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The Kamenev type interval oscillation criteria of mixed nonlinear impulsive differential equations under variable delay effects

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Abstract

In this paper, a class of mixed nonlinear impulsive differential equations is studied. When the delay $\sigma(t)$ is variable, each given interval is divided into two parts on which the quotients of $x(t - \sigma(t))$ and $x(t)$ are estimated. Then, by introducing binary auxiliary functions and using the Riccati transformation, several Kamenev type interval oscillation criteria are established. The well-known results obtained by Liu and Xu (Appl. Math. Comput. 215:283–291, 2009) for $\sigma(t) = 0$ and by Guo et al. (Abstr. Appl. Anal. 2012:351709, 2012) for $\sigma(t) = \sigma_0$ ($\sigma_0 \geq 0$) are developed. Moreover, an example illustrating the effectiveness and non-emptiness of our results is also given.

Keywords: Interval oscillation; Impulsive differential equation; Variable delay; Interval delay function

1 Introduction

We consider the following mixed nonlinear impulsive differential equations with variable delay:

$$\begin{aligned} (r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t)))' + p_0(t)\Phi_\alpha(x(t)) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i(t)\Phi_{\beta_i}(x(t - \sigma(t))) &= f(t), \quad t \geq t_0, t \neq \tau_k, \\ x(\tau_k^+) &= a_k x(\tau_k), \quad x'(\tau_k^+) = b_k x'(\tau_k), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $\Phi_*(s) = |s|^{*-1}s$, $\{\tau_k\}$ denotes the impulse moments, $0 \leq t_0 < \tau_1 < \tau_2 < \dots < \tau_k < \dots$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \tau_k = \infty$, $\{a_k\}$ and $\{b_k\}$ are real constant sequences and $b_k \geq a_k > 0$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, $\sigma(t) \in C([t_0, \infty))$ and there exists a nonnegative constant σ_0 such that $0 \leq \sigma(t) \leq \sigma_0$ for all $t \geq t_0$, $r(t) \in C^1([t_0, \infty), (0, \infty))$ is nondecreasing.

For some particular cases of (1), many authors have devoted work to the interval oscillation problem (see [3–13]). Particularly, when $\alpha = 1$, $a_k = b_k = 1$ and $\sigma(t) = 0$, (1) reduces to the mixed type Emden–Fowler equation

$$(r(t)x'(t))' + p_0(t)x(t) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i(t)\Phi_{\beta_i}(x(t)) = f(t), \quad (2)$$

which was given much attention due to the effect of modeling the growth of bacteria population with competitive species. For example, in [14] and [15], the authors established interval oscillation theorems for (2) which improved the well-known criteria of [16] and [17]. For additional studies of Emden–Fowler differential equations, see [18–20].

In [1], the authors considered (2) with impulse effects,

$$\begin{aligned} (r(t)x'(t))' + p_0(t)x(t) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i(t)\Phi_{\beta_i}(x(t)) &= f(t), \quad t \geq t_0, t \neq \tau_k, \\ x(\tau_k^+) &= a_k x(\tau_k), \quad x'(\tau_k^+) = b_k x'(\tau_k), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

and established some interval oscillation results which extended those of [14, 15] and [21].

When $\sigma(t) = 0$, (1) becomes the following impulse equations without delay:

$$\begin{aligned} (r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t)))' + p_0(t)\Phi_\alpha(x(t)) + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i(t)\Phi_{\beta_i}(x(t)) &= f(t), \quad t \geq t_0, t \neq \tau_k, \\ x(\tau_k^+) &= a_k x(\tau_k), \quad x'(\tau_k^+) = b_k x'(\tau_k), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

In [22], Özbekler and Zafer investigated (4). They considered the coefficients $p_i(t)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) satisfying two cases: (i) $p_i(t) \geq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and (ii) $p_i(t) \geq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$; $p_i(t)$ are allowed to be negative for $i = m + 1, \dots, n$ and obtained several interval oscillation results which recovered the early ones in [8] and [14].

When $\sigma(t)$ is a nonnegative constant, i.e., $\sigma(t) = \sigma_0$ ($\sigma_0 \geq 0$), by idea of [23], Guo et al. [2] studied (1) and developed the results of [1, 22, 24].

Recently, in [25], the authors studied (1) with the assumption of delay $\sigma(t)$ being variable. They used Riccati transformation and univariate ω functions to obtain some generalized interval oscillation results.

In this paper, we continue the discussion of the interval oscillation of (1). Unlike the methods of [22, 25], we introduce a binary auxiliary function, divide each given interval into two parts and then estimate the quotients of $x(t - \sigma(t))$ and $x(t)$. Due to the considered delay being variable, the results obtained here are the development of some well-known ones, such as in [1] and [2]. Moreover, we also give an example to illustrate the effectiveness and non-emptiness of our results.

2 Main results

First, we define a functional space $C_-(I, \mathbb{R})$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} C_-(I, \mathbb{R}) := \{y : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid I \text{ is a real interval, } y \text{ is continuous on } I \setminus \{t_i\} \text{ and} \\ y(t_i^-) = y(t_i), i \in \mathbb{N}\}. \end{aligned}$$

In the following, we always assume:

(A) the exponents satisfy $\beta_1 > \dots > \beta_m > \alpha > \beta_{m+1} > \dots > \beta_n > 0$;

$f(t), p_i(t) \in C_-([t_0, \infty), \mathbb{R}), i = 0, 1, \dots, n; \tau_{k+1} - \tau_k > \sigma_0$ for all $k = 1, 2, \dots$

Let $k(s) = \max\{i : t_0 < \tau_i < s\}$. For any given intervals $[c_j, d_j]$ ($j = 1, 2$), we suppose that $k(c_j) < k(d_j)$ ($j = 1, 2$), then there exist impulse moments $\tau_{k(c_j)+1}, \dots, \tau_{k(d_j)}$ in $[c_j, d_j]$ ($j = 1, 2$) and we have the following cases to consider.

- (S₁) $\tau_{k(c_j)} + \sigma_0 < c_j$ and $\tau_{k(d_j)} + \sigma_0 < d_j$;
- (S₂) $\tau_{k(c_j)} + \sigma_0 < c_j$ and $\tau_{k(d_j)} + \sigma_0 > d_j$;
- (S₃) $\tau_{k(c_j)} + \sigma_0 > c_j$ and $\tau_{k(d_j)} + \sigma_0 > d_j$;
- (S₄) $\tau_{k(c_j)} + \sigma_0 > c_j$ and $\tau_{k(d_j)} + \sigma_0 < d_j$.

We further assume that there exist points $\delta_j \in (c_j, d_j) \setminus \{\tau_k\}$ ($j = 1, 2$) which divide intervals $[c_j, d_j]$ into two parts $[c_j, \delta_j]$ and $[\delta_j, d_j]$. In view of whether or not there are impulsive moments of $x(t)$ in $[c_j, \delta_j]$ and $[\delta_j, d_j]$, we should consider the following cases.

- (\bar{S}_1) $k(c_j) < k(\delta_j) < k(d_j)$;
- (\bar{S}_2) $k(c_j) = k(\delta_j) < k(d_j)$;
- (\bar{S}_3) $k(c_j) < k(\delta_j) = k(d_j)$.

We define a interval delay function ([12]):

$$D_k(t) = t - \tau_k - \sigma(t), \quad t \in (\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}], k = 1, 2, \dots,$$

and we assume there is a point $t_k \in (\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$ such that $D_k(t_k) = 0$, $D_k(t) < 0$ for $t \in (\tau_k, t_k)$ and $D_k(t) > 0$ for $t \in (t_k, \tau_{k+1}]$.

Moreover, for the relationship of the division point δ_j and the zero point $t_{k(\delta_j)}$ of $D_{k(\delta_j)}$ on $[\tau_{k(\delta_j)}, \tau_{k(\delta_j)+1}]$ we should have

- ($\bar{\bar{S}}_1$) $t_{k(\delta_j)} < \delta_j$;
- ($\bar{\bar{S}}_2$) $t_{k(\delta_j)} > \delta_j$; or
- ($\bar{\bar{S}}_3$) $t_{k(\delta_j)} = \delta_j$.

We only consider the case of combination of (S₁) with (\bar{S}_1) and ($\bar{\bar{S}}_1$). For the other cases, the discussion will be omitted here.

Lemma 2.1 *Assume that, for any $T \geq t_0$, there exist $T < c_1 - \sigma_0 < c_1 < \delta_1 < d_1$ and*

$$f(t) \leq 0, \quad p_i(t) \geq 0, \quad t \in [c_1 - \sigma_0, d_1] \setminus \{\tau_k\}, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \tag{5}$$

and t_k is a zero point of $D_k(t)$ in $(\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$. If $x(t)$ is a positive solution of (1), then the ratio $x(t - \sigma(t))/x(t)$ will be estimated as follows:

- (a) $\frac{x(t-\sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t-\tau_k-\sigma(t)}{t-\tau_k}$, $t \in (t_k, \tau_{k+1}]$ for $k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1) - 1$, $k \neq k(\delta_1)$;
- (b) $\frac{x(t-\sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t-\tau_k}{b_k(t+\sigma(t)-\tau_k)}$, $t \in (\tau_k, t_k]$ for $k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1)$;
- (c) $\frac{x(t-\sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t-\tau_{k(\delta_1)}-\sigma(t)}{t-\tau_{k(\delta_1)}}$, $t \in (t_{k(\delta_1)}, \delta_1]$;
- (d) $\frac{x(t-\sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t-\tau_{k(d_1)}-\sigma(t)}{t-\tau_{k(d_1)}}$, $t \in (t_{k(d_1)}, d_1]$;
- (e) $\frac{x(t-\sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t-\tau_{k(\delta_1)}-\sigma(t)}{t-\tau_{k(\delta_1)}}$, $t \in (\delta_1, \tau_{k(\delta_1)+1}]$;
- (f) $\frac{x(t-\sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t-\tau_{k(c_1)}-\sigma(t)}{t-\tau_{k(c_1)}}$, $t \in [c_1, \tau_{k(c_1)+1}]$.

Proof From (1), (5) and (A), we obtain, for $t \in [c_1, d_1] \setminus \{\tau_k\}$,

$$(r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t)))' = f(t) - p_0(t)\Phi_\alpha(x(t)) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i(t)\Phi_{\beta_i}(x(t - \sigma(t))) \leq 0.$$

Hence $r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))$ is nonincreasing on the interval $[c_1, d_1] \setminus \{\tau_k\}$. Next, we give the proof of case (a) only. For the other cases, the proof is similar and will be omitted.

If $t_k < t \leq \tau_{k+1}$, from $D_k(t) > 0$, we know $(t - \sigma(t), t) \subset (\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$. Thus there is no impulse moment in $(t - \sigma(t), t)$. Therefore, for any $s \in (t - \sigma(t), t)$, there exists a $\xi_k \in (\tau_k, s)$ such that $x(s) - x(\tau_k^+) = x'(\xi_k)(s - \tau_k)$. Since $x(\tau_k^+) > 0$, $r(s)$ is nondecreasing, $\Phi_\alpha(\cdot)$ is an increasing function and $r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))$ is nonincreasing on $(\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_\alpha(x(s)) &\geq \frac{r(\xi_k)}{r(s)} \Phi_\alpha(x(s)) > \frac{r(\xi_k)}{r(s)} \Phi_\alpha(x'(\xi_k)(s - \tau_k)) = \frac{r(\xi_k)\Phi_\alpha(x'(\xi_k))}{r(s)}(s - \tau_k)^\alpha \\ &\geq \frac{r(s)\Phi_\alpha(x'(s))}{r(s)}(s - \tau_k)^\alpha = \Phi_\alpha(x'(s)(s - \tau_k)). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{x'(s)}{x(s)} < \frac{1}{s - \tau_k}.$$

Integrating both sides of the above inequality from $t - \sigma(t)$ to t , we obtain

$$\frac{x(t - \sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t - \tau_k}, \quad t \in (t_k, \tau_{k+1}].$$

The proof is completed. □

Lemma 2.2 *Assume that, for any $T \geq t_0$, there exist $T < c_2 - \sigma_0 < c_2 < \delta_2 < d_2$ and*

$$f(t) \geq 0, \quad p_i(t) \geq 0, \quad t \in [c_2 - \sigma_0, d_2] \setminus \{\tau_k\}, \quad i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n, \tag{6}$$

and t_k is a zero point of $D_k(t_k)$ in $(\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$. If $x(t)$ is a negative solution of (1), then estimations (a)–(f) in Lemma 2.1 are correct with the replacement of c_1, d_1 and δ_1 by c_2, d_2 and δ_2 , respectively.

The proof of Lemma 2.2 is similar to that of Lemma 2.1 and will be omitted.

Lemma 2.3 *Assume that for any $T \geq t_0$ there exists $T < c_1 - \sigma_0 < c_1 < d_1$ and (5) holds. If $x(t)$ is a positive solution of (1) and $u(t)$ is defined by*

$$u(t) := \frac{r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))}{\Phi_\alpha(x(t))}, \quad t \in [c_1, d_1], \tag{7}$$

then we have the following estimations of $u(t)$:

- (g) $u(\tau_{k+1}) \leq \frac{\tilde{r}}{(\tau_{k+1} - \tau_k)^\alpha}, \tau_{k+1} \in [c_1, d_1], k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1) - 1, k \neq k(\delta_1)$;
- (h) $u(\tau_{k(c_1)+1}) \leq \frac{\tilde{r}}{(\tau_{k(c_1)+1} - c_1)^\alpha}, \tau_{k(c_1)+1} \in [c_1, d_1]$;
- (i) $u(\tau_{k(\delta_1)+1}) \leq \frac{\tilde{r}}{(\tau_{k(\delta_1)+1} - \delta_1)^\alpha}, \tau_{k(\delta_1)+1} \in [c_1, d_1]$,

where $\tilde{r} = \max_{t \in [c_1, d_1] \cup [c_2, d_2]} \{r(t)\}$.

Proof For $t \in (\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}] \subset [c_1, d_1], k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1) - 1$, there exists $\zeta_k \in (\tau_k, t)$ such that

$$x(t) - x(\tau_k^+) = x'(\zeta_k)(t - \tau_k).$$

In view of $x(\tau_k^+) > 0$ and the monotone properties of $\Phi_\alpha(\cdot)$, $r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))$ and $r(t)$, we obtain

$$\Phi_\alpha(x(t)) > \Phi_\alpha(x'(\zeta_k))\Phi_\alpha(t - \tau_k) \geq \frac{r(t)}{r(\zeta_k)}\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))(t - \tau_{k-1})^\alpha.$$

That is,

$$\frac{r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))}{\Phi_\alpha(x(t))} < \frac{r(\zeta_k)}{(t - \tau_k)^\alpha}.$$

Letting $t \rightarrow \tau_{k+1}^-$, we obtain conclusion (g). Using a similar analysis on $(c_1, \tau_{k(c_1)+1}]$ and $(\delta_1, \tau_{k(\delta_1)+1}]$, we can get (h) and (i). The proof is completed. \square

Lemma 2.4 *Assume that, for any $T \geq t_0$, there exist $c_2, d_2, \delta_2 \notin \{\tau_k\}$ such that $T < c_2 - \sigma_0 < c_2 < \delta_2 < d_2$ and (6) hold. If $x(t)$ is a negative solution of (1) and $u(t)$ is defined by*

$$u(t) := \frac{r(t)\Phi_\alpha(x'(t))}{\Phi_\alpha(x(t))}, \quad t \in [c_2, d_2], \tag{8}$$

then the estimations (g)–(i) in Lemma 2.3 are correct with the replacement of c_1, d_1 and δ_1 by c_2, d_2 and δ_2 , respectively.

The proof of Lemma 2.4 is similar to that of Lemma 2.3 and will be omitted.

Lemma 2.5 (cf. Lemma 1.1 in [22]) *Let $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n\}$ be the n -tuple satisfying (A). Then there exists an n -tuple $(\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_n)$ satisfying*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \eta_i = \alpha, \quad \text{and} \\ \text{(ii)} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i = \lambda < 1, \quad 0 < \eta_i < 1. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

In the following we will establish Kamenev type interval oscillation criteria for (1) by the idea of Philos [26]. For the research of Kamenev/Philos-type oscillation criteria for differential equations, see [27–31].

Let $E = \{(t, s) : t_0 \leq s \leq t\}$, $H_1, H_2 \in C^1(E, \mathbb{R})$. Then a pair of functions H_1, H_2 is said to belong to a function set \mathcal{H} , denoted by $(H_1, H_2) \in \mathcal{H}$, if there exist $h_1, h_2 \in L_{loc}(E, \mathbb{R})$ satisfying the following conditions:

- (C₁) $H_1(t, t) = H_2(t, t) = 0, H_1(t, s) > 0, H_2(t, s) > 0$ for $t > s$;
- (C₂) $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} H_1(t, s) = h_1(t, s)H_1(t, s), \frac{\partial}{\partial s} H_2(t, s) = h_2(t, s)H_2(t, s)$.

For convenience in the expression below, we also use the following notation:

$$\int_{[c,d]} := \int_c^{\tau_{k(c)+1}} + \sum_{k=k(c)+1}^{k(d)-1} \left(\int_{\tau_k}^{t_k} + \int_{t_k}^{\tau_{k+1}} \right) + \int_{\tau_{k(d)}}^{t_{k(d)}} + \int_{t_{k(d)}}^d.$$

Lemma 2.6 *Assume that the conditions of Lemma 2.1 hold. Let $x(t)$ be a positive solution of (1) and $u(t)$ be defined by (7). Then, for any $(H_1, H_2) \in \mathcal{H}$, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} \psi(t) H_1(t, c_1) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} dt \\ & + \int_{c_1}^{\delta_1} H_1(t, c_1) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_1(t, c_1)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt \\ & \leq \sum_{i=k(c_1)+1}^{k(\delta_1)} \frac{b_i^\alpha - a_i^\alpha}{a_i^\alpha} H_1(\tau_i, c_1) u(\tau_i) - H_1(\delta_1, c_1) u(\delta_1) \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{[\delta_1, d_1]} \psi(t) H_2(d_1, t) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} dt \\ & + \int_{\delta_1}^{d_1} H_2(d_1, t) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_2(d_1, t)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt \\ & \leq \sum_{i=k(\delta_1)+1}^{k(d_1)} \frac{b_i^\alpha - a_i^\alpha}{a_i^\alpha} H_2(d_1, \tau_i) u(\tau_i) + H_2(d_1, \delta_1) u(\delta_1), \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

where $\psi(t) = \eta_0^{-\eta_0} |f(t)|^{\eta_0} \prod_{i=1}^n \eta_i^{-\eta_i} (p_i(t))^{\eta_i}$ with $\eta_0 = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i$ and $\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_n$ are positive constants satisfying conditions of Lemma 2.5.

Proof Differentiating $u(t)$ and in view of (1), we obtain, for $t \neq \tau_k$,

$$\begin{aligned} u'(t) = & - \left[\sum_{i=1}^n p_i(t) \Phi_{\beta_i - \alpha}(x(t - \sigma(t))) + \frac{|f(t)|}{\Phi_\alpha(x(t - \sigma(t)))} \right] \frac{\Phi_\alpha(x(t - \sigma(t)))}{\Phi_\alpha(x(t))} \\ & - \frac{\alpha}{r^{1/\alpha}(t)} |u(t)|^{1+1/\alpha} - p_0(t). \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

Let

$$v_0 = \eta_0^{-1} \frac{|f(t)|}{\Phi_\alpha(x(t - \sigma(t)))}, \quad v_i = \eta_i^{-1} p_i(t) \Phi_{\beta_i - \alpha}(x(t - \sigma(t))), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n,$$

where $\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_n$ are chosen to satisfy conditions of Lemma 2.5 with $\eta_0 = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n \eta_i$ for given β_1, \dots, β_n and α . Employing the arithmetic–geometric mean inequality (see [32])

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \eta_i v_i \geq \prod_{i=0}^n v_i^{\eta_i},$$

we have, from (12),

$$u'(t) \leq -\psi(t) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} - \frac{\alpha}{r^{1/\alpha}(t)} |u(t)|^{1+1/\alpha} - p_0(t), \tag{13}$$

where

$$\psi(t) = \eta_0^{-\eta_0} |f(t)|^{\eta_0} \prod_{i=1}^n \eta_i^{-\eta_i} (p_i(t))^{\eta_i}.$$

Multiplying both sides of (13) by $H_1(t, c_1)$ and integrating it from c_1 to δ_1 , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} H_1(t, c_1)u'(t) dt &\leq - \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} \psi(t)H_1(t, c_1) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} dt \\ &\quad - \alpha \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} H_1(t, c_1) \frac{|u(t)|^{1+1/\alpha}}{r^{1/\alpha}(t)} dt \\ &\quad - \int_{c_1}^{\delta_1} H_1(t, c_1)p_0(t) dt. \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Noticing that the impulse moments $\tau_{k(c_1)+1}, \tau_{k(c_1)+2}, \dots, \tau_{k(\delta_1)}$ are in $[c_1, \delta_1]$ and using the integration by parts formula on the left-hand side of the above inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} H_1(t, c_1)u'(t) dt &= \sum_{i=k(c_1)+1}^{k(\delta_1)} \left(1 - \frac{b_i^\alpha}{a_i^\alpha}\right) H_1(\tau_i, c_1)u(\tau_i) + H_1(\delta_1, c_1)u(\delta_1) \\ &\quad - \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} H_1(t, c_1)h_1(t, c_1)u(t) dt. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Substituting (15) into (14), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} \psi(t)H_1(t, c_1) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} dt \\ &\leq \sum_{i=k(c_1)+1}^{k(\delta_1)} \left(\frac{b_i^\alpha}{a_i^\alpha} - 1\right) H_1(\tau_i, c_1)u(\tau_i) - H_1(\delta_1, c_1)u(\delta_1) \\ &\quad - \int_{c_1}^{\delta_1} p_0(t)H_1(t, c_1) dt + \int_{[c_1, \delta_1]} H_1(t, c_1)V(u(t)) dt, \end{aligned}$$

where $V(u(t)) = [|h_1(t, c_1)||u(t)| - \frac{\alpha}{r^{1/\alpha}(t)}|u(t)|^{1+1/\alpha}]$. We easily see that

$$V(u(t)) \leq \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} V(u(t)) = \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_1(t, c_1)|^{1+\alpha}.$$

Thus, we obtain (10).

Multiplying both sides of (13) by $H_2(d_1, t)$ and using a similar analysis to the above, we can obtain (11). The proof is completed. \square

Lemma 2.7 *Assume that the conditions of Lemma 2.2 hold. Let $x(t)$ be a negative solution of (1) and $u(t)$ be defined by (8). Then for any $(H_1, H_2) \in \mathcal{H}$ we have*

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{[c_2, \delta_2]} \psi(t)H_1(t, c_2) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} dt \\ &\quad + \int_{c_2}^{\delta_2} H_1(t, c_2) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_1(t, c_2)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt \\ &\leq \sum_{i=k(c_2)+1}^{k(\delta_2)} \frac{b_i^\alpha - a_i^\alpha}{a_i^\alpha} H_1(\tau_i, c_2)u(\tau_i) - H_1(\delta_2, c_2)u(\delta_2) \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{[\delta_2, d_2]} \psi(t) H_2(d_2, t) \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} dt \\ & + \int_{\delta_2}^{d_2} H_2(d_2, t) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_2(d_2, t)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt \\ & \leq \sum_{i=k(\delta_2)+1}^{k(d_2)} \frac{b_i^\alpha - a_i^\alpha}{a_i^\alpha} H_2(d_1, \tau_i) u(\tau_i) - H_2(d_2, \delta_2) u(\delta_2), \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

where $\psi(t)$ is defined as in Lemma 2.6.

The proof of Lemma 2.7 is similar to that of Lemma 2.6 and will be omitted.

For two constants $\nu_1, \nu_2 \notin \{\tau_k\}$ with $\nu_1 < \nu_2$ and $k(\nu_1) < k(\nu_2)$, using function $\varphi \in C([\nu_1, \nu_2], \mathbb{R})$ and function $\phi \in C_-([\nu_1, \nu_2], \mathbb{R})$, we define a functional $Q : C([\nu_1, \nu_2], \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$Q_{\nu_1}^{\nu_2}[\varphi] := \frac{\tilde{r}(b_{k(\nu_1)+1}^\alpha - a_{k(\nu_1)+1}^\alpha) \varphi(\tau_{k(\nu_1)+1})}{a_{k(\nu_1)+1}^\alpha (\tau_{k(\nu_1)+1} - \nu_1)^\alpha} + \sum_{k=k(\nu_1)+2}^{k(\nu_2)} \frac{\tilde{r}(b_k^\alpha - a_k^\alpha) \varphi(\tau_k)}{a_k^\alpha (\tau_k - \tau_{k-1})^\alpha}, \tag{18}$$

where $\sum_m^n = 0$ if $m > n$, and a functional $L : C_-([\nu_1, \nu_2], \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\nu_1}^{\nu_2}[\phi] & := \int_{\nu_1}^{\tau_{k(\nu_1)+1}} \phi(t) \frac{(t - \tau_{k(\nu_1)} - \sigma(t))^\alpha}{(t - \tau_{k(\nu_1)})^\alpha} dt \\ & + \sum_{k=k(\nu_1)+1}^{k(\nu_2)-1} \left[\int_{\tau_k}^{t_k} \phi(t) \frac{(t - \tau_k)^\alpha}{b_k^\alpha (t - \tau_k + \sigma(t))^\alpha} dt + \int_{t_k}^{\tau_{k+1}} \phi(t) \frac{(t - \tau_k - \sigma(t))^\alpha}{(t - \tau_k)^\alpha} dt \right] \\ & + \int_{\tau_{k(\nu_2)}}^{t_{k(\nu_2)}} \phi(t) \frac{(t - \tau_{k(\nu_2)})^\alpha}{b_{k(\nu_2)}^\alpha (t - \tau_{k(\nu_2)} + \sigma(t))^\alpha} dt \\ & + \int_{t_{k(\nu_2)}}^{\nu_2} \phi(t) \frac{(t - \tau_{k(\nu_2)} - \sigma(t))^\alpha}{(t - \tau_{k(\nu_2)})^\alpha} dt, \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

where t_k are zero points of $D_k(t)$ on $[\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$ for $k = k(\nu_1) + 1, \dots, k(\nu_2)$.

For convenience in the expression below, we define, for $j = 1, 2$,

$$\Pi_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [H_1(t, c_j)] := L_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [\psi(t) H_1(t, c_j)] + \int_{c_j}^{\delta_j} H_1(t, c_j) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_1(t, c_j)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt$$

and

$$\Pi_{\delta_j}^{d_j} [H_2(d_j, t)] := L_{\delta_j}^{d_j} [\psi(t) H_2(d_j, t)] + \int_{\delta_j}^{d_j} H_2(d_j, t) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_2(d_j, t)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt,$$

where $\psi(t) = \eta_0^{-\eta_0} |f(t)|^{\eta_0} \prod_{i=1}^n \eta_i^{-\eta_i} (p_i(t))^{\eta_i}$.

Theorem 2.1 *Assume that, for any $T \geq t_0$, there exist $T < c_1 - \sigma_0 < c_1 < d_1 \leq c_2 - \sigma_0 < c_2 < d_2$ and (5) and (6) hold. If there exists a pair of $(H_1, H_2) \in \mathcal{H}$ such that*

$$\frac{\Pi_{c_j}^{\delta_j}[H_1(t, c_j)]}{H_1(\delta_j, c_j)} + \frac{\Pi_{\delta_j}^{d_j}[H_2(d_j, t)]}{H_2(d_j, \delta_j)} > \frac{Q_{c_j}^{\delta_j}[H_1(\cdot, c_j)]}{H_1(\delta_j, c_j)} + \frac{Q_{\delta_j}^{d_j}[H_2(d_j, \cdot)]}{H_2(d_j, \delta_j)}, \quad j = 1, 2, \tag{20}$$

then (1) is oscillatory.

Proof Assume, to the contrary, that $x(t)$ is a nonoscillatory solution of (1). If $x(t)$ is a positive solution, we choose the interval $[c_1, d_1]$ to consider.

From Lemma 2.6, we obtain (10) and (11). Applying the estimation (a)–(f) into the left side, meanwhile (g)–(i) into the right side, of (10) and (11), we get

$$\Pi_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(t, c_1)] \leq Q_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(\cdot, c_1)] - H_1(\delta_1, c_1)u(\delta_1) \tag{21}$$

and

$$\Pi_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, t)] \leq Q_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, \cdot)] + H_2(d_1, \delta_1)u(\delta_1). \tag{22}$$

Dividing (21) and (22) by $H_1(\delta_1, c_1)$ and $H_2(d_1, \delta_1)$, respectively, and adding them, we get

$$\frac{\Pi_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(t, c_1)]}{H_1(\delta_1, c_1)} + \frac{\Pi_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, t)]}{H_2(d_1, \delta_1)} \leq \frac{Q_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(\cdot, c_1)]}{H_1(\delta_1, c_1)} + \frac{Q_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, \cdot)]}{H_2(d_1, \delta_1)},$$

which contradicts (20) for $j = 1$.

If $x(t)$ is a negative solution of (1), we choose interval $[c_2, d_2]$ and can get a contradiction to (20) for $j = 2$. The details will be omitted.

The proof is complete. □

Remark 2.1 When $\sigma(t) = 0$, i.e., the delay disappears and $\alpha = 1$ in (1), Theorem 2.1 reduces to Theorem 2.2 in [1].

Remark 2.2 When $\sigma(t) = \sigma_0$, i.e., the delay is constant, Theorem 2.1 reduces to Theorem 2.8 in [2].

In Eq. (19), zero points t_k of $D_k(t)$ appear at upper limit (or lower limit) of integrals. However, these zero points are generally not easy to solve from $D_k(t) = 0$, which will lead to difficult in the calculation of (19). To overcome this difficulty we need to re-estimate $x(t - \sigma(t))/x(t)$ on $(t_k, \tau_{k+1}]$, (τ_k, t_k) , $(t_{k(d_j)}, d_j)$ and $(\tau_{k(d_j)}, t_{k(d_j)})$ in Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.2.

If $x(t)$ is a positive solution of (1), from (a) in Lemma 2.1, we have, for $k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1) - 1, k \neq k(\delta_1)$,

$$\frac{x(t - \sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t - \tau_k} > \frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t}, \quad t \in (t_k, \tau_{k+1}]. \tag{23}$$

From (b) in Lemma 2.1, we have, for $k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1)$,

$$\frac{x(t - \sigma(t))}{x(t)} > \frac{t - \tau_k}{b_k(t + \sigma(t) - \tau_k)} > 0 > \frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t}, \quad t \in (\tau_k, t_k]. \tag{24}$$

Combining (23) with (24), we obtain estimation of $x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))/x^\alpha(t)$ on $(\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}]$ for $k = k(c_1) + 1, \dots, k(d_1) - 1, k \neq k(\delta_1)$,

$$(a) \quad \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} > \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t}\right), \quad t \in (\tau_k, \tau_{k+1}].$$

Similarly, from (b) and (c) in Lemma 2.1, we have

$$(b) \quad \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} > \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(\delta_1)} - \sigma(t)}{t}\right), \quad t \in (\tau_{k(\delta_1)}, t_{k(\delta_1)}] \cup (t_{k(\delta_1)}, \delta_1],$$

from (b) and (d) in Lemma 2.1, we have

$$(c) \quad \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} > \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(d_1)} - \sigma(t)}{t}\right), \quad t \in (\tau_{k(d_1)}, t_{k(d_1)}] \cup (t_{k(d_1)}, d_1],$$

and from (e) and (f) in Lemma 2.1, we have

$$(d) \quad \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} > \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(\delta_1)} - \sigma(t)}{t - \tau_{k(\delta_1)}}\right), \quad t \in [\delta_1, \tau_{k(\delta_1)+1}],$$

and

$$(e) \quad \frac{x^\alpha(t - \sigma(t))}{x^\alpha(t)} > \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(c_1)} - \sigma(t)}{t - \tau_{k(c_1)}}\right), \quad t \in [c_1, \tau_{k(c_1)+1}].$$

If $x(t)$ is a negative solution of (1), from Lemma 2.2, we can get similar estimations to the above for $t \in [c_2, d_2]$.

For convenience, we define functional $\tilde{L} : C_-([c_j, d_j], \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, for $j = 1, 2$, by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{L}_{c_j}^{\delta_j}[\phi] &:= \int_{c_j}^{\tau_{k(c_j)+1}} \phi(t) \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(c_j)} - \sigma(t)}{t - \tau_{k(c_j)}}\right) dt \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=k(c_j)+1}^{k(\delta_j)-1} \int_{\tau_k}^{\tau_{k+1}} \phi(t) \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t}\right) dt \\ &\quad + \int_{\tau_{k(\delta_j)}}^{\delta_j} \phi(t) \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(\delta_j)} - \sigma(t)}{t}\right) dt \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{L}_{\delta_j}^{d_j}[\phi] &:= \int_{\delta_j}^{\tau_{k(\delta_j)+1}} \phi(t) \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(\delta_j)} - \sigma(t)}{t - \tau_{k(\delta_j)}}\right) dt \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=k(\delta_j)+1}^{k(d_j)-1} \int_{\tau_k}^{\tau_{k+1}} \phi(t) \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_k - \sigma(t)}{t}\right) dt \\ &\quad + \int_{\tau_{k(\delta_j)}}^{d_j} \phi(t) \Phi_\alpha\left(\frac{t - \tau_{k(\delta_j)} - \sigma(t)}{t}\right) dt. \end{aligned}$$

Further, we define, for $j = 1, 2$,

$$\tilde{\Pi}_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [H_1(t, c_j)] := \tilde{L}_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [\psi(t)H_1(t, c_j)] + \int_{c_j}^{\delta_j} H_1(t, c_j) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_1(t, c_j)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt$$

and

$$\tilde{\Pi}_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [H_2(d_j, t)] := \tilde{L}_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [\psi(t)H_2(d_j, t)] + \int_{c_j}^{\delta_j} H_2(d_j, t) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_2(d_j, t)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt,$$

where $\psi(t) = \eta_0^{-\eta_0} |f'(t)|^{\eta_0} \prod_{i=1}^n \eta_i^{-\eta_i} (p_i(t))^{\eta_i}$.

Using similar proof method to that of Theorem 2.1 and applying estimations (ā)–(ē), we can obtain following theorem.

Theorem 2.2 *Assume that, for any $T \geq t_0$, there exist $T < c_1 - \sigma_0 < c_1 < d_1 \leq c_2 - \sigma_0 < c_2 < d_2$ and (5) and (6) hold. If there exists a pair of $(H_1, H_2) \in \mathcal{H}$ such that*

$$\frac{\tilde{\Pi}_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [H_1(t, c_j)]}{H_1(\delta_j, c_j)} + \frac{\tilde{\Pi}_{\delta_j}^{d_j} [H_2(d_j, t)]}{H_2(d_j, \delta_j)} > \frac{Q_{c_j}^{\delta_j} [H_1(\cdot, c_j)]}{H_1(\delta_j, c_j)} + \frac{Q_{\delta_j}^{d_j} [H_2(d_j, \cdot)]}{H_2(d_j, \delta_j)}, \quad j = 1, 2, \tag{25}$$

then (1) is oscillatory.

3 Example

In this section, we give an example to illustrate the effectiveness and non-emptiness of our results.

Example 3.1 Consider the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} x''(t) + \mu_1 p_1(t) \Phi_{\frac{5}{2}}(x(t - \sigma(t))) + \mu_2 p_2(t) \Phi_{\frac{1}{2}}(x(t - \sigma(t))) &= f(t), \quad t \neq \tau_k, \\ x(\tau_k^+) &= a_k x(\tau_k), \quad x'(\tau_k^+) = b_k x'(\tau_k), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

where $\Phi_*(s) = |s|^{*-1} s$, $\sigma(t) = \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t)$, μ_1, μ_2 are positive constants and $\tau_k: \tau_{n,1} = 8n + \frac{3}{2}$, $\tau_{n,2} = 8n + \frac{5}{2}$, $\tau_{n,3} = 8n + \frac{11}{2}$, $\tau_{n,4} = 8n + \frac{13}{2}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let

$$p_1(t) = p_2(t) = \begin{cases} (t - 8n), & t \in [8n, 8n + 3], \\ 3, & t \in [8n + 3, 8n + 5], \\ (8n + 8 - t), & t \in [8n + 5, 8n + 8], \end{cases}$$

and

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} (t - 8n)(t - 8n - 4)^3, & t \in [8n, 8n + 4], \\ (t - 8n - 4)^3(8n + 8 - t), & t \in [8n + 4, 8n + 8]. \end{cases}$$

For any $t_0 > 0$, we choose n large enough such that $t_0 < 8n$ and let $[c_1, d_1] = [8n + 1, 8n + 3]$, $[c_2, d_2] = [8n + 5, 8n + 7]$, $\delta_1 = 8n + 2$ and $\delta_2 = 8n + 6$. We see that there has a zero point of

$D_k(t)$ on each interval of $[c_1, \delta_1]$, $[\delta_1, d_1]$, $[c_2, \delta_2]$ and $[\delta_2, d_1]$. By approximate calculation, we get $t_1 \approx 8n + 1.709$, $t_2 \approx 8n + 2.710$, $t_3 \approx 8n + 5.709$ and $t_4 \approx 8n + 6.710$. Moreover, from conditions $\alpha = 1$, $\beta_1 = 5/2$ and $\beta_2 = 1/2$, we can choose $\eta_1 = 1/3$, $\eta_1 = 1/3$ and $\eta_0 = 1 - \eta_1 - \eta_2 = 1/3$. So, the conditions of Lemma 2.5 are satisfied.

Letting $H_1(t, s) = H_2(t, s) = (t - s)^2$ and $h_1(t, s) = -h_2(t, s) = \frac{2}{t-s}$. By simple calculation, we have, for $t \in [c_1, \delta_1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{c_1}^{\delta_1} H_1(t, c_1) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_1(t, c_1)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt \\ &= \int_{8n+1}^{8n+2} (t - 8n - 1)^2 \left(0 - \frac{2^2}{2^2(t - 8n - 1)^2} \right) dt = -1. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_1(t) &:= \psi(t)H_1(t, c_1) = \eta_0^{-\eta_0} |f(t)|^{\eta_0} \prod_{i=1}^2 \eta_i^{-\eta_i} (p_i(t))^{\eta_i} (t - c_1)^2 \\ &= 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2}(t - 8n)(t - 8n - 4)(t - 8n - 1)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} L_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[\phi_1(t)] &= \int_{8n+1}^{8n+\frac{3}{2}} \phi_1(t) \frac{t - 8n + \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t)}{t - 8n + \frac{3}{2}} dt \\ &+ \int_{8n+\frac{3}{2}}^{t_1} \phi_1(t) \frac{t - 8n - \frac{3}{2}}{b_{n,1}(t - 8n - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))} dt \\ &+ \int_{t_1}^{8n+2} \phi_1(t) \frac{t - 8n - \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t)}{t - 8n - \frac{3}{2}} dt \\ &= 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(\int_1^{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{t(4-t)(t-1)^2(t + \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))}{t + \frac{3}{2}} dt \right. \\ &+ \int_{\frac{3}{2}}^{1.709} \frac{t(4-t)(t-1)^2(t - \frac{3}{2})}{b_{n,1}(t - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))} dt \\ &+ \left. \int_{1.709}^2 \frac{t(4-t)(t-1)^2(t - \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))}{t - \frac{3}{2}} dt \right) \\ &\approx 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(2.373 + \frac{0.2551}{b_{n,1}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\Pi_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(t, c_1)] = 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(2.373 + \frac{0.2551}{b_{n,1}} \right) - 1.$$

Similarly, for $t \in [\delta_1, d_1]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_2(t) &:= \psi(t)H_2(d_1, t) = 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2}(t - 8n)(8n + 4 - t)(8n + 3 - t)^2, \\ & \int_{\delta_1}^{d_1} H_2(d_1, t) \left[p_0(t) - \frac{r(t)}{(1 + \alpha)^{1+\alpha}} |h_2(d_1, t)|^{1+\alpha} \right] dt = -1, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[\phi_2(t)] &= 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(\int_2^{\frac{5}{2}} \frac{t(4-t)(3-t)^2(t-\frac{3}{2}-\frac{1}{3}\sin^2(\pi t))}{t-\frac{3}{2}} dt \right. \\
 &\quad + \int_{\frac{5}{2}}^{2.71} \frac{t(4-t)(3-t)^2(t-\frac{5}{2})}{b_{n,2}(t-\frac{5}{2}+\frac{1}{3}\sin^2(\pi t))} dt \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_{2.71}^3 \frac{t(4-t)(3-t)^2(t-\frac{5}{2}-\frac{1}{3}\sin^2(\pi t))}{t-\frac{5}{2}} dt \right) \\
 &\approx 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(2.964 + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\Pi_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, t)] = 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(2.964 + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right) - 1.$$

Since

$$H_1(\delta_1, c_1) = (\delta_1 - c_1)^2 = 1, \quad H_2(d_1, \delta_1) = (d_1 - \delta_1)^2 = 1,$$

the left-hand side of inequality (20) is

$$\frac{\Pi_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(t, c_1)]}{H_1(\delta_1, c_1)} + \frac{\Pi_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, t)]}{H_2(d_1, \delta_1)} \approx 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(5.337 + \frac{0.255}{b_{n,1}} + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right) - 2.$$

Because $\tilde{r}_1 = \tilde{r}_2 = 1$, $\tau_{k(c_1)+1} = \tau_{k(\delta_1)} = \tau_{n,1} = 8n + \frac{3}{2} \in (c_1, \delta_1)$ and $\tau_{k(\delta_1)+1} = \tau_{k(d_1)} = \tau_{n,2} = 8n + \frac{5}{2} \in (\delta_1, d_1)$, it is easy to see that the right-hand side of inequality (20) for $j = 1$ is

$$\frac{Q_{c_1}^{\delta_1}[H_1(\cdot, c_1)]}{H_1(\delta_1, c_1)} + \frac{Q_{\delta_1}^{d_1}[H_2(d_1, \cdot)]}{H_2(d_1, \delta_1)} = \frac{b_{n,1} - a_{n,1}}{4a_{n,1}} + \frac{b_{n,2} - a_{n,2}}{4a_{n,2}}.$$

Thus (20) is satisfied with $j = 1$ if

$$3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(5.337 + \frac{0.255}{b_{n,1}} + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right) > 2 + \frac{b_{n,1} - a_{n,1}}{4a_{n,1}} + \frac{b_{n,2} - a_{n,2}}{4a_{n,2}}.$$

When $j = 2$, with the same argument as above we see that the left-hand side of inequality (20) is

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{\Pi_{c_2}^{\delta_2}[H_1(t, c_2)]}{H_1(\delta_2, c_2)} + \frac{\Pi_{\delta_2}^{d_2}[H_2(d_2, t)]}{H_2(d_2, \delta_2)} \\
 &= 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(\int_1^{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{t(4-t)(t-1)^2(t+\frac{3}{2}-\frac{1}{3}\sin^2(\pi t))}{t+\frac{3}{2}} dt \right. \\
 &\quad + \int_{\frac{3}{2}}^{1.709} \frac{t(4-t)(t-1)^2(t-\frac{3}{2})}{b_{n,3}(t-\frac{3}{2}+\frac{1}{3}\sin^2(\pi t))} dt \\
 &\quad \left. + \int_{1.709}^2 \frac{t(4-t)(t-1)^2(t-\frac{3}{2}-\frac{1}{3}\sin^2(\pi t))}{t-\frac{3}{2}} dt \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \int_2^{\frac{5}{2}} \frac{t(4-t)(3-t)^2(t - \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))}{t - \frac{3}{2}} dt \\
 & + \int_{\frac{5}{2}}^{2.71} \frac{t(4-t)(3-t)^2(t - \frac{5}{2})}{b_{n,4}(t - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))} dt \\
 & + \int_{2.71}^3 \frac{t(4-t)(3-t)^2(t - \frac{5}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \sin^2(\pi t))}{t - \frac{5}{2}} dt \Big) - 2, \\
 & \approx 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(5.337 + \frac{0.255}{b_{n,3}} + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,4}} \right) - 2,
 \end{aligned}$$

and the right-hand side of inequality (20) is

$$\frac{Q_{c_2}^{\delta_2}[H_1(\cdot, c_2)]}{H_2(\delta_2, c_2)} + \frac{Q_{\delta_2}^{d_2}[H_2(d_2, \cdot)]}{H_2(d_2, \delta_2)} = \frac{b_{n,3} - a_{n,3}}{4a_{n,3}} + \frac{b_{n,4} - a_{n,4}}{4a_{n,4}}.$$

Therefore, (20) is satisfied for $j = 2$, if

$$3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(5.337 + \frac{0.255}{b_{n,1}} + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right) > 2 + \frac{b_{n,3} - a_{n,3}}{4a_{n,3}} + \frac{b_{n,4} - a_{n,4}}{4a_{n,4}}.$$

Hence, by Theorem 2.1, Eq. (26) is oscillatory, if

$$\begin{cases} 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(5.337 + \frac{0.255}{b_{n,1}} + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right) > 2 + \frac{b_{n,1} - a_{n,1}}{4a_{n,1}} + \frac{b_{n,2} - a_{n,2}}{4a_{n,2}}, \\ 3\sqrt[3]{\mu_1\mu_2} \left(5.337 + \frac{0.255}{b_{n,1}} + \frac{0.078}{b_{n,2}} \right) > 2 + \frac{b_{n,3} - a_{n,3}}{4a_{n,3}} + \frac{b_{n,4} - a_{n,4}}{4a_{n,4}}. \end{cases} \tag{27}$$

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

Each of the authors, XZ, CL and RC contributed to each part of this study equally and read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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