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## REMARK ON STURM—LIOUVILLE FUNCTIONS

MILAN OSLEJ

Consider a differential equation

$$y'' + q(x)y = 0 \tag{q}$$

where  $q(x) \in C_0(a, \infty)$ ,  $a \geq 0$ .

Denote

$$M_k(W, \lambda) = \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} W(x)|y(x)|^\lambda dx \tag{1}$$

$\lambda > -1$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $y(x)$  is an arbitrary non-trivial solution of (q),  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  is any finite or infinite sequence of consecutive zeros of any non-trivial solution  $z(x)$  of (q), which may or may not be independent of  $y(x)$  and the function  $W(x) > 0$  fulfils certain conditions concerning higher monotonicity.

L. Lorch, M. E. Muldoon and P. Szego derived in [2] simple sufficient conditions for the sequence (1) to be monotonic of the higher order on  $(a, \infty)$ . In this paper there will be given an extension of the above mentioned result from [2].

### 1. Definitions and notations

A function  $\varphi(x)$  is said to be monotonic of order  $n$  or  $n$ -times monotonic on an interval  $I$ , if

$$(-1)^i \varphi^{(i)}(x) \geq 0, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad x \in I \tag{2}$$

For such a function we write  $\varphi(x) \in M_n(I)$  or  $\varphi(x) \in M_n(a, b)$  in case that  $I$  is an interval  $(a, b)$ . In case the strict inequality holds throughout (2) we write  $\varphi(x) \in M_n^*(I)$ .

We say that  $\varphi(x)$  is completely monotonic on  $I$ , if (2) holds for  $n = \infty$ .

A sequence  $\{\mu_k\}_{k=1}^\infty$  denoted simply  $\{\mu_k\}$  is said to be  $n$ -times monotonic, if

$$(-1)^i \Delta^i \mu_k \geq 0, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots \tag{3}$$

Here  $\Delta \mu_k = \mu_{k+1} - \mu_k$ ,  $\Delta^2 \mu_k = \Delta(\Delta \mu_k)$  etc. For such a sequence we write  $\{\mu_k\} \in M_n$ .

In case the strict inequality holds through (3) we write  $\{\mu_k\} \in M_n^*$ .  $\{\mu_k\}$  is called completely monotonic, if (3) holds for  $n = \infty$ .

As usual,  $\varphi(x) \in C_n(I)$  means that  $\varphi(x)$  has continuous derivatives including to the  $n$ -th order.  $D_\xi[\varphi(\xi)]$  denotes the first derivative  $\frac{d\varphi(\xi)}{d\xi}$  and  $D_\xi^n[\varphi(\xi)]$  denotes the  $n$ -th derivative  $\frac{d^n\varphi(\xi)}{d\xi^n}$ .

## 2. New result

**Theorem.** Let differential equation  $(q)$  be oscillatory on an interval  $(a, \infty)$ , let  $n \geq 0$  be an integer and let there exists the function  $\psi(x) > 0$ ,  $\psi(x) \in C_2(a, \infty)$  satisfying

$$0 < \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\psi''\psi^3 + q\psi^4) \leq \infty$$

Let  $\psi^2(x) \in M_n(a, \infty)$  and  $0 \neq D_x(\psi''\psi^3 + q\psi^4) \in M_n(a, \infty)$ . Let  $W(x)$  be a function satisfying

$$W(x) > 0, \quad (-1)^n W^{(n)}(x) \geq 0.$$

Let  $y(x)$  be an arbitrary non-trivial solution of  $(q)$  and  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  any sequence of consecutive zeros of any non-trivial solution  $z(x)$  of  $(q)$  which may or may not be linearly independent of  $y(x)$ . Then for  $\lambda > -1$

$$\left\{ \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} \frac{W(x)}{\psi^2(x)} \left| \frac{y(x)}{\psi(x)} \right|^\lambda dx \right\} \in M_n^* \quad (4)$$

and in special case for  $\lambda = 0$

$$(-1)^i \Delta^{i+1} x_k > 0, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n \quad (5)$$

Remark. Hence, under the hypotheses of the theorem

$$\left\{ \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} \bar{W}(x) \left| \frac{y(x)}{\psi(x)} \right|^\lambda dx \right\} \in M_n^* \quad (6)$$

because (4) is still valid when  $W(x)$  is replaced by  $\bar{W}(x) \cdot \psi^2(x)$ , since this last function belongs to  $M_n(a, \infty)$ .

If  $\psi^{2+\lambda}(x) \in M_n(a, \infty)$  holds, then we can write

$$\left\{ \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} \bar{W}(x) |y(x)|^\lambda dx \right\} \in M_n^* \quad (7)$$

because (4) is still valid when  $W(x)$  is replaced by  $\bar{W}(x) \cdot \psi^{2+\lambda}(x)$ .

**Proof of theorem.** Let us have the differential equation ( $q$ ). The change of variable

$$\xi = \int_a^x \frac{du}{\psi^2(u)} \quad (8)$$

where  $\psi > 0$ ,  $\psi \in C_2(a, \infty)$  and integral  $\int_a^\infty \frac{du}{\psi^2(u)}$  is assumed divergent, transforms ( $q$ ) into

$$D_\xi^2 \eta(\xi) + \varphi(\xi) \eta = 0 \quad (9)$$

where  $\eta(\xi) = y(x)/\psi(x)$  and  $\varphi(\xi) = \psi''(x) \cdot \psi^3(x) + q(x)\psi^4(x)$ .

Hence, the mapping (8) takes the  $x$ -interval  $(a, \infty)$  into the  $\xi$ -interval  $(0, \infty)$ . Using the change of variable (8) we get

$$\int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} W(x) \frac{1}{\psi^2(x)} \left| \frac{y(x)}{\psi(x)} \right|^\lambda dx = \int_{\xi_k}^{\xi_{k+1}} W[x(\xi)] |\eta(\xi)|^2 d\xi$$

where  $\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots$  are the zeros of solution  $\zeta(\xi)$  of (9) corresponding, respectively, to the zeros  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  of  $z(x)$  (here  $\zeta(\xi) = z(x)$ ).

In case  $n \geq 2$  and  $x_1 > a$  the present theorem will follow from theorem 3.3 of [2] as applied to the equation (9), provided we show that

$$D_\xi[\varphi(\xi)] > 0, \quad D_\xi[\varphi(\xi)] \in M_n(0, \infty) \quad (10)$$

and that

$$W[x(\xi)] > 0, \quad W[x(\xi)] \in M_n(0, \infty). \quad (11)$$

Now,

$$D_\xi[\varphi(\xi)] = D_x[\psi''\psi^3 + q\psi^4] \cdot D_\xi[x(\xi)] = \psi^2 D_x[\psi''\psi^3 + q\psi^4] > 0.$$

But  $\psi^2(x)$  belongs to  $M_n(a, \infty)$  so that a slight modification of ([2], lemma 2.2) in which  $p'(x) \leq 0$  replaces  $p(x) < 0$  and  $\geq$  replaces  $>$  in (2.7), implies that  $D_\xi[x(\xi)] \in M_n(0, \infty)$ .

Hence, in view of ([2], lemma 2.1), our hypotheses on  $W(x)$  show that  $W[x(\xi)] \in M_n(0, \infty)$ , and (11) holds. Since  $D_x[\varphi(\xi)]$ , considered as a function of  $x$ , belongs to  $M_n(a, \infty)$  and  $D_\xi[x(\xi)]$  belongs  $M_n(0, \infty)$ , ([2], lemma 2.1) shows that  $D_\xi[\varphi(\xi)] \in M_n(0, \infty)$ . Hence, (10) holds and the proof of theorem is complete, in case  $n \geq 2$  and  $x_1 > a$ . The case  $n = 0$  is obvious. The case  $n = 1$ ,  $x_1 = a$  (for all  $n$ ) we get analogously as in proof of theorem 3.1 of [3]. (5) we get from (4), if  $\lambda = 0$ ,  $W(x) = \psi^2(x)$ .

**Example.** Let us have a differential equation

$$y'' + (e^{2x} - \nu^2) \cdot y = 0 \quad (12)$$

which has solutions in the form  $y = C_\nu(e^x)$ , where  $C_\nu$  is Bessel function of order  $\nu$ .

It is obvious that the sufficient conditions from [2] give no result on higher monotonicity of sequence  $\{M_k\}$  from (1) for differential equation (12).

If we take  $\psi(x) = e^{-x/2}$ , then  $\psi^2(x) \in M_\infty(0, \infty)$  and we get

$$(\psi^n \psi^3 + q\psi^4) = [1 - (v^2 - 1/4) \cdot e^{-2x}] \in M_\infty(0, \infty)$$

for  $|v| > 1/2$ .

**Result.** If  $|v| > 1/2$ , then

$$\left\{ \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} e^x \cdot W(x) |y(x) \cdot e^{x/2}|^\lambda dx \right\} \in M_n^*$$

and

$$\left\{ \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} W(x) |y(x) \cdot e^{x/2}|^\lambda dx \right\} \in M_n^*.$$

holds for  $\lambda > -1$ .

Hence, in view of  $[e^{(-x/2) \cdot \lambda}] \in M_\infty(0, \infty)$  for  $\lambda \geq 0$  and if  $W(x) = e^{(-x/2) \cdot \lambda}$ , then

$$\left\{ \int_{x_k}^{x_{k+1}} |y(x)|^\lambda dx \right\} \in M_n^*$$

holds for  $|v| > 1/2$ ,  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

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#### ЗАМЕТКА О ФУНКЦИЯХ ШТУРМА-ЛИУВИЛЛЯ

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Резюме

В этой статье исследуются достаточные условия для того, чтобы последовательности, которые зависят от нулей решения дифференциального уравнения  $(q)$ , были монотонные высшего порядка в промежутке  $(a, \infty)$ .