

## OSCILLATION IN SECOND ORDER FUNCTIONAL EQUATIONS WITH DEVIATING ARGUMENTS

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ABSTRACT. For the pair of functional equations

$$(A) \quad (r(t)y'(t))' + p(t)h(h(g(t))) = f(t)$$

and

$$(B) \quad (r(t)y'(t))' - p(t)h(y(g(t))) = 0$$

sufficient conditions have been found to cause all solutions of equation (A) to be oscillatory. These conditions depend upon a positive solution of equation (B).

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES: Oscillatory, Nonoscillatory, Sublinear, Superlinear

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### 1. INTRODUCTION.

Our main goal, in this work, is to seek the oscillatory behavior of the equation

$$(r(t)y'(t))' + p(t)h(y(g(t))) = f(t) , \quad (1.1)$$

via the nonoscillation of the equation

$$(r(t)y'(t))' - p(t)h(y(g(t))) = 0. \quad (1.2)$$

Oscillation properties of equation (1.1) were studied by Kartsatos [3] and Kusano and Onose [4] by first "homogenizing" it and then using the techniques known for homogeneous equations. In fact a function  $\lambda(t)$  was sought to satisfy

$$(r(t)(y(t) - \lambda(t))' = f(t). \quad (1.3)$$

A similar approach was later used by this author [9] in finding conditions for the oscillation of the equation

$$(r(t)y'(t))^{(n-1)} + (-1)^{n+1}p(t)y(g(t)) = f(t). \quad (1.4)$$

Recently Rankin [8] presented a new approach to study the oscillatory behavior of the ordinary differential equation

$$y''(t) + p(t)y(t) = f(t), \quad (1.5)$$

by using the transformation

$$y(t) = \phi(t)z(t) , \quad (1.6)$$

where  $\phi(t)$  is a positive solution of the equation

$$y''(t) + p(t)y(t) = 0. \quad (1.7)$$

Transformations usually do not carry over to functional equations (1.1) and (1.2). The failure in study of equation (1.1) leads us to this work in which we present a different approach to study the oscillation of equation (1.1) which may be sublinear, superlinear, retarded or advanced.

Since our results do not depend on the integral size of  $p(t)$ , they are different from those of Kartsatos [3], Kusano and Onose [4] and this author [9]. Our results are also different than those of Rankin [8]. In fact the following example shows that Rankin's results are not true for the pair of retarded equations

$$y'''(t) + \frac{3}{16t^2(t-\pi)^{3/4}} y(t-\pi) = -100t \sin 10t + 20 \cos 10t + \frac{3}{8} \frac{(t-\pi)^{1/4}}{t^2} + \frac{3(t-\pi)^{1/4}}{16t^2} \sin 10t, \quad (1.8)$$

and

$$y'''(t) + \frac{3}{16t^2(t-\pi)^{3/4}} y(t-\pi) = 0. \quad (1.9)$$

Equation (1.9) has the nonoscillatory solution  $\phi(t) = t^{3/4}$  which satisfies the conclusion of Rankin's main theorem ([8, Theorem 2]) namely

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_T^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_T^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx = -\infty, \quad (1.10)$$

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_T^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_T^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx = \infty, \quad (1.11)$$

and  $\int_T^\infty \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} dx < \infty$ ,

for any large  $T > 0$ ; where

$$f(t) = -100t \sin(10t) + 20 \cos(10t) + \frac{3(t-\pi)^{1/4}}{8t^2} + \frac{3(t-\pi)^{1/4}}{16t^2} \sin(10t).$$

But equation (1.8) has the nonoscillatory solution

$$y(t) = 2t + t \sin(10t).$$

## 2. DEFINITIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Throughout this study we assume the following:

- (i)  $g(t)$ ,  $r(t)$ ,  $p(t)$ ,  $h(t)$  and  $f(t)$  are  $C[R, R]$  where  $R$  denotes the real line;
- (ii)  $r(t) > 0$ ,  $r'(t) \leq 0$  and  $p(t) > 0$  for  $t > t_0 > 0$  where we shall assume  $t_0$  to be fixed arbitrarily.  $t_0$  will be referred to in this study without any further mention;

(iii)  $g(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  ;

(iv)  $\text{sign } h(t) = \text{sign } t$ .

The term "solution" refers to nontrivial continuously extendable solutions of equations under consideration over the interval  $[t_0, \infty)$ . We call a function  $Q(t) \in C([t_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$  oscillatory if  $Q(t)$  has arbitrarily large zeros on  $[t_0, \infty)$ ; otherwise  $Q(t)$  is called nonoscillatory. Equations (1.1) and (1.2) are called sublinear or superlinear

$$0 < \frac{h(t)}{t^\alpha} \leq k$$

if  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  or  $\alpha < 1$  respectively where  $k$  is constant and  $\alpha$  is the ratio of odd integers.

### 3. MAIN RESULTS

**THEOREM 1:** In addition to (i)-(iv) suppose there exists a function  $\phi(t)$  which is continuous for  $t \geq t_0$  and satisfies  $(r(t)\phi'(t))' \geq 0$  ( $\neq 0$  in any interval),

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(s)} \int_s^\infty \phi(x) f(x) dx ds = -\infty, \quad (3.1)$$

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(s)} \int_s^\infty \phi(x) f(x) dx ds = \infty \quad (3.2)$$

and

$$\int_{t_0}^\infty \frac{1}{\phi^2(t)} dt < \infty. \quad (3.3)$$

Then all solutions of equation (1.1) are oscillatory.

**PROOF:** Suppose to the contrary that equation (1.1) has a nonoscillatory solution  $y(t)$ . Without any loss of generality suppose  $T > t_0$  is large enough so that for  $t > T$ ,  $y(g(t)) > 0$  and  $y(t) > 0$ . Rewriting equation (1.1) after multiplication with  $\phi(t)$  we have

$$(r(t)\phi(t)y'(t))' - (r(t)\phi'(t))y'(t) + p(t)\phi(t)h(y(g(t))) = \phi(t)f(t). \quad (3.4)$$

Integrating (3.4) for  $t \geq T$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & r(t)\phi(t)y'(t) - r(T)\phi(T)y'(T) - r(t)\phi'(t)y(t) \\
 & + r(T)\phi'(T)y(T) + \int_T^t (r(s)\phi'(s))'y(s) ds \\
 & + \int_T^t p(s)\phi(s)h(y(g(s))) ds = \int_T^t \phi(s)f(s) ds. \tag{3.5}
 \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$K = r(T)\phi'(T)y(T) - r(T)\phi(T)y'(T). \tag{3.6}$$

Dividing (3.5) by  $\phi^2(t)$  and rearranging terms we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{r(t)y'(t)}{\phi(t)} + \frac{K}{\phi^2(t)} - \frac{r(t)\phi'(t)y(t)}{\phi^2(t)} + \frac{1}{\phi^2(t)} \int_T^t (r(s)\phi'(s))'y ds \\
 & + \frac{1}{\phi^2(t)} \int_T^t p(s)\phi(s)h(y(g(s))) ds = \frac{1}{\phi^2(t)} \int_T^t \phi(s)f(s) ds. \tag{3.7}
 \end{aligned}$$

Integrating (3.7) between  $T$  and  $t$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{r(t)y(t)}{\phi(t)} - \frac{r(T)y(T)}{\phi(T)} + \int_T^t \frac{r(s)\phi'(s)y(s)}{\phi^2(s)} ds - \int_T^t \frac{r'(s)y(s)}{\phi(s)} ds \\
 & + \int_T^t K/\phi^2(s) ds - \int_T^t \frac{r(s)\phi'(s)y(s)}{\phi^2(s)} ds \\
 & + \int_T^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_T^x [(r(s)\phi'(s))'y(s) + p(s)\phi(s)h(y(g(s)))] ds dx \\
 & = \int_T^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_T^x \phi(s)f(s) ds dx \tag{3.8}
 \end{aligned}$$

which leads to

$$\frac{r(t)y(t)}{\phi(t)} - \frac{r(T)y(T)}{\phi(T)} - \int_T^t \frac{r'(s)y(s)}{\phi(s)} ds$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + K \int_T^t 1/\phi^2(s) ds \\
& + \int_T^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_T^x [(r(s)\phi'(s))' y(s) + p(s)\phi(s)h(y(g(s)))] ds dx \\
& = \int_T^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_T^x \phi(s)f(s) ds dx. \tag{3.9}
\end{aligned}$$

Since third, fourth and fifth terms on the left hand side of (3.9) are either nonnegative or finite, we immediately reach a contradiction in view of (3.1) and (3.2). The proof is complete.

COROLLARY 1. Suppose (i)-(iv) hold. Further suppose that equation a positive solution  $\phi(t)$  satisfying (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3). Then all solutions of equation (1.1) are oscillatory.

PROOF. Since  $(r(t)\phi'(t))' \geq 0$ , conclusion follows from Theorem 1.

EXAMPLE 1. Consider the equations

$$y'''(t) + e^{\pi} y(t-\pi) = 4e^{2t} \cos t + 3e^{2t} \sin t - e^{2t-\pi} \sin t, \tag{3.10}$$

and

$$y'''(t) - e^{\pi} y(t-\pi) = 0, \tag{3.11}$$

for  $t > \pi$ . Equation (3.11) has  $y(t) = e^t$  as a solution which satisfies (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3). Thus all solutions of equation (3.10) are oscillatory. In fact  $y(t) = e^{2t} \sin t$  is one such solution.

REMARK. In Rankin's work  $\phi''(t) < 0$  where as here  $\phi''(t) > 0$  when  $r(t) \equiv 1$ .

THEOREM 2. Suppose  $r(t) \equiv 1$  and (i)-(iv) hold. Further suppose that equation (1.2) has a positive solution  $\phi(t)$  such that  $\phi'(t) \geq 0$  ( $\not\equiv 0$  in any subinterval) for  $t > t_0$ . Let (3.1) and (3.2) of Theorem (1) hold. Then all solutions of equation (1.1) are oscillatory.

PROOF: Since

$$\phi'''(t) \geq 0, \quad \phi'(t) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(t) \geq 0, \quad (3.12)$$

for  $t > t_0$ , there exist positive numbers  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that  $\phi(t) \geq c_1 t + c_2$ , and consequently  $\phi(t)$  satisfies (3.3). The proof is complete. We now have the following corollary.

COROLLARY 2: Suppose equation (1.2) has a positive nonoscillatory solution  $z(t)$  such that  $z'(t) > 0$ . Further suppose that equation (1.1) has a non-oscillatory solution. Then either

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{1}{z^2(s)} \int_s^{\infty} z(x) f(x) dx ds > -\infty \quad (3.13)$$

or

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{z^2(s)} \int_s^{\infty} z(x) f(x) dx ds < \infty. \quad (3.14)$$

EXAMPLE 2. The equation

$$y''(t) + \frac{2}{t^2} y(t) = -\sin t + \frac{4}{t^2} + \frac{2\sin t}{t^2}. \quad (3.15)$$

has the nonoscillatory solution  $y(t) = 2 + \sin t$ . Now consider

$$y''(t) - \frac{2}{t^2} y(t) = 0, \quad (3.16)$$

which has  $z(t) = t^2$  as a nonoscillatory solutions satisfying the conditions and conclusion of Corollary 2.

#### 4. ASYMPTOTIC NONOSCILLATION

Example 2 shows that when (3.1) and (3.2) are relaxed then equation (1.1) may have nonoscillatory solutions. In this section we give conditions when nonoscillatory solutions of (1.1) approach limits.

THEOREM 3: Suppose (i)-(iv) hold. Let  $\phi(t)$  be a positive solution of equation (1.2) such that  $\phi'(t) \geq 0$  ( $\not\equiv 0$  in any subinterval of  $t > t_0$ ),

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\phi^2(x)}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(s)} \int_{T_k}^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx < 0, \quad (4.1)$$

and

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\phi^2(x)}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(s)} \int_{T_k}^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx > 0. \quad (4.2)$$

Let  $y(t)$  be a bounded solution of equation (1.1). If  $y(t)$  is nonoscillatory then  $y(t)$  tends to a finite limit.

PROOF. Without any loss of generality, let  $T \geq t_0$  be large enough so that  $y(t) > 0$  and  $y(g(t)) > 0$  for  $t \geq T$ . Suppose to the contrary that

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) < \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t). \quad (4.3)$$

Then there exists a sequence  $\{T_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $T_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and

$y'(T_n) = 0$ . Let  $k$  be a large positive integer such that

$$\frac{y(T_k) r(T_k)}{\phi(T_k)} < \min \left[ -\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{T_k}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_{T_k}^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx, \right. \\ \left. \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{T_k}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_{T_k}^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx \right]. \quad (4.4)$$

Following the proof of Theorem 1, we obtain from (3.9)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{r(t)y(t)}{\phi(t)} & - \int_{T_k}^t \frac{r'(s)y(s) ds}{\phi(s)} + r(T_k) \phi'(T_k) y(T_k) \int_{T_k}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} dx \\ & + \int_{T_k}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_{T_k}^x p(s) (y(s)h(\phi(g(s))) + \phi(s)h(y(g(s)))) ds dx \\ & = \int_{T_k}^t \frac{1}{\phi^2(x)} \int_{T_k}^x \phi(s) f(s) ds dx + \frac{y(T_k) r(T_k)}{\phi(T_k)}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

In view of (4.1), (4.2) and (4.4), we reach a contradiction in (4.5). The proof is complete.

REMARK. Example 2 shows that conditions (4.1) and (4.2) cannot be weakened.

COROLLARY 3. Suppose conditions of Theorem 3 hold. Let  $y(t)$  be any solution of equation (1.1) such that  $\frac{y(t)}{\phi(t)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . If  $y(t)$  is non-oscillatory then  $y(t)$  tends to a finite or infinite limit as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

REMARK. Recently Graef and Spikes [1], Hammett [2], Kusano and Onose [5,6], Philos and Starkos [7], this author [10,11] have studied asymptotic nonoscillation with regard to equation (1.1). However all these results make use of an integral condition on  $p(t)$ . Theorem 3 and Corollary 3 present a different approach.

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