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# Asymptotic Behavior of Solutions of the Third Order Nonlinear Mixed Type Neutral Differential Equations

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**Abstract:** The objective of our paper is to study asymptotic properties of the class of third order neutral differential equations with advanced and delayed arguments. Our results supplement and improve some known results obtained in the literature. An illustrative example is provided.

**Keywords:** oscillation; third order; mixed neutral differential equations

## 1. Introduction

Equations with neutral terms are of particular significance, as they arise in many applications including systems of control, electrodynamics, mixing liquids, neutron transportation, networks and population models; see [1].

Asymptotic properties of solutions of second/third order differential equations have been subject to intensive research in the literature. This problem for differential equations with respective delays has received a great deal of attention in the last years; see for examples, [2–21].

This paper deals with the oscillation and asymptotic behavior of solutions of the class of third-order, nonlinear, mixed-type, neutral differential equations

$$\left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + q_1(t) f_1(x(\sigma_1(t))) + q_2(t) f_2(x(\sigma_2(t))) = 0, \quad (1)$$

where

$$z(t) = x(t) + p_1(t)x(\tau_1(t)) + p_2(t)x(\tau_2(t))$$

and we will assume the following assumptions hold:

(M<sub>1</sub>)  $r \in C([t_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$ ,  $\int_{t_0}^{\infty} r^{-1/\alpha}(s) ds = \infty$  and  $\alpha$  is a ratio of odd positive integers;

(M<sub>2</sub>)  $p_i \in C([t_0, \infty), [0, c_i])$  where  $c_i$  are constants for  $i = 1, 2$  and  $c_1 + c_2 < 1$ ;

(M<sub>3</sub>)  $\tau_i, \sigma_i \in C([t_0, \infty), \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\tau_1(t) < t$ ,  $\sigma_1(t) < t$ ,  $\tau_2(t) > t$ ,  $\sigma_2(t) > t$ ,  $\sigma_i(\tau_i(t)) = \tau_i(\sigma_i(t))$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tau_i(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_i(t) = \infty$  for  $i = 1, 2$ ;

(M<sub>4</sub>)  $q_i \in C([t_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$  for  $i = 1, 2$ ;

(M<sub>5</sub>)  $f_1, f_2 \in C(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}), f_1(x)/x^\beta \geq k_1 > 0$  and  $f_2(x)/x^\gamma \geq k_2$  for  $x \neq 0$  where  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are ratios of odd positive integers.

By a solution of Equation (1), we mean a non-trivial real function  $x \in C([t_x, \infty)), t_x \geq t_0$ , with  $z(t), z'(t)$  and  $r_1(t)(z''(t))^\alpha$  being continuously differentiable for all  $t \in [t_x, \infty)$ , and satisfying (1) on  $[t_x, \infty)$ . A solution of Equation (1) is called oscillatory if it has arbitrary large zeros; otherwise it is called nonoscillatory. Equation (1) is said to be oscillatory if all its solutions are oscillatory.

Han et al. in [22] studied the asymptotic properties of the solutions of equation

$$(r(t)(z''(t)))' + q_1(t)x(\sigma_1(t)) + q_2(t)x(\sigma_2(t)) = 0, \tag{2}$$

where  $z(t) = x(t) + p_1(t)x(\tau_1(t)) + p_2(t)x(\tau_2(t))$ .

Baculikova and Dzurina [5] studied the oscillation of the third-order equation

$$(r(t)(x'(t))^\alpha)'' + q(t)f(x(\tau(t))) + p(t)h(x(\sigma(t))) = 0,$$

where  $\tau(t) \leq t$  and  $\sigma(t) \geq t$ .

Thandapani and Rama [23] established some oscillation theorems for equation

$$(r(t)(z''(t)))' + q_1(t)x^\alpha(\sigma_1(t)) + q_2(t)x^\beta(\sigma_2(t)) = 0,$$

where  $z(t) = x(t) + p_1(t)x(\tau_1(t)) + p_2(t)x(\tau_2(t))$ , and the authors used the Recati technique.

The aim of this paper is to discuss the asymptotic behavior of solutions of a class of third-order, nonlinear, mixed-type, neutral differential equations. We established sufficient conditions to ensure that the solution of Equation (1) is oscillatory or tended to zero. The results of this study basically generalize and improve the previous results. An illustrative example is provided.

## 2. Auxiliary Lemmas

In order to prove our results, we shall need the next auxiliary lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** Assume that  $f(y) = Uy - Vy^{\frac{\eta+1}{\eta}}$ , where  $U$  and  $V$  are constants,  $V > 0$  and  $\eta$  is a quotient of odd positive integers. Then  $f$  imposes its maximum value on  $\mathbb{R}$  at  $y^* = \left(\frac{U\eta}{V(\eta+1)}\right)^\eta$  and

$$\max_{y \in \mathbb{R}} f = f(y^*) = \frac{\eta^\eta}{(\eta+1)^{\eta+1}} U^{\eta+1} V^{-\eta}.$$

**Lemma 2 ([24]).** Assume that  $A \geq 0$  and  $B \geq 0$ . If  $\delta > 1$ , then

$$(A + B)^\delta \leq 2^{\delta-1} (A^\delta + B^\delta)$$

Moreover, if  $0 < \delta < 1$ , then  $(A + B)^\delta \leq (A^\delta + B^\delta)$ .

**Lemma 3 ([17]).** If the function  $y$  satisfies  $y^{(i)} > 0, i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , and  $y^{(n+1)} < 0$ , then

$$\frac{y(t)}{t^n/n!} \geq \frac{y'(t)}{t^{n-1}/(n-1)!}.$$

**Lemma 4** ([23]). Assume that  $u(t) > 0, u'(t) > 0, u''(t) > 0$  and  $u'''(t) < 0$  on  $(T, \infty)$ . Then,

$$\frac{u(t)}{u'(t)} \geq \frac{t-T}{2} \geq \frac{\mu t}{2}$$

for  $t \geq T$  and some  $\mu \in (0, 1)$ .

**Lemma 5.** Let  $x$  be a positive solution of Equation (1). Then  $z$  has only one of the following two properties eventually:

- (i)  $z(t) > 0, z'(t) > 0$  and  $z''(t) > 0$ ;
- (ii)  $z(t) > 0, z'(t) < 0$  and  $z''(t) > 0$ .

**Proof.** The proof is similar to that of Lemma 2.1 of [10] and hence the details are omitted.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** Let  $x$  be a positive solution of Equation (1), and  $z$  has the property (ii). If  $\beta = \gamma$  and

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} \int_v^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{r(u)} \int_u^{\infty} (k_1 q_1(s) + k_2 q_2(s)) ds \right)^{1/\alpha} dudv = \infty, \tag{3}$$

then the solution  $x$  of Equation (1) converges to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Proof.** Let  $x$  be a positive solution of Equation (1). Since  $z$  satisfies the property (ii), we get  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} z(t) = \delta \geq 0$ . Next, we will prove that  $\delta = 0$ . Suppose that  $\delta > 0$ , then we have for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $t$  enough large  $\delta < z(t) < \delta + \varepsilon$ . By choosing  $\varepsilon < \frac{1-c_1-c_2}{c_1+c_2} \delta$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= z(t) - p_1(t) x(\tau_1(t)) - p_2(t) x(\tau_2(t)) \\ &> \delta - (c_1 + c_2) z(\tau_1(t)) \\ &> \delta - (c_1 + c_2) (\delta + \varepsilon) \\ &> L(\delta + \varepsilon) > Lz(t), \end{aligned}$$

where  $L = \frac{\delta - (c_1 + c_2)(\delta + \varepsilon)}{\delta + \varepsilon} > 0$ . Thus, from (1) and (M<sub>5</sub>), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + k_2 q_2(t) x^\beta(\sigma_2(t)) \\ &\geq \left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + L^\beta (k_1 q_1(t) + k_2 q_2(t)) z^\beta(\sigma_2(t)), \end{aligned}$$

and so,

$$\left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' \leq -L^\beta \delta^\beta (k_1 q_1(t) + k_2 q_2(t)).$$

By integrating this inequality two times from  $t$  to  $\infty$ , we get

$$-z'(t) > L^{\beta/\alpha} \delta^{\beta/\alpha} \int_t^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{r(u)} \int_u^{\infty} (k_1 q_1(s) + k_2 q_2(s)) ds \right)^{1/\alpha} du.$$

Integrating the last inequality from  $t_1$  to  $\infty$ , we have

$$z(t_1) > L^{\beta/\alpha} \delta^{\beta/\alpha} \int_{t_1}^{\infty} \int_v^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{r(u)} \int_u^{\infty} (k_1 q_1(s) + k_2 q_2(s)) ds \right)^{1/\alpha} dudv.$$

Thus, we are led to a contradiction with (3). Then,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} z(t) = 0$ ; moreover, the fact that  $x(t) \leq z(t)$  implies  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$ .  $\square$

### 3. Main Results

In this section, we will establish new oscillation criteria for solutions of the Equation (1). For the sake of convenience, we insert the next notation:

$$R_u(t) := \int_u^t \frac{1}{r^{1/\alpha}(s)} ds,$$

$$R_u^*(t) := \min_{t \geq t_0} \{R_u(t), R_u(\tau_1(t))\}$$

and

$$q_i^*(t) := \min_{t \geq t_0} \{q_i(t), q_i(\tau_1(t)), q_i(\tau_2(t))\}, i = 1, 2.$$

**Theorem 1.** Assume that  $(M_1)$ – $(M_5)$  and (3) hold. Let  $\beta = \gamma \geq \alpha, \sigma_1(t) \leq \tau_1(t)$  and  $\sigma_1'(t) > 0$ . If there exists a positive function  $\rho \in C^1([t_0, \infty))$  such that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \left( \Theta_1(s) - \left( 1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(s))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(s))}{(\rho(s) \sigma_1'(s))^\alpha} \right) ds = \infty, \tag{4}$$

where  $\rho'_+(s) = \max\{\rho'(s), 0\}$  and

$$\Theta_1(t) = \frac{\mu^\alpha v^{\beta-\alpha}}{2^{2\beta+\alpha-2}} \rho(t) \sigma_1^\beta(t) (k_1 q_1^*(t) + k_2 q_2^*(t)),$$

then every solution of equation (1) either oscillates or tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Proof.** Let  $x$  be non-oscillatory solution of Equation (1). Without loss of generality, we assume that  $x(t) > 0$ ; then there exists a  $t_1 \geq t_0$  such that  $x(t) > 0, x(\tau_i(t)) > 0$  and  $x(\sigma_i(t)) > 0$  for  $t \geq t_1$  and  $i = 1, 2$ . From Lemma 5, we have that  $z$  has the property (i) or the property (ii). From Lemma 6, if  $z(t)$  has the property (ii), then we obtain  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0$ . Next, let  $z$  have the property (i). Using (1) and  $(M_5)$ , we obtain

$$\left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + k_2 q_2(t) x^\beta(\sigma_2(t)) \leq 0.$$

Thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \geq & \left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + k_2 q_2(t) x^\beta(\sigma_2(t)) \\ & + c_1^\beta \left[ \left( r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha \right)' + k_1 q_1(\tau_1(t)) x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_1(t))) \right. \\ & \left. + k_2 q_2(\tau_1(t)) x^\beta(\sigma_2(\tau_1(t))) \right] + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \left[ \left( r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha \right)' \right. \\ & \left. + k_1 q_1(\tau_2(t)) x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_2(t))) + k_2 q_2(\tau_2(t)) x^\beta(\sigma_2(\tau_2(t))) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

That is

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + c_1^\beta \left( r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha \right)' + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \left( r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha \right)' \\ & + k_1 q_1^*(t) \left( x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + c_1^\beta x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_1(t))) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_2(t))) \right) \\ & + k_2 q_2^*(t) \left( x^\beta(\sigma_2(t)) + c_1^\beta x^\beta(\sigma_2(\tau_1(t))) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} x^\beta(\sigma_2(\tau_2(t))) \right) \leq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

From Lemma 2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z^\beta(t) & \leq (x(t) + c_1(t)x(\tau_1(t)) + c_2(t)x(\tau_2(t)))^\beta \\ & \leq 4^{\beta-1} \left( x^\beta(t) + c_1^\beta x^\beta(\tau_1(t)) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} x^\beta(\tau_2(t)) \right), \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

which with (5) gives

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + c_1^\beta \left( r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha \right)' + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \left( r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha \right)' \\ & + \frac{k_1}{4^{\beta-1}} q_1^*(t) z^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + \frac{k_2}{4^{\beta-1}} q_2^*(t) z^\beta(\sigma_2(t)) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \right)' + c_1^\beta \left( r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha \right)' + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \left( r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha \right)' \\ & + \frac{1}{4^{\beta-1}} (k_1 q_1^*(t) + k_2 q_2^*(t)) z^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) \leq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Now, we define

$$\omega_1(t) = \rho(t) \frac{r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha}.$$

Then  $\omega_1(t) > 0$ . By differentiating, we get

$$\omega_1'(t) = \frac{\rho'(t)}{\rho(t)} \omega_1(t) + \rho(t) \frac{(r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha)'}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} - \alpha \rho(t) \frac{r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^{\alpha+1}} z''(\sigma_1(t)) \sigma_1'(t).$$

Since  $(r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha)' < 0$  and  $\sigma_1(t) < t$ , we obtain

$$r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha \leq r(\sigma_1(t)) (z''(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha,$$

and hence

$$\omega_1'(t) \leq \frac{\rho_+'(t)}{\rho(t)} \omega_1(t) - \alpha \frac{\sigma_1'(t)}{\rho^{1/\alpha}(t) r^{1/\alpha}(\sigma_1(t))} \omega_1^{\frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha}}(t) + \rho(t) \frac{(r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha)'}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha}.$$

Using Lemma 1 with

$$\eta = \alpha, U = \frac{\rho'_+(t)}{\rho(t)}, V = \alpha \frac{\sigma'_1(t)}{\rho^{1/\alpha}(t) r^{1/\alpha}(\sigma_1(t))} \text{ and } y = \omega_1,$$

we obtain

$$\omega'_1(t) \leq \rho(t) \frac{(r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha)' }{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(t))}{(\rho(t) \sigma'_1(t))^\alpha}. \tag{8}$$

Further, we define the function

$$\omega_2(t) = \rho(t) \frac{r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha}.$$

Then  $\omega_2(t) > 0$ . By differentiating  $\omega_2$  and using  $\sigma_1(t) \leq \tau_1(t)$ , we find

$$\omega'_2(t) \leq \frac{\rho'(t)}{\rho(t)} \omega_2(t) + \rho(t) \frac{(r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha)' }{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} - \alpha \frac{\sigma'_1(t)}{\rho^{1/\alpha}(t) r^{1/\alpha}(\sigma_1(t))} \omega_2^{\frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha}}(t).$$

Using Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\omega'_2(t) \leq \rho(t) \frac{(r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha)' }{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(t))}{(\rho(t) \sigma'_1(t))^\alpha}. \tag{9}$$

Next, we define another function

$$\omega_3(t) = \rho(t) \frac{r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha}.$$

Thus  $\omega_3(t) > 0$ . By differentiating, and similar to (9) we have

$$\omega'_3(t) \leq \rho(t) \frac{(r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha)' }{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(t))}{(\rho(t) \sigma'_1(t))^\alpha}. \tag{10}$$

From (8)–(10), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \omega'_1(t) + c_1^\beta \omega'_2(t) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \omega'_3(t) &\leq \frac{\rho(t)}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} \left( (r(t) (z''(t))^\alpha)' + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + c_1^\beta (r(\tau_1(t)) (z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha)' + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} (r(\tau_2(t)) (z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha)' \right) \\ &\quad + \left( 1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(t))}{(\rho(t) \sigma'_1(t))^\alpha}, \end{aligned}$$

which with (7) gives

$$\begin{aligned} \omega'_1(t) + c_1^\beta \omega'_2(t) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \omega'_3(t) &\leq -\frac{\rho(t)}{4^{\beta-1}} (k_1 q_1^*(t) + k_2 q_2^*(t)) \frac{z^\beta(\sigma_1(t))}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} \\ &\quad + \left( 1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(t))}{(\rho(t) \sigma'_1(t))^\alpha}. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Using Lemma 4, we have, for some  $\mu \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$\frac{z(\sigma_1(t))}{z'(\sigma_1(t))} \geq \frac{\mu}{2} \sigma_1(t).$$

From property (i), we get

$$\begin{aligned} z(t) &= z(t_1) + \int_{t_1}^t z'(s) ds \\ &\geq (t - t_1) z'(t_1) \geq \frac{v}{2} t, \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

for some  $v > 0$  and for  $t$  enough large. Therefore, for some  $\mu \in (0, 1)$  and  $v > 0$ , we find

$$\frac{z^\beta(\sigma_1(t))}{(z'(\sigma_1(t)))^\alpha} \geq \frac{\mu^\alpha v^{\beta-\alpha}}{2^\alpha} \sigma_1^\beta(t).$$

Combining the last inequality with (11), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \omega'_1(t) + c_1^\beta \omega'_2(t) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \omega'_3(t) &\leq -\Theta(t) \\ &+ \left(1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}}\right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(t))}{(\rho(t) \sigma'_1(t))^\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Integrating the above inequality from  $t_1$  to  $t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_1}^t \left( \Theta(s) - \left(1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}}\right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(s))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(s))}{(\rho(s) \sigma'_1(s))^\alpha} \right) ds \\ \leq \omega_1(t_1) + c_1^\beta \omega_2(t_1) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \omega_3(t_1). \end{aligned}$$

Taking the superior limit as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , we get a contradiction with (4). The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** In the Theorem 1, if  $\sigma_1(t) \geq \tau_1(t)$  and  $\tau'_1(t) > 0$ , then the assumption (4) is replaced by

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \left( \Theta_1(s) - \left(1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}}\right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(s))^{\alpha+1} r(\tau_1(s))}{(\rho(s) \tau'_1(s))^\alpha} \right) ds = \infty.$$

**Theorem 2.** Assume that  $(M_1)$ – $(M_5)$  and (3) hold. Let  $\beta = \gamma \geq \alpha$  and  $r'(t) > 0$ . If there exists a positive function  $\rho \in C^1([t_0, \infty))$  such that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \left( \Theta_2(s) - \left(1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}}\right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1}}{(\rho(t) R_{t_0}^*(t))^\alpha} \right) ds = \infty, \tag{13}$$

where

$$\Theta_2(t) = \frac{v^{\beta-\alpha}}{2^{3\beta-\alpha-2} t^{2\alpha}} \rho(t) \sigma_1^{\beta+\alpha}(t) (k_1 q_1^*(t) + k_2 q_2^*(t)),$$

then every solution of Equation (1) either oscillates or tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Proof.** Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 1, we have that (7) holds. Since  $(r(t)(z''(t))^\alpha)' < 0$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z'(t) &= z'(t_1) + \int_{t_1}^t \frac{[r(s)(z''(s))^\alpha]^{1/\alpha}}{r^{1/\alpha}(s)} ds \\ &\geq [r(t)(z''(t))^\alpha]^{1/\alpha} R_{t_1}(t). \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Now, we define

$$\omega_1(t) = \rho(t) \frac{r(t)(z''(t))^\alpha}{z^\alpha(t)}.$$

Then  $\omega_1(t) > 0$ . By differentiating  $\omega_1$  and using (14), we get

$$\omega_1'(t) \leq \frac{\rho_+'(t)}{\rho(t)} \omega_1(t) - \alpha \frac{R_{t_1}(t)}{\rho^{1/\alpha}(t)} \omega_1^{\frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha}}(t) + \rho(t) \frac{(r(t)(z''(t))^\alpha)'}{z^\alpha(t)}.$$

Using Lemma 1 with  $\eta = \alpha$ ,  $U = \frac{\rho_+'(t)}{\rho(t)}$ ,  $V = \alpha \frac{R_{t_1}(t)}{\rho^{1/\alpha}(t)}$  and  $y = \omega_1$ , we obtain

$$\omega_1'(t) \leq \rho(t) \frac{(r(t)(z''(t))^\alpha)'}{z^\alpha(t)} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho_+'(t))^{\alpha+1}}{(\rho(t) R_{t_1}(t))^\alpha}. \tag{15}$$

Next, we define a function

$$\omega_2(t) = \rho(t) \frac{r(\tau_1(t))(z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha}{z^\alpha(t)}. \tag{16}$$

Then  $\omega_2(t) > 0$ . Since  $z''(t) > 0$  and  $\tau_1(t) < t$ , we obtain  $z'(t) > z'(\tau_1(t))$ . Hence, from (14), we find

$$z'(t) > [r(\tau_1(t))(z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha]^{1/\alpha} R_{t_1}(\tau_1(t)). \tag{17}$$

for  $t \geq t_2 \geq t_1$ . By differentiating (16) and using (17), we get

$$\omega_2'(t) \leq \frac{\rho_+'(t)}{\rho(t)} \omega_2(t) - \alpha \frac{R_{t_1}(\tau_1(t))}{\rho^{1/\alpha}(t)} \omega_2^{\frac{\alpha+1}{\alpha}}(t) + \rho(t) \frac{(r(\tau_1(t))(z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha)'}{z^\alpha(t)}.$$

By using Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\omega_2'(t) \leq \rho(t) \frac{(r(\tau_1(t))(z''(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha)'}{z^\alpha(t)} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho_+'(t))^{\alpha+1}}{(\rho(t) R_{t_1}(\tau_1(t)))^\alpha}. \tag{18}$$

Additionally, we define another function

$$\omega_3(t) = \rho(t) \frac{r(\tau_2(t))(z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha}{z^\alpha(t)}. \tag{19}$$

Thus  $\omega_3(t) > 0$ . Using  $(r(t)(z''(t))^\alpha)' < 0$ ,  $\tau_2(t) > t$  and (14), we note that

$$z'(t) > [r(\tau_2(t))(z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha]^{1/\alpha} R_{t_1}(t). \tag{20}$$

By differentiating (19) and using (20) and Lemma 1, we get

$$\omega'_3(t) \leq \rho(t) \frac{(r(\tau_2(t))(z''(\tau_2(t)))^\alpha)'}{z^\alpha(t)} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1}}{(\rho(t) R_{t_1}(t))^\alpha}. \tag{21}$$

From (7), (15), (18) and (21), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \omega'_1(t) + c_1^\beta \omega'_2(t) + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \omega'_3(t) &\leq -\frac{\rho(t)}{4^{\beta-1}} (k_1 q_1^*(t) + k_2 q_2^*(t)) \frac{z^\beta(\sigma_1(t))}{z^\alpha(t)} \\ &+ \left(1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}}\right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(t))^{\alpha+1}}{(\rho(t) R_{t_1}^*(t))^\alpha}. \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Using (12) and Lemma 6, we have

$$\frac{z^\beta(\sigma_1(t))}{z^\alpha(t)} \geq \frac{v^{\beta-\alpha}}{2^{\beta-\alpha} t^{2\alpha}} \sigma_1^{\beta+\alpha}(t).$$

As in the proof of Theorem 1, we are led to a contradiction with (13). This completes the proof.  $\square$

In the following Theorems, we are concerned with the oscillation of solutions of Equation (1) when  $\alpha = 1$  and  $r(t) = 1$ .

**Theorem 3.** Assume that (M<sub>1</sub>)-(M<sub>5</sub>) and (3) hold. Let  $0 < \beta < 1 < \gamma$  and  $\tau_i^{-1}$  exists for  $i = 1, 2$ . If the inequalities

$$y'''(t) + \left(\frac{k_1}{\lambda_1}\right)^{\lambda_1} \left(\frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1} \lambda_2}\right)^{\lambda_2} \frac{(q_1^*(t))^{\lambda_1} (q_2^*(t))^{\lambda_2}}{(1 + c_1^\beta + c_2^\beta)} y(\tau_i^{-1}(\sigma_j(t))) \leq 0, \tag{23}$$

where  $i, j = 1, 2, i \neq j$ ,  $\lambda_1 = \frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma-\beta}$  and  $\lambda_2 = \frac{1-\beta}{\gamma-\beta}$ , have oscillatory solutions, then every solution of Equation (1) is oscillatory.

**Proof.** Let  $x$  non-oscillatory solution of Equation (1). Without loss of generality we assume that  $x > 0$ ; then, there exists a  $t_1 \geq t_0$  such that  $x(t) > 0$ ,  $x(\tau_i(t)) > 0$  and  $x(\sigma_i(t)) > 0$  for  $t \geq t_1$  and  $i = 1, 2$ . By Lemma 6, we get that  $z(t) > 0$ ,  $z''(t) > 0$  and  $z'''(t) < 0$ . Now, we define a function

$$y(t) = z(t) + c_1^\beta z(\tau_1(t)) + c_2^\beta z(\tau_2(t)). \tag{24}$$

Thus  $y(t) > 0$  and  $y''(t) > 0$ . From (1) and (M<sub>5</sub>), we obtain

$$z'''(t) \leq -k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) - k_2 q_2(t) x^\gamma(\sigma_2(t)). \tag{25}$$

Combining (24) with (25), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'''(t) &= z'''(t) + c_1^\beta z'''(\tau_1(t)) + c_2^\beta z'''(\tau_2(t)) \\
 &\leq -k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) - k_2 q_2(t) x^\gamma(\sigma_2(t)) \\
 &\quad - c_1^\beta \left( -k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_1(t))) - k_2 q_2(t) x^\gamma(\sigma_2(\tau_1(t))) \right) \\
 &\quad - c_2^\beta \left( -k_1 q_1(t) x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_2(t))) - k_2 q_2(t) x^\gamma(\sigma_2(\tau_2(t))) \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

and so,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'''(t) &\leq -k_1 q_1^*(t) \left( x^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + c_1^\beta x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_1(t))) + c_2^\beta x^\beta(\sigma_1(\tau_2(t))) \right) \\
 &\quad - k_2 q_2^*(t) \left( x^\gamma(\sigma_2(t)) + c_1^\beta x^\gamma(\sigma_2(\tau_1(t))) + c_2^\beta x^\gamma(\sigma_2(\tau_2(t))) \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 2, since  $c_1 + c_2 < 1$  and  $\beta < 1 < \gamma$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &y'''(t) + k_1 q_1^*(t) z^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) \\
 &\quad + k_2 q_2^*(t) \left( x^\gamma(\sigma_2(t)) + c_1^\gamma x^\gamma(\sigma_2(\tau_1(t))) + \frac{c_2^\gamma}{2^{\gamma-1}} x^\gamma(\sigma_2(\tau_2(t))) \right) \leq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

This implies

$$y'''(t) + k_1 q_1^*(t) z^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + \frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1}} q_2^*(t) z^\gamma(\sigma_2(t)) \leq 0. \tag{26}$$

Using Lemma 6, we have two cases for  $z'(t)$ . If  $z'(t) > 0$ , we find

$$y'''(t) + k_1 q_1^*(t) z^\beta(\sigma_1(t)) + \frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1}} q_2^*(t) z^\gamma(\sigma_1(t)) \leq 0. \tag{27}$$

Using arithmetic-geometric mean inequality with  $u_1 = \frac{k_1}{\lambda_1} q_1^*(t) z^\beta(\sigma_1(t))$  and  $u_2 = \frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1} \lambda_2} q_2^*(t) z^\gamma(\sigma_1(t))$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_1 u_1 + \lambda_2 u_2 &\geq u_1^{\lambda_1} u_2^{\lambda_2} \\
 &= \left( \frac{k_1}{\lambda_1} \right)^{\lambda_1} \left( \frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1} \lambda_2} \right)^{\lambda_2} (q_1^*(t))^{\lambda_1} (q_2^*(t))^{\lambda_2} z(\sigma_1(t)).
 \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Since  $\tau_1(t) < t < \tau_2(t)$ , we note that

$$y(t) \leq \left( 1 + c_1^\beta + c_2^\beta \right) z(\tau_2(t)).$$

Hence, from (28), (27) becomes

$$y'''(t) + \left( \frac{k_1}{\lambda_1} \right)^{\lambda_1} \left( \frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1} \lambda_2} \right)^{\lambda_2} \frac{(q_1^*(t))^{\lambda_1} (q_2^*(t))^{\lambda_2}}{(1 + c_1^\beta + c_2^\beta)} y(\tau_2^{-1}(\sigma_1(t))) \leq 0. \tag{29}$$

Then, the condition (23) implies (29) has oscillatory solution, which contradicts  $y(t) > 0$ .

Let  $z'(t) < 0$ . As in the previous case, we get

$$y'''(t) + \left(\frac{k_1}{\lambda_1}\right)^{\lambda_1} \left(\frac{k_2}{4^{\gamma-1}\lambda_2}\right)^{\lambda_2} \frac{(q_1^*(t))^{\lambda_1} (q_2^*(t))^{\lambda_2}}{(1 + c_1^\beta + c_2^\beta)} y(\tau_1^{-1}(\sigma_2(t))) \leq 0. \tag{30}$$

Hence, the condition (23) implies (30) has oscillatory solution, which contradicts  $y(t) > 0$ . This contradiction completes the proof.  $\square$

**Remark 2.** There are numerous results concerning the oscillation of the equation

$$y'''(t) + q(t)y(\sigma(t)) = 0,$$

(see [2,18,20,21]), which include Hille and Nehari types, Philos type, etc.

Assume that

$$\tau_i(t) = t + (-1)^i \tilde{\tau}_i, \sigma_i(t) = t - (-1)^i \tilde{\sigma}_i, \tag{31}$$

where  $\tilde{\tau}_i, \tilde{\sigma}_i$  are positive constants for  $i = 1, 2$ . It is well known (see [9]) that the differential inequalities (29) and (30) are oscillatory if

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t - (\tilde{\tau}_2 + \tilde{\sigma}_1)/3}^t (\tilde{\tau}_2 + \tilde{\sigma}_1)^2 (q_1^*(t))^{\lambda_1} (q_2^*(t))^{\lambda_2} > \frac{9}{2e} \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{k_1}\right)^{\lambda_1} \left(\frac{4^{\gamma-1}\lambda_2}{k_2}\right)^{\lambda_2} \tag{32}$$

and

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_t^{t + \tilde{\tau}_1 + \tilde{\sigma}_2} (s - t)^2 (q_1^*(t))^{\lambda_1} (q_2^*(t))^{\lambda_2} > 2 \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{k_1}\right)^{\lambda_1} \left(\frac{4^{\gamma-1}\lambda_2}{k_2}\right)^{\lambda_2}, \tag{33}$$

respectively. Hence, we conclude the following theorem:

**Theorem 4.** Assume that  $0 < \beta < 1 < \gamma$  and (31) hold. If (32) and (33) hold, then every solution of Equation (1) is oscillatory.

**Remark 3.** In the case where  $\alpha = 1, r(t) = 1$  and  $p_i(t) = 0$ , Equation (1) becomes

$$x'''(t) + q_1(t)f_1(x(\sigma_1(t))) + q_2(t)f_2(x(\sigma_2(t))) = 0. \tag{34}$$

Baculikova and Dzurina [5] proved that every nonoscillatory solution  $x$  of (34) satisfies  $x' < 0$ . Thus, Theorems 3 and 4 improve the results in [5].

**Remark 4.** A manner similar to the Theorem 3, we can study the oscillation of solutions of Equation (1) when  $0 < \gamma < 1 < \beta$ .

**Remark 5.** If  $\alpha = 1, f_1(x) = x^\beta, f_2(x) = x^\gamma, \tau_1(t) = t - \tilde{\tau}_1, \sigma_1(t) = t - \tilde{\sigma}_1, \tau_2(t) = t + \tilde{\tau}_2, \sigma_2(t) = t + \tilde{\sigma}_2$  and  $\tilde{\tau}_i, \tilde{\sigma}_i$  are positive constants, then Theorem 1 extends Theorem 2.5 and 2.7 in [23].

**Remark 6.** The results of Theorem 3 can be extended to the third-order differential equation

$$((z(t))^\alpha)''' + q_1(t)f_1(x(\sigma_1(t))) + q_2(t)f_2(x(\sigma_2(t))) = 0;$$

the details are left to the reader.

**Example 1.** Consider the equation

$$\left(x + \frac{1}{3}x\left(\frac{1}{3}t\right) + \frac{1}{3}x(2t)\right)''' + \frac{q_0}{t^3}x\left(\frac{1}{2}t\right) + \frac{q_1}{t^3}x(2t) = 0, \tag{35}$$

where  $q_0 > 0$ . We note that  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 1$ ,  $r(t) = 1$ ,  $p_1(t) = p_2(t) = 1/3$ ,  $\tau_1(t) = 1/3t$ ,  $\sigma_1(t) = 1/2t$ ,  $\tau_2(t) = \sigma_2(t) = 2/t$  and  $q^*(t) = q_0/t^3$ . Hence, it is easy to see that

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r^{1/\alpha}(s)} ds = \infty.$$

Now, if we set  $\rho(s) := t$  and  $k_1 = k_2 = 1$ , then we have

$$\Theta_1(t) = \frac{q_0}{2s}.$$

Thus, we find

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \left( \Theta_1(s) - \left( 1 + c_1^\beta + \frac{c_2^\beta}{2^{\beta-1}} \right) \frac{1}{(\alpha + 1)^{\alpha+1}} \frac{(\rho'_+(s))^{\alpha+1} r(\sigma_1(s))}{(\rho(s)\sigma'_1(s))^\alpha} \right) ds \\ &= \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{q_0}{2s} - \frac{5}{6s} \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the conditions become

$$q_0 > 1.66.$$

Thus, by using Theorem 1, Equation (35) is either oscillatory if  $q_0 > 1.66$  or tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

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