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Oscillation of solutions of some generalized nonlinear α -difference equations

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Abstract

In this paper, the authors discuss the oscillation of solutions of some generalized nonlinear α -difference equation

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)) + q(k)f(u(k - \tau(k))) = 0, \quad (1)$$

$k \in [a, \infty)$, where the functions p, q, f and τ are defined in their domain of definition and $\alpha > 1, \ell$ is a positive real. Further, $uf(u) > 0$ for $u \neq 0, p(k) > 0$ and

$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (k - \tau(k)) = \infty$, where $R_k = \sum_{i=0}^{[k-\ell]} \frac{1}{\alpha^i p(i\ell)} \rightarrow \infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $u(k)$ is defined for $k \geq \min_{i \geq 0} (i - \tau(i))$ for all $k \in [a, \infty)$ for some $a \in [0, \infty)$.

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1 Introduction

The basic theory of difference equations is based on the operator Δ defined as $\Delta u(k) = u(k + 1) - u(k), k \in \mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$. Even though many authors [1–4] have suggested the definition of Δ as

$$\Delta u(k) = u(k + \ell) - u(k), \quad k \in \mathbb{R}, \ell \in \mathbb{R} - \{0\}, \quad (2)$$

there was no significant progress in this area. But recently, [5] considered the definition of Δ as given in (2) and developed the theory of difference equations in a different direction. For convenience, the operator Δ defined by (2) is labeled as Δ_ℓ , and by defining its inverse Δ_ℓ^{-1} , many interesting results and applications in number theory (see [5–7]) were obtained. By extending the study related to the sequences of complex numbers and ℓ being real, some new qualitative properties of the solutions like rotatory, expanding, shrinking, spiral and weblike were obtained for difference equation involving Δ_ℓ . The results obtained using Δ_ℓ can be found in [5–7]. Popena and Szmanda [8, 9] defined Δ as

$$\Delta_\alpha u(k) = u(k + 1) - \alpha u(k), \quad (3)$$

and based on this definition, they studied the qualitative properties of a particular difference equation, and no one else has handled this operator. Recently Manuel *et al.* [6, 10]

considered the definition of Δ_ℓ as given in (3), and by defining its inverse, some interesting results on number theory were obtained.

In [11], Szafranski and Szmada obtained sufficient conditions for the oscillation of a similar difference equation involving Δ . In this paper the theory is extended from Δ to $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}$ for all real $k \in [a, \infty)$, and we discuss the oscillatory behavior of solutions of generalized nonlinear α -difference equation (1).

Throughout this paper, we make use of the following assumptions.

- (a) $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, $\mathbb{N}(a) = \{a, a + 1, a + 2, \dots\}$;
- (b) $\mathbb{N}_\ell(a) = \{a, a + \ell, a + 2\ell, \dots\}$;
- (c) $\lceil x \rceil$ and $[x]$ denote upper integer and integer part of x , respectively;
- (d) $j = k - k_i - \lceil \frac{k-k_i}{\ell} \rceil \ell$, $k_i \in [0, \infty)$.

2 Preliminaries

In this section, we present some preliminaries which will be useful for future discussion.

Definition 2.1 [12] The inverse of the generalized α -difference operator denoted by $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}^{-1}$ on $u(k)$ is defined as follows. If $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} v(k) = u(k)$, then

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}^{-1} u(k) = v(k) - \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k}{\ell} \rceil} v(j), \tag{4}$$

where $k \in \mathbb{N}_\ell(j)$, $j = k - \lceil \frac{k}{\ell} \rceil \ell$.

Lemma 2.2 [13] *If the real-valued function $u(k)$ is defined for all $k \in [a, \infty)$ and $\alpha > 1$, then*

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}^{-1} u(k) = \sum_{r=0}^{\lceil \frac{k-a-j-\ell}{\ell} \rceil} \frac{u(a+j+r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{a+j+\ell-k+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} + \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-a}{\ell} \rceil} u(a+j) \tag{5}$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{N}_\ell(j)$, $j = k - a - \lceil \frac{k-a}{\ell} \rceil \ell$.

Definition 2.3 [7] The solution $u(k)$ of (1) is called oscillatory if for any $k_1 \in [a, \infty)$ there exists $k_2 \in \mathbb{N}_\ell(k_1)$ such that $u(k_2)u(k_2 + \ell) \leq 0$. The difference equation itself is called oscillatory if all its solutions are oscillatory. If the solution $u(k)$ is not oscillatory, then it is said to be nonoscillatory (i.e., $u(k)u(k + \ell) > 0$ for all $k \in [k_1, \infty)$).

3 Main results

In this section we present conditions for the oscillation of equation (1).

Theorem 3.1 *Assume that*

- (i) $q(k) \geq 0$ and $\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \alpha^r q(r\ell) = \infty$,
- (ii) $\liminf_{|u(k)| \rightarrow \infty} |f(u(k))| > 0$.

Then every solution of Equation (1) is oscillatory.

Proof Assume that Equation (1) has a nonoscillatory solution $u(k)$, and we assume that $u(k)$ is eventually positive. Then there is a positive integer k_1 such that

$$u(k - \tau(k)) > 0 \quad \text{for } k \geq k_1. \tag{6}$$

From Equation (1) we have

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)) = -q(k)f(u(k - \tau(k))), \quad k \geq k_1,$$

and so $p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)$ is eventually nonincreasing. We first show that

$$p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) \geq 0 \quad \text{for } k \geq k_1.$$

In fact, if there is $k_2 \geq k_1$ such that $p(k_2)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k_2) = c < 0$ and $p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) \leq c$ for $k \geq k_2$, that is,

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) \leq \frac{c}{p(k)},$$

hence by Lemma 2.2,

$$u(k) = \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_2}{\ell} \rceil} u(k_2 + j) + c \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_2-\ell-j}{\ell}} \frac{1}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_2+j+\ell-k+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil} p(k_2 + j + \ell + r\ell)} \rightarrow -\infty$$

as $k \rightarrow \infty$,

which contradicts the fact that $u(k) > 0$ for $k \geq k_2$. Hence, $p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) \geq 0$ for $k \geq k_1$. Therefore we obtain

$$u(k - \tau(k)) > 0, \quad \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) \geq 0, \quad \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)) \leq 0 \quad \text{for } k \geq k_2.$$

Let $L = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u(k)$.

Then $L > 0$ is finite or infinite.

Case 1. $L > 0$ is finite.

From the function $f(k)$ defined in its domain of definition, we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(u(k - \tau(k))) = f(L) > 0.$$

Thus, we may choose a positive integer $k_4 (\geq k_1)$ such that

$$f(u(k - \tau(k))) > \frac{1}{2}f(L), \quad k \geq k_4. \tag{7}$$

By substituting (7) in Equation (1) we obtain

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)) + \frac{1}{2}f(L)q(k) \leq 0, \quad k \geq k_4. \tag{8}$$

By Lemma 2.2, we obtain

$$p(k + \ell)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k + \ell) - \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_4}{\ell} \rceil} p(k_4 + j)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k_4 + j) + \frac{1}{2}f(L) \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-\ell-j}{\ell}} \frac{p(k_4 + j + r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_4+j+\ell-k+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} \leq 0,$$

and so

$$\frac{1}{2}f(L) \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-\ell-j}{\ell}} \frac{p(k_4+j+r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_4+j+\ell-k+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} \leq \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_4}{\ell} \rceil} p(k_4+j) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k_4+j), \quad k \geq k_4,$$

which contradicts (i).

Case 2. $L = \infty$. For this case, from condition (ii) we have

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(u(k - \tau(k))) > 0,$$

and so we may choose a positive constant c and a positive integer k_5 sufficiently large such that

$$f(u(k - \tau(k))) \geq c \quad \text{for } k \geq k_5. \tag{9}$$

Substituting (9) into Equation (1) we have

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k)) + cq(k) \leq 0, \quad k \leq k_5.$$

Using a similar argument as in Case 1, we obtain a contradiction to condition (i). This completes the proof. \square

Example 3.2 For the generalized α -difference equation

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} \left(\frac{1}{k} \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k) \right) = \left(\frac{4k^2 + 6k\ell + \ell^2}{(k + \ell)_\ell^{(2)}} \right) (-\alpha)^{\lceil \frac{k+2\ell}{\ell} \rceil},$$

all the conditions of Theorem 3.1 hold and hence all the solutions are oscillatory. In fact $u(k) = (-\alpha)^{\lceil \frac{k}{\ell} \rceil} k$ is one such solution.

Theorem 3.3 Assume that

$$(iii) \quad q(k) \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \alpha^r R(r\ell)q(r\ell) = \infty.$$

Then every bounded solution of (1) is oscillatory.

Proof Proceeding as in the proof of Theorem 3.1, with the assumption that $u(k)$ is a bounded nonoscillatory solution of (1), we get inequality (8), and so we obtain

$$R(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k)) + \frac{1}{2}f(L)R(k)q(k) \leq 0, \quad k \geq k_4. \tag{10}$$

It is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} &R(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k)) \\ &\geq \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(R(k)p(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k)) - \alpha p(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k) \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} R(k). \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Using (10) in (11), (11) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} & R(k)p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) - \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_2}{\ell} \rceil} R(k_2 + j)p(k_2 + j)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k_2 + j) \\ & - \alpha \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-j-\ell}{\ell}} \frac{p(k_2 + j + r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_2-k+j+\ell+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k_2 + j + r\ell)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}R(k_2 + j + r\ell) \\ & + \frac{1}{2}f(L) \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-j-\ell}{\ell}} \frac{R(k_2 + j + r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_2-k+j+\ell+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} q(k_2 + j + r\ell) \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2}f(L) \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-j-\ell}{\ell}} \frac{R(k_2 + j + r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_2-k+j+\ell+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} q(k_2 + j + r\ell) \\ & \leq u(k + \ell) + \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_4}{\ell} \rceil} R(k_4 + j)p(k_4 + j)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k_4 + j + r\ell) - \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_4}{\ell} \rceil} u(k_4 + j), \quad k \geq k_4. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, there exists a constant c such that

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-j-\ell}{\ell}} \frac{R(k_4 + j + r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_2-k+j+\ell+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}} q(k_4 + j + r\ell) \leq c \quad \text{for all } k \geq k_4,$$

which is a contradiction to condition (iii) which completes the proof. \square

Example 3.4 For the generalized α -difference equation

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(k\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)) = \left(\frac{(\alpha 2^\ell + 1)(\alpha k + k + \ell)}{2^{k+2\ell}} \right) (-1)^{\lceil \frac{k+2\ell}{\ell} \rceil},$$

all the conditions of Theorem 3.3 hold and hence all the solutions are oscillatory. In fact $u(k) = \frac{(-1)^{\lceil \frac{k}{\ell} \rceil}}{2^k}$ is one such solution.

Theorem 3.5 Assume that

- (iv) $(k - \tau(k))$ is nondecreasing, where $\tau(k) \in [0, \infty)$,
- (v) there exists $p(k_n)$ such that $p(k_n) \leq 1$ for $k_n \in [0, \infty)$,
- (vi) $\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \alpha^r q(r\ell) = \infty$,
- (vii) f is nondecreasing and there is a nonnegative constant M such that

$$\limsup_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{s}{f(s)} = M. \tag{12}$$

Then the difference $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)$ of every solution $u(k)$ of Equation (1) oscillates.

Proof If not, then Equation (1) has a solution $u(k)$ such that its difference $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)$ is nonoscillatory. Assume first that the sequence $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)$ is eventually negative. Then there is a positive integer k_1 such that

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) < 0, \quad k > k_1,$$

and so $u(k)$ is decreasing for $k \geq k_1$, which implies that $u(k)$ is also nonoscillatory. Set

$$w(k) = \frac{p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)}{f(u(k-\tau(k))), k \geq k_2 \geq k_1. \tag{13}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}w(k) &= \frac{p(k+\ell)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k+\ell)}{f(u(k+\ell-\tau(k+\ell)))} - \alpha \frac{p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)}{f(u(k-\tau(k)))} = \frac{\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k))}{f(u(k-\tau(k)))} \\ &\quad + p(k+\ell)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k+\ell) \frac{f(u(k-\tau(k))) - f(u(k+\ell-\tau(k+\ell)))}{f(u(k+\ell-\tau(k+\ell)))f(u(k-\tau(k)))} \\ &\leq \frac{\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}(p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k))}{f(u(k-\tau(k)))} = -q(k), \quad k \geq k_2. \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

By Lemma 2.2, we have

$$w(k+\ell) - \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_2}{\ell} \rceil} w(k_2+j) \leq - \sum_{r=0}^{k-k_2-j} \frac{q(k_2+j+r\ell)}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_2+j-k+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil}},$$

and by (vi) we get

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} w(k) = -\infty, \tag{15}$$

which implies that eventually

$$f(u(k-\tau(k))) > 0 \text{ and therefore } k-\tau(k) > 0. \tag{16}$$

By (15), we can choose $k_3 (\geq k_2)$ such that

$$w(k) \leq -(M+\ell), \quad k \geq k_3.$$

That is,

$$p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) + (M+\ell)f(u(k-\tau(k))) \leq 0, \quad k \geq k_3. \tag{17}$$

Set $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u(k) = L$. Then $L \geq 0$. Now we prove that $L = 0$. If $L > 0$, then we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(u(k-\tau(k))) = f(L) > 0$$

since $f(k)$ is defined in its domain of definition. Choosing k_4 sufficiently large such that

$$f(u(k-\tau(k))) > \frac{1}{2}f(L), \quad k \geq k_4, \tag{18}$$

and substituting (19) into (17), we obtain

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) + \frac{1}{2p(k)}(M+\ell)f(L) \leq 0, \quad k \geq k_4. \tag{19}$$

From Lemma 2.2, we have

$$u(k + \ell) - \alpha^{\lceil \frac{k-k_4}{\ell} \rceil} u(k_4 + j) + \frac{1}{2}(M + \ell)f(L) \sum_{r=0}^{\frac{k-k_4-\ell-j}{\ell}} \frac{1}{\alpha^{\lceil \frac{k_4-k+j+r\ell}{\ell} \rceil} p(k_4 - k + j + r\ell)} \leq 0,$$

which implies that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u(k) = -\infty$.

This contradicts (16). Hence $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u(k) = 0$.

By the assumptions we have

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u(k - \tau(k))}{f(u(k - \tau(k)))} \leq M.$$

From this we can choose k_4 such that

$$\frac{u(k - \tau(k))}{f(u(k - \tau(k)))} < M + \ell, \quad k \geq k_5.$$

That is, $u(k - \tau(k)) < (M + \ell)f(u(k - \tau(k)))$, $k \geq k_5$, and so from (17) we get

$$p(k)\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k) + u(k - \tau(k)) < 0, \quad k \geq k_5.$$

In particular, for a function $p(k_n)$ satisfying condition (v), we have

$$u(k_n + \ell) - \alpha u(k_n) + x_{k_n} - \tau(k_n) \leq p(k_n)(u(k_n + \ell) - \alpha u(k_n)) + u(k_n - \tau(k_n)) < 0$$

for k sufficiently large, which implies that

$$0 < u(k_n + \ell) + (u(k_n - \tau(k_n)) - \alpha u(k_n)) < 0$$

for all large k . This is a contradiction. The case that $\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)}u(k)$ is eventually positive can be treated in a similar fashion and this completes the proof of the theorem. \square

Example 3.6 For the generalized α -difference equation

$$\Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} \left(\frac{1}{k} \Delta_{\alpha(\ell)} u(k) \right) = \left(\frac{(2^\ell + 1)((2^\ell + 1)k + \ell)}{(k + \ell)^{(2)_{\ell}}} \right) (-\alpha)^{\lceil \frac{k+2\ell}{\ell} \rceil} 2^k,$$

all the conditions of Theorem 3.5 hold and hence all the solutions are oscillatory. In fact $u(k) = (-\alpha)^{\lceil \frac{k}{\ell} \rceil} 2^k$ is one such solution.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally to the manuscript and read and approved the final draft.

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