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Nonoscillation and Oscillation Criteria for a Class of Second-Order Nonlinear Neutral Delay Differential Equations with Positive and Negative Coefficients

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Abstract: In this paper, we investigate some nonoscillatory and oscillatory solutions for a class of second-order nonlinear neutral delay differential equations with positive and negative coefficients. By means of the method of contraction mapping principle and some integral inequality techniques, we extend the recent results provided in the literature.

Keywords: delayed argument; differential equation; second-order; neutral; nonlinear; oscillation; integral inequality technique



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1. Introduction

Only recently, some scholars ([1,2]) studied the oscillation of the following mixed-type second-order equation:

$$(r(x)(y'(x))^{\alpha})' = p(x)y^{\alpha}(\tau(x)), \quad x \geq 0,$$

where $p, r \in C([x_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$, α is the ratio of two positive odd integers, $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tau(x) = \infty$, $\tau(x) \in C^1([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$ and $\tau'(x) > 0$.

The researchers ([3,4]) studied the oscillation of the following second-order half-linear neutral delay differential equation:

$$(r(x)(y(x) + p(x)y(\tau(x)))^{\alpha})' + q(x)y^{\alpha}(\sigma(x)) = 0, \quad x \geq x_0 > 0,$$

where α is the ratio of two positive odd integers, $r, p \in C^1([x_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$, $q \in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$, $\tau, \sigma \in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$, $\tau(x) \leq x$, $\sigma(x) \leq x$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tau(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sigma(x) = \infty$.

Baculiková et al. [5] considered the oscillation of the following second-order delay differential equation:

$$(a(x)(y(x) - p(x)y^{\alpha}(\tau(x))))' + q(x)y^{\beta}(\sigma(x)) = 0, \quad x \geq x_0 > 0,$$

where $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, α and β are the ratio of two positive odd integers, $a \in C^1([x_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$, $p, q \in C([x_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$, $0 < p(x) \leq p < 1$, $\tau, \sigma \in C^1([x_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$, $\tau(x) \leq x$, $\sigma(x) \leq x$, $\tau'(x) > 0$, $\sigma'(x) > 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \tau(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \sigma(x) = \infty$.

Oscillation phenomena take part in delay differential equations from real world applications. We refer the reader to [6–23] (where oscillation and/or delay situations take part in models from mathematical biology and physics when their formulation includes cross-diffusion terms) and the references cited therein.

Thus, many scholars were concerned about the second-order equation with positive and negative coefficients. In [24], Lin et al. studied the following equation:

$$[a(x)(y(x) + p(x)y(x - \tau))]' + q(x)G(y(x - \delta)) - r(x)H(y(x - \sigma)) = 0, \tag{1}$$

where $x \geq x_0$, $\tau \in (0, \infty)$, $\delta, \sigma \in [0, \infty)$, $p, q, r \in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$ and $G, H \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$, and $a(x), p(x), q(x), r(x), G(x)$ and $H(x)$ satisfy some of the following assumptions.

Assumption 1 (c1). G and H satisfy local Lipschitz condition, and $uG(u) > 0$, $uH(u) > 0$ for $u \neq 0$.

Assumption 2 (c2). $a(x) > 0$, $q(x), r(x) \geq 0$, $\int^\infty A(x)q(x)dx < \infty$, $\int^\infty A(x)r(x)dx < \infty$, where $A(x) = \int_{x_0}^x \frac{1}{a(s)}ds$.

Assumption 3 (c3). $mq(x) - r(x)$ is eventually non-negative for every $m > 0$.

Assumption 4 (c4). $|p(x)| \leq p_0 < \frac{1}{2}$ eventually.

Assumption 5 (c5). $p(x) \geq 0$ eventually, and $0 < p_1 < 1$; $p(x) \leq 0$ eventually, and $-1 < p_2 < 0$, where $p_1 = \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} p(x)$, $p_2 = \liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} p(x)$.

Assumption 6 (c6). $p(x) > 1$ eventually, and $1 < p_2 < p_1 < p_2^2 < +\infty$; $p(x) < -1$ eventually, and $-\infty < p_2 < p_1 < -1$, where p_1 and p_2 are the same as that in (c5).

By using the contraction mapping principle, they obtained the existence of nonoscillatory solutions of (1) when (c1)–(c3), (c4) (or (c1)–(c3), (c5) or (c1)–(c3) and (c6)) hold.

In [25], Zhang et al. extended the results of [24] to the case $p(x) = 1$ and indicated that the condition (c3) is redundant.

When $a(x) \equiv 1$, we extend the number of neutral terms and positive and negative coefficient terms from single to multiple, and then we obtain the following equation:

$$\left[y(x) + \eta \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i) \right]'' + \sum_{j=1}^m q_j(x)G(y(x - \delta_j)) - \sum_{k=1}^n r_k(x)H(y(x - \sigma_k)) = 0, \tag{2}$$

where $x \geq x_0$, $\eta = \pm 1$, $l, m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p_i(x)$ ($i = 1, \dots, l$) $\in C^2([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$, $q_j(x)$ ($j = 1, \dots, m$) and $r_k(x)$ ($k = 1, \dots, n$) $\in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$, $G, H \in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$ and $G(v) = H(v) = 0$ for $v = 0$.

When we consider (2), some of the following five assumptions are satisfied.

Assumption 7 (H1). $0 < h_1 \leq q_j(x) \leq h_2$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$;

Assumption 8 (H2). Set the following values:

$$A := \{y \in X : M_2 \leq y(x) \leq M_1, x \geq x_0\},$$

where X denotes the set which includes all continuous and bounded functions on $[x_0, \infty)$ with the sup norm, $M_1 > 1$ and $M_2 > 0$. Let G and H satisfy Lipschitz conditions in A ; that is, for any $y_1, y_2 \in A$, there exist $L_1, L_2 > 0$ such that the following is the case.

$$|G(y_1) - G(y_2)| \leq L_1|y_1 - y_2|,$$

$$|H(y_1) - H(y_2)| \leq L_2|y_1 - y_2|;$$

Assumption 9 (H3). $0 < m_1 \leq \frac{G(u)}{u} \leq m_2$ and $0 < N_1 \leq \frac{H(u)}{u} \leq N_2$ for $u \neq 0$.

Assumption 10 (H4). $\sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} x r_k(x)dx < \infty$.

Assumption 11 (H5). $\sum_{j=1}^m \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} x q_j(x)dx < \infty$.

Let $\kappa := \max\{\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_l, \delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_m, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_n\}$.

Definition 1. A function y is called a solution of (2) on the interval $I = [x_0, \infty)$, if y is continuous, $y(x) + \eta \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i)$ is continuously differentiable and y satisfies (2) on $x \in I$.

We only consider the nontrivial solution of (2), which satisfies $\sup\{|y(x)| : x \geq X\} > 0$ for all $X \geq x_0$.

Definition 2. A nontrivial solution of (2) is nonoscillatory if it is eventually positive or eventually negative. Otherwise, it is oscillatory.

Motivated by the useful work of Lin et al. and Zhang et al., in this paper, we obtain some new conditions of the existence of nonoscillatory solutions of the Equation (2).

Recently, the scholars ([26–33]) investigated the oscillatory properties of Equations (1) and (2). When $a(x) \equiv 1$, in [31], Thandapani et al. obtained that every solution of (1) is oscillatory if the following assumptions are satisfied.

Assumption 12 (B0). τ, δ and σ are nonnegative constants with $\delta \geq \sigma \geq \tau$;

Assumption 13 (B1). There exist $\alpha \geq 1$ and a positive constant M_1 such that $\frac{G(v)}{v^\alpha} \leq M_1$ for $v \neq 0$.

Assumption 14 (B2). There exist $M_2, M > 0$ such that $0 \leq \frac{H(v)}{v} \leq M_2$ and $0 \leq \frac{G(v)}{H(v)} \leq M$ for $v \neq 0$.

Assumption 15 (B3). $p(x)$ is bounded.

Assumption 16 (B4). $\int_{x_0}^\infty \int_{u-\delta+\sigma}^u r(v)dvdu < \infty$.

Assumption 17 (B5). There exists a constant k such that $q(x) - Mr(x - \delta + \sigma) \geq k > 0$ for all $x \geq x_0$.

In [28,29,33], the authors established some criteria that ensured that every solution of (1) with $G \equiv H$ is oscillatory. In particular, some authors ([26,27,32]) considered the oscillatory and asymptotic behavior of Equation (2) with $G(v) = H(v) = v$.

The above research has greatly stimulated our interest. Thus, in this article, we investigate the oscillatory behavior of the Equation (2) under some assumptions that are different from the previous ones.

Under some new assumptions (i.e., (c3) is not needed and we replace assumption (c2) with (H4) and (H5); (B0), (B1) and (B5) are not required and we provide assumption (H4) instead of (B4)), we study the second-order nonlinear delay differential equation with multiple neutral terms and positive and negative coefficients terms. Motivated by the above research, we obtain some new conditions of the existence of nonoscillatory solution of (2) by using the contraction mapping principle, and we obtain some criteria that ensure the oscillation of bounded solutions of Equation (2) by utilizing the integral inequality technique. Our results extend the research work in this field.

2. Nonoscillatory Solution

When $\eta = 1$, (2) becomes the following.

$$\left[y(x) + \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i) \right]'' + \sum_{j=1}^m q_j(x)G(y(x - \delta_j)) - \sum_{k=1}^n r_k(x)H(y(x - \sigma_k)) = 0, \quad x \geq x_0. \tag{3}$$

When $\eta = -1$, (2) becomes the following.

$$\left[y(x) - \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i) \right]'' + \sum_{j=1}^m q_j(x)G(y(x - \delta_j)) - \sum_{k=1}^n r_k(x)H(y(x - \sigma_k)) = 0, \quad x \geq x_0. \tag{4}$$

In this section, we investigate the existence of the nonoscillatory solution of Equations (3) and (4).

Lemma 1. *Suppose (H2), (H4) and (H5) hold. If $p_i(x)$ satisfies the following:*

$$0 < \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x) \leq p < 1, \tag{5}$$

then (3) has a nonoscillatory solution.

Proof. It is easy to verify that if (H2) holds, then (H3) holds. Let $L = \max\{L_1, L_2\}$, $\alpha_1 = \max\{G(y) : y \in A\}$ and $\alpha_2 = \max\{H(y) : y \in A\}$. According to (H5) and (H4), we have the following:

$$0 < \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} (s - x_0)q_j(s)ds < \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} sq_j(s)ds < \infty \tag{6}$$

and the following is obtained.

$$0 < \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} (s - x_0)r_k(s)ds < \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} sr_k(s)ds < \infty. \tag{7}$$

By (6) and (7), we obtain the following.

$$\lim_{x_0 \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} (s - x_0)q_j(s)ds = 0$$

$$\lim_{x_0 \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_0}^{+\infty} (s - x_0)r_k(s)ds = 0.$$

Thus, we can choose a sufficiently large x such that the following is the case.

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)ds + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)ds < \frac{1 - p}{2L}, \tag{8}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} \alpha_1(s - x)q_j(s)ds < 1 - pM_1 - M_2, \tag{9}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} \alpha_2(s - x)r_k(s)ds < M_1 - 1. \tag{10}$$

Set the following.

$$z(x) := y(x) + \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i), \tag{11}$$

$$w(x) := - \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)G(y(s - \delta_j))ds$$

$$u(x) := \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)H(y(s - \sigma_k))ds. \tag{12}$$

Define a mapping $T : A \rightarrow X$ with the following.

$$(Ty)(x) := 1 - \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i) - \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)G(y(s - \delta_j))ds + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)H(y(s - \sigma_k))ds.$$

Clearly, Ty is continuous. For every $y \in A$ and $x \geq x_1$, from (10), we obtain the following.

$$(Ty)(x) \leq 1 + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)H(y(s - \sigma_k))ds \leq 1 + \alpha_2 \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)ds \leq M_1.$$

From (9), we have the following.

$$(Ty)(x) \geq 1 - pM_1 - \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)G(y(s - \delta_j))ds \geq 1 - pM_1 - \alpha_1 \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)ds \geq M_2.$$

Thus, $TA \subset A$. We claim that T is a contraction mapping on A . Indeed, for any $y_1, y_2 \in A$ and $x \geq x_1$, by (8), we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} |(Ty_1)(x) - (Ty_2)(x)| &\leq |p(y_1(x - \tau_i) - y_2(x - \tau_i))| \\ &+ L_1 \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)|y_1(s - \delta_j) - y_2(s - \delta_j)|ds \\ &+ L_2 \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)|y_1(s - \sigma_k) - y_2(s - \sigma_k)|ds \\ &\leq \|y_1 - y_2\| \left\{ p + L \left(\sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)q_j(s)ds + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)ds \right) \right\} \\ &< \frac{p + 1}{2} \|y_1 - y_2\|. \end{aligned}$$

By taking the sup norm of the above inequality, we have the following.

$$\|Ty_1 - Ty_2\| < \frac{p + 1}{2} \|y_1 - y_2\|.$$

Because of (5), we obtain $\frac{p + 1}{2} < 1$. Refer to a similar proof of ([24], Theorem 2), and we know that T has a fixed point y^* . \square

Lemma 2. *If the assumptions of Lemma 1 are satisfied, then Equation (4) has a nonoscillatory solution.*

Proof. Similarly to the proof of Lemma 1, according to (H4) and (H5), we have (6), and (7) holds. Thus, we choose a sufficiently large x such that (8) the following is the case:

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} \alpha_1(s - x)q_j(s)ds < 1 - M_2, \tag{13}$$

and

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} \alpha_2(s-x)r_k(s)ds < (1-p)M_1 - 1, \tag{14}$$

hold. Similarly, we define the mapping $T_1 : A \rightarrow X$ as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} (T_1y)(x) := & 1 + \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x-\tau_i) - \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)q_j(s)G(y(s-\delta_j))ds \\ & + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)H(y(s-\sigma_k))ds. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously, T_1y is continuous. For any $y \in A$ and $x \geq x_2$, by (14), we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} (T_1y)(x) \leq & 1 + \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x-\tau_i) + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)H(y(s-\sigma_k))ds \\ \leq & 1 + pM_1 + \alpha_2 \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)ds \leq M_1. \end{aligned}$$

By (13), we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} (T_1y)(x) \geq & 1 - \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)q_j(s)G(y(s-\delta_j))ds \\ \geq & 1 - \alpha_1 \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)q_j(s)ds \geq M_2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $T_1A \subset A$. Next, we prove that T_1 is a contraction mapping on A . For any $y_1, y_2 \in A$ and $x \geq x_2$, by (8), we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} |(T_1y_1)(x) - (T_1y_2)(x)| \leq & |p(y_1(x-\tau_i) - y_2(x-\tau_i))| \\ & + L_1 \sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)q_j(s)|(y_1(s-\delta_j) - y_2(s-\delta_j))|ds \\ & + L_2 \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)|(y_1(s-\sigma_k) - y_2(s-\sigma_k))|ds \\ \leq & \|y_1 - y_2\| \left\{ p + L \left(\sum_{j=1}^m \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)q_j(s)ds + \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)ds \right) \right\} \\ < & \frac{p+1}{2} \|y_1 - y_2\|. \end{aligned}$$

Refer to a similar proof of ([24], Theorem 2), we obtain that T_1 has a fixed point y^* . \square

Theorem 1. Suppose (H2), (H4) and (H5) hold. If $p_i(x)$ satisfies (5), then (2) has a nonoscillatory solution.

Proof. According to Lemmas 1 and 2, we obtain (2), which has a nonoscillatory solution. \square

Example 1. Consider the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \left[y(x) + \frac{1}{8}y(x-1) \right]'' - e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{-x} + 2} \right) \frac{y(\frac{x}{2})[y^2(\frac{x}{2}) + 2]}{y^2(\frac{x}{2}) + 1} \\ - \frac{1}{8}e^{-\frac{x-1}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{2}{e^{-x+1} + 3} \right) \frac{y(\frac{x-1}{2})[y^2(\frac{x-1}{2}) + 3]}{y^2(\frac{x-1}{2}) + 1} = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Here, we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} l = 1, p_1(x) &= \frac{1}{8}, \\ q(x) &= 0, \\ n = 2, r_1(x) &= e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{-x} + 2} \right), r_2(x) = \frac{1}{8}e^{-\frac{x-1}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{2}{e^{-x+1} + 3} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to verify that $p_1(x)$ and $q(x)$ satisfy (5) and (H5), respectively, and $r_1(x)$ and $r_2(x)$ satisfy (H4). Therefore, by Theorem 1, $y(x) = e^{-x}$ is a nonoscillatory solution of (15).

Example 2. Consider the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[y(x) - \frac{3}{4}y(x-2) \right]'' + \frac{3}{4}e^{-\frac{x-2}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{2}{e^{-x+2} + 3} \right) \frac{y(\frac{x-2}{2})[y^2(\frac{x-2}{2}) + 3]}{y^2(\frac{x-2}{2}) + 1} \\ - e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{-x} + 2} \right) \frac{y(\frac{x}{2})[y^2(\frac{x}{2}) + 2]}{y^2(\frac{x}{2}) + 1} = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

and we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} l = 1, p_1(x) &= \frac{3}{4}, \\ m = 1, q_1(x) &= \frac{3}{4}e^{-\frac{x-2}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{2}{e^{-x+2} + 3} \right), \\ n = 1, r_1(x) &= e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{-x} + 2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It is easily verified that $p_1(x)$, $q_1(x)$ and $r_1(x)$ satisfy (5), (H5) and (H4), respectively. By Theorem 1, (16) has a nonoscillatory $y(x) = e^{-x}$.

3. Oscillatory Criteria

In this section, the oscillation criteria of (2) will be given, and some examples will be illustrated to demonstrate the results.

Lemma 3. Suppose that (H1), (H3) and (H4) hold and $p_i(x) \in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R}^+)$ is bounded. If the bounded solution $y(x)$ of (3) satisfies $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$, then $y(x)$ is oscillatory.

Proof. Suppose toward a contradiction, there is no loss of generality in assuming that y is an eventually a positive-bounded solution of (3). Thus, there exists $x_1 \geq x_0 + \kappa$ such that $y(x - \kappa) > 0$ for $x \geq x_1$. Furthermore, there exists $K > 0$ such that $y(x) \leq K$ for $x \geq x_1$. From (7), we may choose a sufficiently large $x > x_2 \geq x_1 + \kappa$, such that the following is the case.

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)ds < \frac{1}{2N_2}. \tag{17}$$

Let the following be the case:

$$w(x) = z(x) - u(x), \tag{18}$$

where $z(x)$ and $u(x)$ are defined in (11) and (12), respectively. Then, we have the following.

$$w''(x) = - \sum_{j=1}^m q_j(x)G(y(x - \delta_j)). \tag{19}$$

From (H1) and (H3), we obtain $w''(x) < 0$. Hence, $w'(x) > 0$ or $w'(x) < 0$ for all $x \geq x_3 \geq x_2 + \kappa$, and x_3 is sufficiently large.

If $w'(x) < 0$ for all $x \geq x_3$, then the following is the case.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} w(x) = -\infty. \tag{20}$$

According to (3), (17), (18) and (H3), we obtain the following:

$$w(x) \geq -N_2K \sum_{k=1}^n \int_x^{+\infty} (s - x)r_k(s)ds \geq -\frac{K}{2} > -\infty,$$

which contradicts (20). Thus, $w(x)$ is increasing for all $x \geq x_3$. From (H1), $q_j(x) \geq h_1$, $j = 1, \dots, m$ for all $x \geq x_3$. Integrating (19) from x_3 to $+\infty$, we obtain the following.

$$\infty > w'(x_3) \geq \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{x_3}^{+\infty} q_j(x)G(y(x - \delta_j))dx \geq h_1m_1 \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{x_3}^{+\infty} y(x - \delta_j)dx.$$

Therefore, $y \in L^1([x_3, \infty))$, which contradicts $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$. The proof is complete. \square

Lemma 4. *If the assumptions of Lemma 3 are satisfied and if the bounded solution $y(x)$ of Equation (4) satisfies $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$, then $y(x)$ is oscillatory.*

Proof. Just as in the proof of Lemma 3, assume that y is an eventually positive-bounded solution of (4). Since $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$, $0 < y(x - \kappa) < K$ for $x \geq x_1 \geq x_0 + \kappa$, where $K > 0$.

Define the following.

$$Y(x) = y(x) - \sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x)y(x - \tau_i).$$

$$w_1(x) = Y(x) - u(x). \tag{21}$$

Then, the following is the case.

$$w_1''(x) = Y''(x) - u''(x)$$

$$= - \sum_{j=1}^m q_j(x)G(y(x - \delta_j)) < 0, \quad x \geq x_2 \geq x_1 + \kappa. \tag{22}$$

Hence, $w_1'(x) > 0$ or $w_1'(x) < 0$ for all $x \geq x_3$, where $x_3 \geq x_2 + \kappa$ is sufficiently large. If $w_1'(x) < 0$ for all $x \geq x_3$, we have the following.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} w_1(x) = -\infty. \tag{23}$$

Because $p_i(x)$ is bounded, then we have the following:

$$p_i(x) \leq p_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, l, \quad \sum_{i=1}^l p_i < P \tag{24}$$

where p_i and P are non-negative constants. By means of (17), (21), (24) and (H3), we have the following:

$$w_1(x) \geq - \left[\sum_{i=1}^l p_i(x) + N_2 \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{x_2}^{+\infty} (s-x)r_k(s)ds \right] K \geq - \left(P + \frac{1}{2} \right) K > -\infty,$$

which contradicts (23). Hence, $w_1(x)$ is increasing for all $x \geq x_3$. Following the same method as in Lemma 3, from (H1) and inequality (22), we obtain $y \in L^1([x_3, \infty))$, which contradicts $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 2. Suppose that (H1), (H3) and (H4) hold and $p_i(x) \in C([x_0, \infty), \mathbb{R}^+)$ is bounded. If the bounded solution $y(x)$ of (2) satisfies $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$, then $y(x)$ is oscillatory.

Proof. According to Lemmas 3 and 4, we obtain that if the bounded solution $y(x)$ of (2) satisfies $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \neq 0$, then $y(x)$ is oscillatory. \square

Example 3. Consider the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[y(x) + y\left(x - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right) \right]'' + (e^{-x} + 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sin^2 x + 2} \right) \frac{y(x - 2\pi)[y^2(x - 2\pi) + 2]}{y^2(x - 2\pi) + 1} \\ & + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\cos^2 x + 2} \right) \frac{y\left(x - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)[y^2\left(x - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right) + 2]}{y^2\left(x - \frac{3\pi}{2}\right) + 1} \\ & - e^{-x} \left(1 - \frac{2}{\sin^4 x + 3} \right) \frac{y(x - 2\pi)[y^4(x - 2\pi) + 3]}{y^4(x - 2\pi) + 1} = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Here, we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} l &= 1, p_1(x) = 1, \\ m &= 2, q_1(x) = (e^{-x} + 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sin^2 x + 2} \right), q_2(x) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\cos^2 x + 2} \right), \\ n &= 1, r_1(x) = e^{-x} \left(1 - \frac{2}{\sin^4 x + 3} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to verify that $\frac{1}{2} \leq q_1(x) \leq \frac{4}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2} \leq q_2(x) \leq \frac{2}{3}$ and $\int_{x_0}^{+\infty} (s-x)r_1(s)ds < \infty$. Therefore, according to Theorem 2, we know that every bounded solution of (2) that does not tend to zero is oscillatory. Indeed, $y(x) = \sin x$ is a bounded oscillatory solution of (25).

Example 4. Consider the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[y(x) - \frac{1}{2^3}y(x - \pi) - \frac{1}{2^3}y(x - 2\pi) \right]'' \\ & + (e^{-x} + 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sin^2 x + 2} \right) \frac{y(x - 2\pi)[y^2(x - 2\pi) + 2]}{y^2(x - 2\pi) + 1} \\ & - e^{-x} \left(1 - \frac{2}{\sin^4 x + 3} \right) \frac{y(x - 2\pi)[y^4(x - 2\pi) + 3]}{y^4(x - 2\pi) + 1} = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

We have the following.

$$\begin{aligned} l &= 2, p_1(x) = p_2(x) = \frac{1}{2^3}, \\ m &= 1, q_1(x) = (e^{-x} + 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sin^2 x + 2} \right), \\ n &= 1, r_1(x) = e^{-x} \left(1 - \frac{2}{\sin^4 x + 3} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that $\sum_{i=1}^2 p_i(x) \leq 1$, $\frac{1}{2} \leq q_1(x) \leq \frac{4}{3}$ and $\int_{x_0}^{+\infty} (s-x)r_1(s)ds < \infty$. Therefore, according to Theorem 2, we know that every bounded solution of (2) that does not tend to zero is oscillatory. Indeed, $y(x) = \sin x$ is a bounded oscillatory solution of (26).

4. Remark

Comparing with the results of [24–29,31–33], we increased the number of the positive and negative coefficient terms and the neutral terms of the second-order delay differential equation with positive and negative coefficients from single to multiple and generalized the equation from a linear case to a nonlinear case.

Motivated by the useful work of Lin et al. and Zhang et al. ([24,25]), we provide some new conditions under which Equation (2) has a nonoscillatory solution. More precisely, (c3) is not needed and we replace assumption (c2) with (H4) and (H5).

For the oscillation of Equation (2), we present some assumptions that are different from those in [31], i.e., (B0), (B1) and (B5) are not necessary and we provide assumption (H4) instead of (B4). Compared with the studies of Malojlović et al. ([27,32]), we generalize their work to the nonlinear situation and provide different assumptions. Firstly, we provide condition (H4) instead of the following condition:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{\infty} \int_{s-\delta_i}^{s-\sigma_i} q_i(\xi) d\xi ds < 1$$

in [27] or

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^{\infty} \int_{s-\delta_i}^{s-\sigma_i} q_i(\xi) d\xi ds < p_{j_1}(x)$$

in [32]. Secondly, assumptions (H1) and (H2) in [27] (or (H2) and (H3) in [32]) are not needed, which means that there is no relationship between the positive and negative coefficients.

We obtain not only the oscillation criteria but also the existence of the nonoscillation solution of (2); thus, our results are an extension of theirs.

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