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A REMARK ON THE OSCILLATORY BEHAVIOUR OF SOLUTIONS OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS OF ORDER 3 AND 4

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Consider a differential equation of the form

$$(1) \quad y''' + q(x)y' + r(x)y = f(x)$$

with $q(x) \in C_1 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$, $r(x) \in C_0 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$, $f(x) \in C_0 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$ and $\int_{x_0}^{\infty} |f(t)| dt < \infty$ where $x_0 \in (-\infty, \infty)$. Suppose further that

$$F(y(x)) = y(x)y''(x) + \frac{1}{2}q(x)y^2(x) - \frac{1}{2}y'^2(x),$$

where $y(x)$ is a solution of (1). Then we have

Theorem 1. (Theorem 4 in [3]). *Let for any $x \in \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$ the following condition hold:*

$$q(x) \geq 0, r(x) \geq k_1 > 0, 2r(x) - q'(x) - 1 \geq k_2 > 0, \left| \int_{x_0}^x f(t) dt \right| \leq K < \infty.$$

If $y(x)$ is a solution of (1) such that

$$F(y(x_0)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x_0}^{\infty} f^2(t) dt \leq 0,$$

then $y(x)$ is oscillatory or $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = 0$.

The following result is of the similar character

Theorem 2. *For any $x \in \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$, let the following conditions hold:*

$$q(x) \geq 0 \text{ and } 2r(x) - q'(x) - |f(x)| \geq 0.$$

If

$$(2) \quad \int_{x_0}^{\infty} q(t) dt = +\infty,$$

then a solution $y(x)$ of (1) which satisfies

$$F(y(x_0)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x_0}^{\infty} |f(t)| dt \leq 0$$

is oscillatory or $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = 0$.

Proof. Suppose that the hypotheses hold and that $y(x)$ is not oscillatory. Thus there exists a number $x_1 \geq x_0$ such that $y(x) \neq 0$ for $x \in \langle x_1, \infty \rangle$. Then from (1) we have

$$F(y(x)) + \int_{x_0}^x \left[r(t) - \frac{1}{2} q'(t) - \frac{1}{2} |f(t)| \right] y^2(t) dt \leq F(y(x_0)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x_0}^x |f(t)| dt$$

and therefore

$$(3) \quad y(x)y''(x) - \frac{1}{2} y'^2(x) \leq -\frac{1}{2} q(x) y^2(x).$$

From (3) we get

$$y(x) y''(x) - y'^2(x) \leq y(x) y''(x) - \frac{1}{2} y'^2(x) \leq -\frac{1}{2} q(x) y^2(x)$$

thus for $x \geq x_1$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{y'(x)}{y(x)} \right) \leq -\frac{1}{2} q(x)$$

and therefore

$$(4) \quad \frac{y'(x)}{y(x)} \leq \frac{y'(x_1)}{y(x_1)} - \frac{1}{2} \int_{x_1}^x q(t) dt.$$

Since (2) holds, there exists $x_2 \geq x_1$ such that for $x \geq x_2$ from (4) we have

$$(5) \quad \frac{y'(x)}{y(x)} \leq -k, \text{ where } k > 0.$$

Suppose that $y(x) > 0$ for $x \geq x_1$. From (5) we have $y'(x) < 0$ for $x \geq x_2$. Therefore it is necessary that $y(x) \geq C = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) \geq 0$ for any $x \geq x_2$. Let $C > 0$. Then for $x \geq x_2$:

$$\frac{y'(x)}{C} \leq \frac{y'(x)}{y(x)} \leq -k,$$

so that $y(x) \rightarrow -\infty$ for $x \rightarrow \infty$ which is a contradiction. Hence $C = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = 0$.

The following part of this paper is concerned with the oscillatory behaviour of solutions of the differential equation

$$(6) \quad y^{(4)} + p(x)y'' + q(x)y' + r(x)y = f(x),$$

with $p(x) \in C_0 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$, $q(x) \in C_1 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$, $r(x) \in C_0 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$, $f(x) \in C_0 \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$ and $\int_{x_0}^{\infty} |f(t)| dt < \infty$, where $x_0 \in (-\infty, \infty)$. Suppose further that

$$F_1(y(x)) = y(x) y'''(x) - y'(x) y''(x) + \frac{1}{2} q(x) y^2(x),$$

where $y(x)$ is a solution of (6). Then we have

Theorem 3. Suppose that for all $x \in \langle x_0, \infty \rangle$

$$q(x) \geq 0, |p(x)| \leq 2, 2r(x) - |p(x)| - q'(x) - |f(x)| \geq 0.$$

If (2) holds, then a solution $y(x)$ of (6) which satisfies

$$(7) \quad F_1(y(x_0)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x_0}^{\infty} |f(t)| dt \leq 0$$

is oscillatory on $\langle x_0, \infty \rangle$.

Proof. Suppose that a solution $y(x)$ of (6) satisfies (7) and that $y(x) \neq 0$ for $x \in \langle x_1, \infty \rangle$, $x_1 \geq x_0$. From (6) we get

$$F_1(y(x)) + \int_{x_0}^x \left[1 - \frac{1}{2} |p(t)| \right] y''^2(t) dt + \int_{x_0}^x \left[r(t) - \frac{1}{2} |p(t)| - \frac{1}{2} q'(t) - \frac{1}{2} |f(t)| \right] y^2(t) dt \leq F_1(y(x_0)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{x_0}^x |f(t)| dt$$

and therefore

$$y(x) y'''(x) - y'(x) y''(x) \leq -\frac{1}{2} q(x) y^2(x)$$

thus for $x \geq x_1$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{y''(x)}{y(x)} \right) \leq -\frac{1}{2} q(x)$$

and hence

$$(8) \quad \frac{y''(x)}{y(x)} \rightarrow -\infty \text{ for } x \rightarrow \infty.$$

Suppose that $y(x) > 0$ for $x \geq x_1$. From (8) we can see that $y''(x) < 0$ for $x \in \langle x_2, \infty \rangle$ with suitable $x_2 \geq x_1$. Since $y'(x)$ is monotonous, only the following two cases are possible:

- 1) $y'(x) > 0$ for all $x > x_2$
- 2) there exists $x_3 \geq x_2$ such that $y'(x_3) < 0$.

Evidently in the second case there exists $\xi \geq x_2$ such that $y(\xi) = 0$ which contradicts the hypothesis. Therefore let $y'(x) > 0$ for all $x \geq x_2$; thus $y(x)$ is an increasing function on $\langle x_2, \infty \rangle$ and therefore

$$\frac{y''(x)}{y(x_2)} \leq \frac{y''(x)}{y(x)} \text{ for } x \in \langle x_2, \infty \rangle,$$

so that, owing to (8), $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y''(x) = -\infty$, which is again contradictory to the assumption that $y(x) > 0$ for $x \geq x_1$.

Analogously we prove that (6) has no solution $y(x)$ satisfying (7) such that $y(x) < 0$ for all $x \geq x_1 \geq x_0$.

This completes the proof.

Remark. *Theorem 3 is a generalization of certain theorems in [1] and [2] and of Theorem 6 in [4] which deal with equations*

$$y^{(4)} + 2A(x)y' + [b(x) + A'(x)]y = 0,$$

or

$$y^{(4)} + q(x)y' + r(x)y = f(x).$$

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