i : \mathbb{R}^{k+1} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ are such that (18) is satisfied. Assume that there exists $A > 0$ such that for some $j \in \{2-l, \dots, k-1\}$

$$g_j \geq A, g_{j+1} \geq A, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{21}$$

If $\vec{x}_{l-1}, \dots, \vec{x}_{-k} \in I$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}_n = \vec{L},$$

where $\vec{L} \in I^p$ is a constant vector

Proof. Proof follows from Theorem 5 in [4] applied to equation (15). □

4 Examples

In this section we present some examples that illustrate our results.

Example 1 Every solution of the vector equation in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & b_n \\ c_n & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}, n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $a, d > 0, b_n, c_n \geq 0, x_0, y_0 \geq 0, n = 0, 1, \dots$, converges to the zero equilibrium if $\max\{a + U_c, d + U_b\} < 1$ is satisfied, where U_b and U_c are upper bounds of sequences $\{b_n\}$ and $\{c_n\}$ respectively. Indeed, in this case if $\|x\|$ denotes the L_1 norm we have

$$\|g_0\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & b_n \\ c_n & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \max \left\{ \frac{a}{1+x_n} + c_n, \frac{d}{1+y_n} + b_n \right\} \leq \max\{a + U_c, d + U_b\} < 1,$$

that is $U_c < 1 - a, U_b < 1 - d$, and the result follows from Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. Thus in this case the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable. If we use L_2 norm we have that the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable if $\max\{a + U_b, d + U_c\} < 1$ is satisfied.

Example 2 Every solution of the vector equation in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & b \\ c & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}, n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{22}$$

where $a, b, c, d > 0, x_0, y_0 \geq 0$, converges to the zero equilibrium if $\max\{a + c, b + d\} < 1$ is satisfied. Indeed, in this case if $\|x\|$ denotes the L_1 norm we have that

$$\|g_0\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & b \\ c & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \max \left\{ \frac{a}{1+x_n} + c, \frac{d}{1+y_n} + b \right\} \leq \max\{a + c, b + d\} < 1$$

and the result follows from Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. Thus in this case the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable. If we use L_2 norm we have that $\max\{a + b, c + d\} < 1$ implies that the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable.

Next, consider the positive equilibrium $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$. Then we have that the positive equilibrium $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ of system (22) satisfies the system

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x} &= a \frac{\bar{x}}{1+\bar{x}} + b\bar{y} \\ \bar{y} &= c\bar{x} + d \frac{\bar{y}}{1+\bar{y}}. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x} \frac{1+\bar{x}-a}{1+\bar{x}} &= b\bar{y} \\ \bar{y} \frac{1+\bar{y}-d}{1+\bar{y}} &= c\bar{x}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the positive equilibrium exists if

$$\bar{x} > a - 1, \bar{y} > d - 1. \tag{24}$$

Linearizing system (22) about the positive equilibrium E gives the following system

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n)} & b \\ c & \frac{d}{(1+\bar{y})(1+y_n)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_n \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}, n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{25}$$

where $u_n = x_n - \bar{x}, v_n = y_n - \bar{y}$. By using Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 with L_1 norm, we obtain that the condition for global asymptotic stability of $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ to be

$$\bar{x} > \frac{a + c - 1}{1 - c} \quad \text{if } c < 1 < a + c, \quad \bar{y} > \frac{b + d - 1}{1 - b} \quad \text{if } b < 1 < b + d.$$

If we use L_2 norm we obtain sufficient condition for global asymptotic stability of $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ to be

$$\bar{x} > \frac{a+b-1}{1-b} \quad \text{if } b < 1 < a+b, \quad \bar{y} > \frac{c+d-1}{1-c} \quad \text{if } c < 1 < c+d.$$

Example 3 Every solution of the vector equation in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & \frac{b}{1+y_n} \\ \frac{c}{1+x_n} & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}, n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{26}$$

where $a, b, c, d > 0, x_0, y_0 \geq 0, n = 0, 1, \dots$, converges to the zero equilibrium if $\max\{a+c, b+d\} < 1$ is satisfied. Indeed, in this case if $\|x\|_1$ denotes the L_1 norm we have

$$\|g_0\|_1 = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & \frac{b}{1+y_n} \\ \frac{c}{1+x_n} & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_1 = \max \left\{ \frac{a}{1+x_n} + \frac{c}{1+x_n}, \frac{b}{1+y_n} + \frac{d}{1+y_n} \right\} \leq \max\{a+c, b+d\} < 1$$

and the result follows from Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. Thus in this case the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable.

In the case if $\|x\|_2$ denotes the L_2 norm we have

$$\|g_0\|_2 = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{1+x_n} & \frac{b}{1+y_n} \\ \frac{c}{1+x_n} & \frac{d}{1+y_n} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2 = \max \left\{ \frac{a}{1+x_n} + \frac{b}{1+y_n}, \frac{c}{1+x_n} + \frac{d}{1+y_n} \right\} \leq \max\{a+b, c+d\} < 1.$$

In this case the condition for global asymptotic stability of the zero equilibrium becomes $\max\{a+b, c+d\} < 1$.

Now, consider global attractivity of the positive equilibrium $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ of system (26). The positive equilibrium of system (26) satisfies the system

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{x} &= a \frac{\bar{x}}{1+\bar{x}} + b \frac{\bar{y}}{1+\bar{y}} \\ \bar{y} &= c \frac{\bar{x}}{1+\bar{x}} + d \frac{\bar{y}}{1+\bar{y}}. \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

Adding two equations in (27) we obtain

$$\bar{x} + \bar{y} = (a+c) \frac{\bar{x}}{1+\bar{x}} + (b+d) \frac{\bar{y}}{1+\bar{y}},$$

which implies

$$\frac{\bar{x}}{1+\bar{x}}(1+\bar{x}-a-c) = \frac{\bar{y}}{1+\bar{y}}(b+d-1-\bar{y})$$

and so we obtain that the positive equilibrium satisfies

$$\bar{x} > a+c-1 \Leftrightarrow \bar{y} < b+d-1. \tag{28}$$

Linearizing system (26) about the positive equilibrium E gives the following system

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n)} & \frac{b}{(1+\bar{y})(1+y_n)} \\ \frac{c}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n)} & \frac{d}{(1+\bar{y})(1+y_n)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_n \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}, n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $u_n = x_n - \bar{x}, v_n = y_n - \bar{y}$. By using Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 with L_1 norm, we obtain that the condition

$$\bar{x} > a+c-1, \bar{y} > b+d-1. \tag{29}$$

is sufficient for the global asymptotic stability of the positive equilibrium solution. The condition (29) contradicts condition (28). If we use L_2 norm we obtain sufficient condition for the global asymptotic stability of the positive equilibrium solution to be

$$\begin{aligned} b\bar{x} + a\bar{y} &< 1 - a - b \\ d\bar{x} + c\bar{y} &< 1 - c - d. \end{aligned}$$

Example 4 Every solution of the vector equation in \mathbb{R}^n

$$\vec{x}_{n+1} = A_n \vec{x}_n \tag{30}$$

where

$$\vec{x}_n = \begin{bmatrix} x_n^1 \\ x_n^2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n^k \end{bmatrix}, \quad A_n = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a_{11}}{1+x_n^1} & \frac{a_{12}}{1+x_n^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{1k}}{1+x_n^k} \\ \frac{a_{21}}{1+x_n^1} & \frac{a_{22}}{1+x_n^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{2k}}{1+x_n^k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{a_{k1}}{1+x_n^1} & \frac{a_{k2}}{1+x_n^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{kk}}{1+x_n^k} \end{bmatrix}$$

where $a_{ij} > 0, i, j = 0, 1, \dots, x_0, y_0 \geq 0, n = 0, 1, \dots$, converges to the zero equilibrium if

$$\begin{aligned} \|g_0\|_1 &= \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a_{11}}{1+x_n^1} & \frac{a_{12}}{1+x_n^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{1k}}{1+x_n^k} \\ \frac{a_{21}}{1+x_n^1} & \frac{a_{22}}{1+x_n^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{2k}}{1+x_n^k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{a_{k1}}{1+x_n^1} & \frac{a_{k2}}{1+x_n^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{kk}}{1+x_n^k} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_1 \\ &= \max \left\{ \frac{a_{11}}{1+x_n^1} + \frac{a_{21}}{1+x_n^1} + \cdots + \frac{a_{k1}}{1+x_n^1}, \dots, \frac{a_{1k}}{1+x_n^k} + \frac{a_{2k}}{1+x_n^k} + \cdots + \frac{a_{kk}}{1+x_n^k} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \{ a_{11} + a_{21} + \cdots + a_{k1}, \dots, a_{1k} + a_{2k} + \cdots + a_{kk} \} \\ &= \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ij} \right\} < 1, \end{aligned}$$

which follows from Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. Thus in this case the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable.

Now, consider global attractivity of the positive equilibrium of system (30). The positive equilibrium satisfies the system

$$(A_n(\vec{x}) - \mathbf{I})\vec{x} = \vec{0},$$

where

$$A_n(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a_{11}}{1+\bar{x}^1} & \frac{a_{12}}{1+\bar{x}^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{1k}}{1+\bar{x}^k} \\ \frac{a_{21}}{1+\bar{x}^1} & \frac{a_{22}}{1+\bar{x}^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{2k}}{1+\bar{x}^k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{a_{k1}}{1+\bar{x}^1} & \frac{a_{k2}}{1+\bar{x}^2} & \cdots & \frac{a_{kk}}{1+\bar{x}^k} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Linearizing system (30) about the positive equilibrium E gives the following system

$$\vec{u}_{n+1} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a_{11}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} & \frac{a_{12}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^2)} & \cdots & \frac{a_{1k}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \\ \frac{a_{21}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} & \frac{a_{22}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^2)} & \cdots & \frac{a_{2k}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{a_{k1}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} & \frac{a_{k2}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^2)} & \cdots & \frac{a_{kk}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \end{bmatrix} \vec{u}_n, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $\vec{u}_n = \vec{x}_n - \vec{x}$. By using Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 with L_1 norm, we obtain that the condition

$$\|g_0\|_1 = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{a_{11}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} & \frac{a_{12}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^2)} & \cdots & \frac{a_{1k}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \\ \frac{a_{21}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} & \frac{a_{22}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^2)} & \cdots & \frac{a_{2k}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{a_{k1}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} & \frac{a_{k2}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^2)} & \cdots & \frac{a_{kk}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \end{bmatrix} \right\|_1$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \max \left\{ \frac{a_{11}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)} + \dots + \frac{a_{k1}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^1)}, \dots, \frac{a_{1k}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} + \frac{a_{2k}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} + \dots + \frac{a_{kk}}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n^k)} \right\} \\
 &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{1}{1+\bar{x}} (a_{11} + a_{21} + \dots + a_{k1}, \dots, a_{1k} + a_{2k} + \dots + a_{kk}) \right\} \\
 &= \frac{1}{1+\bar{x}} \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ij} \right\} \\
 &< 1
 \end{aligned}$$

implies the global asymptotic stability of the positive equilibrium solution. By using Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 with L_1 norm, we obtain that the condition for the global asymptotic stability of the positive equilibrium solution is

$$1 + \bar{x} > \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ij} \iff \bar{x} > \sum_{i=1}^k a_{ij} - 1.$$

Example 5 The cooperative system

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & \frac{b}{1+y_n} \\ \frac{c}{1+x_n} & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}, n = 0, 1, \dots, \tag{31}$$

where $a, b, c, d > 0, x_0, y_0 \geq 0$ was considered in [1]. The equilibrium solutions are the zero equilibrium $E_0(0, 0)$ and when $a < 1, d < 1$ the unique positive equilibrium solution $E_+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$, is given as

$$\bar{x} = \frac{b}{1-a} \frac{\bar{y}}{1+\bar{y}}, \quad \bar{y} = \frac{bc - (1-d)(1-a)}{(1-d)(b+1-a)},$$

when

$$(1-a)(1-d) < bc. \tag{32}$$

The local stability of system (31) is described with the following result, see [1]

Claim 1 Consider system (31).

- 1.) The positive equilibrium $E_+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ of system (31) is locally asymptotically stable when (32) holds.
- 2.) The zero equilibrium $E_0(0, 0)$ of system (31) is locally asymptotically stable if $bc < (1-a)(1-d)$; it is a saddle point if $bc > (1-a)(1-d)$; it is a nonhyperbolic equilibrium if $bc = (1-a)(1-d)$.

The global dynamics of system (31) is described with the following result, see [1]:

Theorem 7 Consider system (31).

- 1.) If $a \geq 1$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \infty$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \infty$ if $d \geq 1$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \frac{c}{1-d}$, if $d < 1$.
- 2.) If $d \geq 1$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \infty$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \infty$ if $a \geq 1$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \frac{b}{1-a}$, if $a < 1$.
- 3.) The positive equilibrium $E_+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ of system (31) is globally asymptotically stable when (32) holds.
- 4.) The zero equilibrium $E_+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ of system (31) is globally asymptotically stable when $a < 1, d < 1$ and

$$bc \leq (1-a)(1-d) \tag{33}$$

holds.

Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 implies that any of two conditions $\max\{a+c, b+d\} < 1$ or $\max\{a+b, c+d\} < 1$ provides the global asymptotic stability of the zero equilibrium. Both of these conditions imply (33) which is clearly the necessary and sufficient condition for the global asymptotic stability of the zero equilibrium..

Linearizing system (31) about the positive equilibrium $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ gives the following system

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{n+1} \\ v_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & \frac{b}{(1+\bar{y})(1+y_n)} \\ \frac{c}{(1+\bar{x})(1+x_n)} & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_n \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $u_n = x_n - \bar{x}, v_n = y_n - \bar{y}$. By using Theorem 2 and Corollary 1 with L_1 or L_2 norm, we obtain that the condition

$$\max \left\{ a + \frac{c}{1+\bar{x}}, \frac{b}{1+\bar{y}} + d \right\} < 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \max \left\{ a + \frac{b}{1+\bar{y}}, \frac{c}{1+\bar{x}} + d \right\} < 1 \tag{34}$$

implies that the positive equilibrium $E(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is globally asymptotically stable. Condition (34) implies condition (32) which is clearly the necessary and sufficient condition for the global asymptotic stability of the positive equilibrium.

Example 6 Every solution of the vector equation in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{an}{1+n^2} & \frac{cn}{1+n^3} \\ \frac{bn}{1+n^2} & \frac{dn}{1+n^3} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{An}{1+n} & \frac{Cn}{1+n^2} \\ \frac{Bn}{1+n} & \frac{Dn}{1+n^2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_{n-1} \\ y_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $a, b, c, d, A, B, C, D > 0, x_{-1}, y_{-1}, x_0, y_0 \geq 0, n = 0, 1, \dots$, converges to the zero equilibrium if $\max\{\frac{a+b}{2}, \frac{2(c+d)}{32^{1/3}}\} + \max\{A+B, \frac{C+D}{2}\} < 1$ is satisfied. Indeed, in this case if $\|x\|$ denotes the L_1 norm we have

$$\|g_0\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{an}{1+n^2} & \frac{cn}{1+n^3} \\ \frac{bn}{1+n^2} & \frac{dn}{1+n^3} \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \max \left\{ \frac{(a+b)n}{1+n^2}, \frac{(c+d)n}{1+n^3} \right\} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{a+b}{2}, \frac{2(c+d)}{32^{1/3}} \right\}$$

and

$$\|g_1\| = \left\| \begin{bmatrix} \frac{An}{1+n} & \frac{Cn}{1+n^2} \\ \frac{Bn}{1+n} & \frac{Dn}{1+n^2} \end{bmatrix} \right\| = \max \left\{ \frac{(A+B)n}{1+n}, \frac{(C+D)n}{1+n^2} \right\} \leq \max \left\{ A+B, \frac{C+D}{2} \right\}$$

and the result follows from Theorem 2 and Corollary 1. Thus in this case the zero equilibrium is globally asymptotically stable.

Example 7 The vector equation in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{ax_n}{1+x_n} \begin{bmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} + \frac{a}{1+x_n} \begin{bmatrix} x_{n-1} \\ y_{n-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \tag{35}$$

is equivalent to the system

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= \frac{ax_n}{1+x_n}x_n + \frac{a}{1+x_n}x_{n-1} \\ y_{n+1} &= \frac{ay_n}{1+y_n}y_n + \frac{a}{1+y_n}y_{n-1}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \end{aligned}$$

where $a > 0$. Since $g_0 + g_1 = a$ for all $n = 0, 1, \dots$ we have the following result which proof follows from Theorems 2, 3, 5 and Corollary 1.

Proposition 1 *The following trichotomy holds for equation (35):*

- (a) *if $a < 1$ then the zero equilibrium of (35) is globally asymptotically stable.*
- (b) *if $a = 1$ then every nonnegative constant vector \vec{L} is an equilibrium of (35) and every solution of (35) converges to some constant vector.*
- (a) *if $a > 1$ then every set of positive (resp. negative) initial conditions generates the solution which component-wise tends to ∞ (resp. $-\infty$).*

Proposition 1 can be extended to the case of corresponding vector equation in \mathbb{R}^p .

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