

# Positive and Oscillating Solutions of Linear Discrete Equations

Jaromír Bařtinec

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic  
e-mail: bastinec@feec.vutbr.cz

Josef Diblík

Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic  
e-mail: diblik.j@fce.vutbr.cz, diblik@feec.vutbr.cz

We use the following notation: for integers  $s, q, s \leq q$ , we define  $\mathbb{Z}_s^q := \{s, s+1, \dots, q\}$  where  $s = -\infty$  and  $q = \infty$  are admitted, too. The topic of our study is a linear scalar discrete equation of  $k$ -th order

$$\Delta x(n) = -p(n)x(n-k), \quad (1)$$

where  $p: \mathbb{Z}_a^\infty \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ ,  $k \geq 1$ ,  $a$  is an integer and  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_a^\infty$ . Let  $\varphi: \mathbb{Z}_{a-k}^a \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Together with discrete equation (1), we consider an initial problem: determine a solution  $x = x(n)$  of equation (1) satisfying the initial conditions

$$x(n) = \varphi(n), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{a-k}^a \quad (2)$$

with prescribed real constants  $\varphi(n)$ .

A solution of initial problem (1), (2) is defined as an infinite sequence of numbers  $\{x^n\}_{n=-k}^\infty$  with  $x^n = x(a+n)$ , i.e.,  $\{x^{-k} = \varphi(a-k), \dots, x^0 = \varphi(a), x^1 = x(a+1), \dots, x^n = x(a+n), \dots\}$  such that, for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_a^\infty$ , equality (1) holds.

Solution of (1), (2) is called *positive* if  $x(n) > 0$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{a-k}^\infty$ . Solution of initial problem (1), (2) is called *oscillating* on  $\mathbb{Z}_{a-k}^\infty$  if for arbitrary  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{a-k}^\infty$  there exists  $n \geq m$  such that  $x(n)x(n+1) \leq 0$ .

We define auxiliary functions  $p, \nu$  as

$$P(n) := \left(\frac{k}{k+1}\right)^k \times \left[\frac{1}{k+1} + \frac{k}{8n^2} + \frac{k}{8(n \ln n)^2}\right] \quad (3)$$

and

$$P_\theta(n) := \left(\frac{k}{k+1}\right)^k \times \left[\frac{1}{k+1} + \frac{k}{8n^2} + \frac{k\theta}{8(n \ln n)^2}\right] \quad (4)$$

which play an important role in the investigation of positive and oscillating solutions of equation (1). We assume that  $n$  in (3) and (4) is sufficiently large for  $P(n)$  and  $P_\theta(n)$  to be well defined.

**Theorem 1** *If*

$$p(n) \leq P(n)$$

*for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_m^\infty$  where  $m$  is sufficiently large, then exists a positive solution  $x = x(n)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_m^\infty$  of equation (1).*

**Theorem 2** *If there exists a  $\theta \in (1, \infty)$  such that*

$$p(n) > P_\theta(n) \quad (5)$$

*for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_m^\infty$  where  $m$  is sufficiently large, then all solutions of (1) are oscillating on  $\mathbb{Z}_m^\infty$ .*

The proof of Theorem 1 is based on a method developed in [2, 3, 5, 6]. The proof of Theorem 2 uses a method suggested in [9].

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