

OSCILLATORY AND ASYMPTOTIC CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SOLUTIONS OF HIGHER ORDER FORCED DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS GENERATED BY DEVIATING ARGUMENTS (*)

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SOMMARIO. - *In questo lavoro si classificano tutte le soluzioni dell'equazione differenziale non lineare forzata con argomenti devianti:*

$$x^{(n)}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(t, x[g_{i1}(t)], x[g_{i2}(t)], \dots, x[g_{ir}(t)]) = \Phi(t)$$

con riguardo al loro comportamento per $t \rightarrow \infty$ e al loro carattere oscillatorio.

SUMMARY. - *In this paper we classify all solutions of the nonlinear forced differential equation with deviating arguments:*

$$x^{(n)}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f_i(t, x[g_{i1}(t)], x[g_{i2}(t)], \dots, x[g_{ir}(t)]) = \Phi(t)$$

with respect to their behavior as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and to their oscillatory character.

1. Introduction.

Recently, Ladas-Ladde-Papadakis [3] and Ladas-Lakshmikantham-Papadakis [4] classified all solutions of the following linear retarded

(*) Pervenuto in Redazione il 5 gennaio 1977.

This research was supported by the National Science Council.

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differential equations of the particular forms

$$x''(t) - \sum_{i=1}^m p_i(t) x[g_i(t)] = 0$$

and

$$x^{(n)}(t) + (-1)^{n+1} p(t) x[g(t)] = 0$$

with respect to their behavior as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and to their oscillatory character. Ladde [5] also generalized the results in [3] to the following nonlinear differential equations with retarded arguments

$$x''(t) - \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(t, x(t), x(g_i(t))) = 0.$$

More recently, Staikos-Sficas [6] extended and improve the above results to the following nonlinear differential equation with deviating arguments

$$x^{(n)}(t) + f(t, x[g_1(t)], x[g_2(t)], \dots, x[g_m(t)]) = 0$$

where

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} g_j(t) = \infty, \quad j=1, 2, \dots, m.$$

In their discussions they only treated with the unforced differential equations. In the present paper, we extend Staikos-Sficas's results to the following more general nonlinear forced differential equation with deviating arguments:

$$(*) \quad x^{(n)}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(t, x[g_{i1}(t)], x[g_{i2}(t)], \dots, x[g_{ir}(t)]) = \Phi(t)$$

where the following conditions are always assumed to hold:

- (i) $f_i \in C[[t_0, \infty) \times R^r, R]$, $i=1, 2, \dots, m$,
- (ii) $\Phi \in C[[t_0, \infty), R]$,
- (iii) $g_{ij} \in C[[t_0, \infty), R]$, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} g_{ij}(t) = \infty$,

$$i=1, 2, \dots, m; \quad j=1, 2, \dots, r.$$

The oscillatory character is considered in the usual sense, i. e. a continuous real-valued function which is defined for all large t is called

oscillatory if it has no last zero, and otherwise it is called *nonoscillatory*. Let S denote the set of all solutions of equation (*) and $S^{\sim}, S^0, S_1^{+\infty}, S_2^{+\infty}, S_1^{-\infty}, S_2^{-\infty}, S^{+\infty}, S^{-\infty}$ subsets of S defined as follows.

$$S^{\sim} = \{x(t) \in S: x(t) \text{ is oscillatory}\}.$$

$$S^0 = \{x(t) \in S: x(t) \text{ is nonoscillatory and } x^{(j)}(t) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty, j=0, 1, \dots, n-1\}.$$

$$S_1^{+\infty} = \{x(t) \in S: \text{there exists an integer } k, 0 \leq k \leq n-1, \text{ with } n+k \text{ odd and such that}$$

$$(C_1) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(j)}(t) = \infty \text{ for } j=0, 1, \dots, k,$$

$$(C_2) \quad \text{if } k \leq n-2, \text{ then } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(k+1)}(t) \text{ exists in } R,$$

$$(C_3) \quad \text{if } k \leq n-3, \text{ then for } j=k+2, \dots, n-1$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(j)}(t) = 0, x^{(j)}(t) \neq 0, \\ x^{(j)}(t) x^{(j+1)}(t) \leq 0 \text{ for all large } t\}.$$

$$S_2^{+\infty} = \{x(t) \in S: x(t) \text{ possess properties } (C_1) - (C_3) \\ \text{for some integer } k, 0 \leq k \leq n-1, \text{ with } n+k \text{ even}\}$$

$$S_1^{-\infty} = \{x(t) \in S: -x(t) \text{ possess properties } (C_1) - (C_3) \\ \text{for some integer } k, 0 \leq k \leq n-1, \text{ with } n+k \text{ odd}\}.$$

$$S_2^{-\infty} = \{x(t) \in S: -x(t) \text{ possess properties } (C_1) - (C_3) \\ \text{for some integer } k, 0 \leq k \leq n-1, \text{ with } n+k \text{ even}\}.$$

$$S^{+\infty} = S_1^{+\infty} \cup S_2^{+\infty}.$$

$$S^{-\infty} = S_1^{-\infty} \cup S_2^{-\infty}.$$

We now, introduce, the main conditions which will be used in the classification of the solutions of (*).

(a) *There exists an oscillatory function $p(t)$ such that*

$$p^{(n)}(t) = \Phi(t), \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} p^{(j)}(t) = 0, \quad j=0, 1, \dots, n-1.$$

(β) For every $t \geq t_0$,

$$f_i(t, 0, \dots, 0) = 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

(γ) For every constant $c \neq 0$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} t^{n-1} |f_i(t, c, \dots, c)| dt = \infty.$$

(δ) For every constant $c \neq 0$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} |f_i(t, cg_{i1}(t), \dots, cg_{ir}(t))| dt = \infty.$$

Using condition (α), (*) may be written as

$$(**) y^{(n)}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(t, y[g_{i1}(t)] + p[g_{i1}(t)], \dots, y[g_{ir}(t)] + p[g_{ir}(t)]) = 0$$

where $y(t) = x(t) - p(t)$.

In order to obtain our results we need the following three lemmas.

LEMMA 1. If $x(t)$ is a positive (negative) solution of (*) for $t \geq t_0$, then there is a $t_1 \geq t_0$ for which $y(t) = x(t) - p(t)$ is a solution of (**) for $t \geq t_1$, also there is an integer l with $0 \leq l \leq n-1$, $n+l$ odd if $y^{(n)}(t) \leq 0$, $n+l$ even if $y^{(n)}(t) \geq 0$ and such that for every $t \geq t_1$

$$(A) \begin{cases} y^{(\nu)}(t) > 0 \text{ (} y^{(\nu)}(t) < 0 \text{) for } \nu = 0, 1, \dots, l, \\ (-1)^{\nu+1} y^{(\nu)}(t) > 0 \text{ (} (-1)^{\nu+1} y^{(\nu)}(t) < 0 \text{) for } \nu = l+1, l+2, \dots, n, \end{cases}$$

$$(B) \quad x^{(\nu)}(t) y^{(\nu)}(t) > 0 \text{ for } \nu = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

PROOF. Since (A) is Lemma 1 of [1], we only prove (B). If $x^{(\nu)}(t) < 0$ then $y^{(\nu)}(t) < -p^{(\nu)}(t)$ for $\nu = 0, 1, \dots, n$. Since $y^{(\nu)}(t)$ is positive or negative, $p^{(\nu)}(t)$ is negative or positive respectively, a contradiction to the oscillatory character of $p^{(\nu)}(t)$ for $\nu = 0, 1, \dots, n$.

LEMMA 2 (Staikos-Sficas). If $y(t)$ is as in Lemma 1 and for some $j = 0, 1, \dots, n-2$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j)}(t) = c, \quad c \in R$$

then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j+1)}(t) = 0.$$

LEMMA 3 (Staikos-Sficas). Consider the linear differential equation

$$(1) \quad z' - \frac{a}{t} z + \frac{h(t)}{t} = 0,$$

where a is a positive integer and $h(t)$ is continuous on $[T, \infty)$ where $T > 0$. Let $u(t)$ be the solution of (1) on $[T, \infty)$ satisfying $u(T) = 0$. If $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |h(t)| = h^*$ exists in the extended real line R^* then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |u(t)| = u^*$ exists in R^* . In particular $h^* = \infty$ implies $u^* = \infty$.

2. Theorems.

The monotonicity of f_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ are considered with respect to the order in R^r defined as follows:

$$X_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{ir}) \leq Y_i = (y_{i1}, \dots, y_{ir}) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow x_{ij} \leq y_{ij} \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m, j = 1, 2, \dots, r.$$

THEOREM 1. Let the conditions (α) , (β) and (γ) hold. If, for each $t \geq t_0$, $f_i(t, Y_i)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, are nonincreasing (respectively, nondecreasing) with respect to y_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$, then for n even (respectively, odd)

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^0 \cup S^{+\infty} \cup S^{-\infty}.$$

while for n odd (respectively, even)

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^{+\infty} \cup S^{-\infty}.$$

In particular, for n odd (respectively, even) all bounded solutions of equation (*) are oscillatory, while for n even (respectively, odd) all bounded solutions of equation (*) are either oscillatory or tending monotonically to zero as $t \rightarrow \infty$ together with their first $n-1$ derivatives.

PROOF. Let $x(t) \in S - S^{\sim}$. Let

$$(2) \quad y(t) = x(t) - p(t).$$

From (*), (α) and (2) we have

$$(3) \quad y^{(n)}(t) + \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(t, x[g_{i1}(t)], x[g_{i2}(t)], \dots, x[g_{ir}(t)]) = 0.$$

By the monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, we see that $y^{(n)}(t)$ is of constant sign for all large t . This and Lemma 1 implies that all derivatives $y^{(j)}(t)$, $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$, are also of constant sign for all large t . Therefore, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j)}(t)$ exists in the extended real line R^* for every $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$.

Suppose that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) \neq 0$, then there exist $T \geq t_0$ and $M > 0$ such that for every $t \geq T$ and for $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, $j=1, 2, \dots, r$

$$(4) \quad |x [g_{ij}(t)]| \geq M.$$

Let

$$q_i(t) = \int_T^t s^i y^{(i+1)}(s) ds$$

then we obtain

$$q_i(t) = tq'_{i-1}(t) - T^i y^{(i)}(T) - iq_{i-1}(t).$$

Therefore, $q_{i-1}(t)$ is a solution of the differential equation

$$(5) \quad z' - \frac{i}{t} z + \frac{h_i(t)}{t} = 0$$

where $h_i(t) = -T^i y^{(i)}(t) - q_i(t)$, $i=0, 1, \dots, n-1$. We see easily that this solution satisfies the initial condition $q_{i-1}(T) = 0$.

Since

$$q_{n-1}(t) = \int_T^t s^{n-1} y^{(n)}(s) ds = - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t s^{n-1} f_i(s, x [g_{i1}(s)], \dots, x [g_{ir}(s)]) ds,$$

from (3), (4) and conditions (α) , (β) and monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, we obtain

$$|q_{n-1}(t)| \geq \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t s^{n-1} |f_i(s, M, \dots, M)| ds, & \text{if } x \text{ is eventually positive,} \\ \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t s^{n-1} |f_i(s, -M, \dots, -M)| ds & \text{if } x \text{ is eventually negative.} \end{cases}$$

Thus, by condition (γ),

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |q_{n-1}(t)| = \infty$$

and consequently

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |h_{n-1}(t)| = \infty.$$

Applying Lemma 3 for the differential equation

$$z' - \frac{n-1}{t} z + \frac{h_{n-1}(t)}{t} = 0$$

we obtain

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} q_{n-2}(t) = \pm \infty$$

and consequently

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |h_{n-1}(t)| = \infty.$$

Therefore, we can apply again Lemma 3 for the differential equation

$$z' - \frac{n-2}{t} z + \frac{h_{n-2}(t)}{t} = 0,$$

to obtain that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} q_{n-3}(t) = \pm \infty.$$

Following the same procedure, we obtain finally

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} q_0(t) = \pm \infty,$$

which gives that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = \pm \infty,$$

i. e.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \pm \infty,$$

since for every $t \geq T$, $y(t) = y(T) + q_0(t)$.

Hence the only possible cases for a nonoscillatory solution $x(t)$ of equation (*) are the following ones:

$$\text{CASE 1}^0. \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 0, \quad \text{i. e.} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = 0.$$

From Lemma 2, we have that for every $j=1, 2, \dots, n-1$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j)}(t) = 0$$

and since $y^{(j)}(t)$, $j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ are eventually monotone, and $p^{(j)}(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$, we have $x^{(j)}(t)$, $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$ are eventually monotone. Hence $x(t) \in S^0$.

CASE 2⁰. $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = \infty$, i. e. $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \infty$.

Let k be the greatest integer with $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ and for every $j=0, 1, \dots, k$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j)}(t) = \infty, \text{ i. e. } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(j)}(t) = \infty.$$

Obviously, if $k \leq n-2$, then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(k+1)}(t), \text{ i. e. } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(k+1)}(t)$$

exists in R and they are nonnegative. If $k \leq n-3$, then from Lemma 2, for every $j=k+2, \dots, n-1$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j)}(t) = 0, \text{ i. e. } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(j)}(t) = 0$$

and consequently it is easy to see that for all large t

$$x^{(j)}(t) x^{(j+1)}(t) \leq 0.$$

Finally in order to derive that for every $j=k+2, \dots, n-1$, $x^{(j)}(t) \neq 0$ for all large t , it is enough to verify that $x^{(n)}(t)$ is not identically zero for all large t . To do this, we see that, by (3), the monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$ and conditions (α) , (β) , for $t \geq T$

$$|y^{(n)}(t)| \geq \left| \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(t, M, \dots, M) \right| \geq 0.$$

Therefore, for all large t

$$y^{(n)}(t) \neq 0.$$

Thus, $x(t)$ possess properties (C_1) , (C_2) and (C_3) , which means that $x(t) \in S^{+\infty}$.

CASE 3⁰. $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = -\infty$, i. e. $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = -\infty$.

Let k , be the greatest integer with $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ and for every $j=0, 1, \dots, k$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(j)}(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(j)}(t) = -\infty.$$

Similar to the Case 2⁰ we can prove that $-x(t)$ possesses properties (C₁), (C₂) and (C₃), which means that $x(t) \in S^{-\infty}$. Therefore, we have derived the

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^0 \cup S^{+\infty} \cup S^{-\infty}.$$

In order to complete the proof of our theorem, we must verify that

$$S^0 \neq \emptyset \text{ implies } n \text{ even (respectively, odd).}$$

In fact, if $x(t) \in S^0$, then by Lemma 1, $y(t) = x(t) - p(t)$ is a solution of (**). Let $x(t) > 0$, then $y(t) > 0$. Since $y(t)$ is bounded, Lemma 1 implies $(-1)^{j+1} y^{(j)}(t) > 0$ for $j=0, 1, \dots, n$.

i. e.

$$-y^{(j)}(t) y^{(j+1)}(t) \geq 0, \text{ for } j=0, 1, \dots, n-1.$$

Thus

$$(-1)^n y(t) (y'(t) \dots y^{(n-1)}(t))^2 y^{(n)}(t) \geq 0$$

implies $(-1)^n y(t) y^{(n)}(t) \geq 0$. Since $y^{(n)}(t) \neq 0$ for all large t and $y(t) y^{(n)}(t) \geq 0$ (respectively, ≤ 0), we must have $(-1)^n = 1$ (respectively, $(-1)^n = -1$), which means that n is even (respectively, odd).

THEOREM 2. *Let the conditions (α) , (β) , (γ) and (δ) hold. If, for each $t \geq t_0$, $f_i(t, Y_i)$, $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, are nonincreasing with respect to Y_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, then for n even*

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^0 \cup S_1^{+\infty} \cup S_1^{-\infty}$$

while for n odd, $n > 1$,

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S_1^{+\infty} \cup S_1^{-\infty}.$$

PROOF. We assume that $S_2^{+\infty} \neq \emptyset$ and we consider a solution $x(t) \in S_2^{+\infty}$ as well as the associated integer k . Since $n+k$ is even, we must always have $k \leq n-2$. Using the present conditions and arguing as in the proof of Theorem 1, one again obtains that (4) and all derivatives $y^{(j)}(t)$, hence $x^{(j)}(t)$, $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$, are of constant sign for all large t .

If for some integer d , $1 \leq d \leq n-1$, and for all large t

$$(6) \quad x^{(d)}(t) > 0 \text{ and } x^{(d+1)}(t) \geq 0$$

then, by choosing $T_0 \geq t_0$ so that $x^{(d)}(T_0) > 0$ and using Taylor's theorem, we have for all large t

$$x[g_{ij}(t)] \geq \sum_{s=0}^r \frac{x^{(s)}(T_0)}{s!} [g_{ij}(t) - T_0]^s, \quad i=1, 2, \dots, m; \quad j=1, 2, \dots, r.$$

Hence there exists $T \geq T_0$ and $M > 0$ such that for $i=1, 2, \dots, m$; $j=1, 2, \dots, r$ and for every $t \geq T$

$$(7) \quad x[g_{ij}(t)] \geq Mg_{ij}(t).$$

From (4), (7), conditions (α) , (β) , and the monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} y^{(n-1)}(t) &= y^{(n-1)}(T) - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t f_i(s, x[g_{i1}(s)], \dots, x[g_{ir}(s)]) ds \geq \\ &\geq y^{(n-1)}(T) - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t f_i(s, Mg_{i1}(s), \dots, Mg_{ir}(s)) ds = \\ &= y^{(n-1)}(T) + \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t |f_i(s, Mg_{i1}(s), \dots, Mg_{ir}(s))| ds \end{aligned}$$

and consequently, by condition (δ) ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(n-1)}(t) = \infty, \quad \text{i. e.} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x^{(n-1)}(t) = \infty,$$

which contradicts that $k \leq n-2$. Thus, (6) is impossible for any integer d with $1 \leq d \leq n-1$.

Since (6) is satisfied for $d=k$, we must have $k=0$ and, in addition, n even. Thus, since by the monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, and condition (β) , for all large t

$$y^{(n)}(t) \geq 0, \quad \text{i. e.} \quad x^{(n)}(t) \geq 0,$$

from condition (C_3) , we obtain for all large t ,

$$y''(t) \geq 0, \quad \text{i. e.} \quad x''(t) \geq 0.$$

Hence, (6) is satisfied for $d=1$, a contradiction. It is proved, now, that $S_2^{+\infty} = \Phi$, which means that $S^{+\infty} = S_1^{+\infty}$. Similarly, we can prove that $S^{-\infty} = S_1^{-\infty}$.

THEOREM 3. *Let the conditions (α) , (β) , (γ) and (δ) hold. If, for each $t \geq t_0$, $f_i(t, Y_i)$, $i=1, 2, \dots, m$ are nondecreasing with respect to Y_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, then for n even*

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S_2^{+\infty} \cup S_2^{-\infty}$$

while for n odd, $n > 1$

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^0.$$

PROOF. Using the present conditions and arguing as in the proof of Theorem 1, one again obtains (4) and all derivatives $y^{(j)}(t)$, hence $x^{(j)}(t)$, $j=0, 1, \dots, n-1$ are of constant sign for all large t . Let $x(t) \in S^{+\infty}$ and k be the associated integer. If $k \geq 1$, then, by the mean-value theorem, for each $i=1, 2, \dots, m$; $j=1, 2, \dots, r$, and for all large t ,

$$(8) \quad x[g_{ij}(t)] \geq x(T_0) + x'(T_0)[g_{ij}(t) - T_0]$$

where T_0 is chosen so that $x'(T_0) > 0$. So, there exist $T > T_0$ and $M > 0$ such that for $i=1, 2, \dots, m$; $j=1, 2, \dots, r$ and for every $t \geq T$,

$$(9) \quad x[g_{ij}(t)] \geq M g_{ij}(t).$$

From this, by virtue of the monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, and conditions (α) , (β) , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} y^{(n-1)}(t) &= y^{(n-1)}(T) - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t f_i(s, x[g_{i1}(s)], \dots, x[g_{ir}(s)]) ds \leq \\ &\leq y^{(n-1)}(T) - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t f_i(s, M g_{i1}(s), \dots, M g_{ir}(s)) ds = \\ &= y^{(n-1)}(T) - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_T^t |f_i(s, M g_{i1}(s), \dots, M g_{ir}(s))| ds \end{aligned}$$

and consequently, by condition (δ) , the contradiction

$$(10) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y^{(n-1)}(t) = -\infty.$$

Thus, k must be zero, which implies

$$y(t) \in S_2^{+\infty}, \text{ if } n \text{ is even,}$$

$$y(t) \in S_1^{+\infty}, \text{ if } n \text{ is odd.}$$

Since, by the monotonicity of f_i , $i=1, 2, \dots, m$, and conditions (α) , (β) , $x^{(n)}(t) \leq 0$ for all large t , in the case of odd n ,

$$x''(t) > 0 \text{ for all large } t.$$

Moreover, $x(t)$ and $x'(t)$ are eventually positive and hence (8), (9) and the contradiction (10) can again be derived in the considered case of odd n .

Therefore, for n even $S^{+\infty} = S_2^{+\infty}$, while for n odd $S^{+\infty} = \Phi$. Similarly, we can prove that for n even $S^{-\infty} = S_2^{-\infty}$, while for n odd $S^{-\infty} = \Phi$. This proves the theorem, since, by Theorem 1, the solutions of equation (*) admit the decomposition

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^0 \cup S^{+\infty} \cup S^{-\infty}, \text{ if } n \text{ is odd,}$$

and

$$S = S^{\sim} \cup S^{+\infty} \cup S^{-\infty}, \text{ if } n \text{ is even.}$$

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