Research Article

Oscillation Criteria Based on a New Weighted Function for Linear Matrix Hamiltonian Systems

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By employing a generalized Riccati technique and an integral averaging technique, some new oscillation criteria are established for the second-order matrix differential system $U' = A(x)U + B(t)V$, $V' = C(x)U - A^*(t)V$, where $A(t)$, $B(t)$, and $C(t)$ are $(n \times n)$ -matrices, and B , C are Hermitian. These results are sharper than some previous results.

1. Introduction

In this paper, we are concerned with the oscillatory behavior of the linear matrix Hamiltonian system of the form

$$\begin{aligned} U' &= A(x)U + B(t)V, \\ V' &= C(x)U - A^*(t)V, \end{aligned} \quad t \geq t_0, \quad (1.1)$$

where $A(t)$, $B(t)$, and $C(t)$ are $(n \times n)$ -matrices and B , C are Hermitian, that is, $B^*(t) = B(t)$, $C^*(t) = C(t)$. For any matrix A , the transpose of A is denoted by A^* .

For any real symmetric matrixes P , Q , R , we write $P \geq Q$ meaning that $P - Q \geq 0$; that is, $P - Q$ is positive semidefinite and $P > Q$ meaning that $P - Q > 0$; that is, $P - Q$ is positive definite.

Definition 1.1. A solution $(U(t), V(t))$ of (1.1) is called nontrivial if $\det U(t) \neq 0$ for at least one $t \geq t_0$.

Definition 1.2. A nontrivial solution $(U(t), V(t))$ of (1.1) is called prepared if $U^*(t)V(t) - V^*(t)U(t) = 0$ for every $t \geq t_0$.

Definition 1.3. System (1.1) is called oscillatory on $[t_0, \infty)$ if there is a nontrivial prepared solution $(U(t), V(t))$ of (1.1) having the property that $\det U(t)$ vanishes on $[T, \infty)$ for every $T > t_0$. Otherwise, it is called nonoscillatory.

Note 1. It follows from [1, Theorem 8.1, page 303] that if the system (1.1) is oscillatory on $[t_0, \infty)$, then every nontrivial prepared solution $(U(t), V(t))$ of (1.1) has the property that $\det U(t)$ vanishes on $[T, \infty)$ for every $T > t_0$.

The oscillation problem for system (1.1) and its various particular cases such as the second-order matrix differential systems

$$[Y(t)]'' + Q(t)Y(t) = 0, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty), \quad (1.2)$$

$$[P(t)Y(t)]'' + Q(t)Y(t) = 0, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty), \quad (1.3)$$

has been studied extensively in recent years, for example, see [1–23]. Some of the most important conditions that guarantee that system (1.2) is oscillatory are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1 \left\{ \int_{t_0}^t Q(s) ds \right\} &= \infty \text{ (see [4, 6]),} \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \inf(1/t) \int_{t_0}^t \int_{t_0}^s \operatorname{tr} Q(\tau) d\tau ds &> -\infty \text{ and} \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup(1/t) \int_{t_0}^t \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^s Q(\tau) d\tau \right] ds &= \infty \text{ or} \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup(1/t) \int_{t_0}^t \left\{ \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^s Q(\tau) d\tau \right] \right\}^2 ds &= \infty \text{ (see [5]),} \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup(1/t^{m-1}) \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t (t-s)^{m-1} Q(s) ds \right] ds &= \infty, \quad m > 2 \text{ is an integer (see [2]).} \end{aligned}$$

We particularly mention the other results of Erbe et al. [2] who proved the following theorem.

Erbe, Kong, and Ruan's Theorem

Let $H(t, s)$ and $h(t, s)$ be continuous on $D = \{f(t, s) : t \geq s \geq t_0\}$ such that $H(t, t) = 0$ for $t \geq t_0$ and $H(t, s) > 0$ for $t > s \geq t_0$. We assume further that the partial derivative $(\partial/\partial s)H(t, s) = H_s(t, s)$ is nonpositive and continuous for $t \geq s \geq t_0$ and $h(t, s)$ is defined by

$$H_s(t, s) = -h(t, s)[H(t, s)]^{1/2}, \quad (t, s) \in D. \quad (1.4)$$

Finally, we assume that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \frac{1}{H(t, t_0)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(H(t, s)Q(s) - \frac{1}{4}h^2(t, s)I \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (1.5)$$

where $\lambda_1[A] \geq \lambda_2[A] \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n[A]$ denotes the usual ordering of the eigenvalues of the symmetric matrix A ; I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix. Then system (1.2) is oscillatory.

And, later, Meng et al. [3] gave the following oscillation criteria.

Meng, Wang, and Zheng's Theorem

Let $H(t, s)$ and $h(t, s)$ be continuous on $D = \{(t, s) : t \geq s \geq t_0\}$ such that $H(t, t) = 0$ for $t \geq t_0$ and $H(t, s) > 0$ for $t > s \geq t_0$. We assume further that the partial derivative $(\partial/\partial s)H(t, s) = H_s(t, s)$ is nonpositive and continuous for $t \geq s \geq t_0$ and $h(t, s)$ is defined by

$$H_s(t, s) = -h(t, s)[H(t, s)]^{1/2}, \quad (t, s) \in D. \quad (1.6)$$

If there exists a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ such that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{H(t, t_0)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(H(t, s)R(s) - \frac{1}{4}a(s)h^2(t, s)I \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (1.7)$$

where $a(t) = \exp\{-2 \int_t f(s)ds\}$, $R(t) = a(t)\{Q(t) + f^2(t)I - f'(t)I\}$. Then system (1.2) is oscillatory.

However, all these results are given in the form of $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \lambda_1[\cdot] = +\infty$. In this paper, using the generalized Riccati technique and the integral averaging technique, we establish some new oscillation criteria which are different from most known ones in the sense that they are based on a new weighted function $\tilde{h}(t, s, l)$ and which are presented in the form of $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \lambda_1[\cdot] > \text{const}$. Our results are presented in the form of a high degree of generality. Although the conditions in our main results (Theorem 2.1) seem to be more complicated compared to the known ones, with appropriate choices of the functions $\tilde{h}$, f , we derive a number of oscillation criteria (see also (2.2)), which extend, improve, and unify a number of existing results and handle the cases not covered by known criteria. In particular, this can be seen by the examples given at the end of this paper.

2. Main Results

In the last literature, most oscillation results involve a function $H = H(t, s) \in C(D, R_+)$, where $D = \{(t, s) : t_0 \leq s \leq t < \infty\}$, which satisfies $H(t, t) = 0$, $H(t, s) > 0$ for $t > s$ and has partial derivative $\partial H/\partial s$ on D such that

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial s} = -h(t, s)[H(t, s)]^{1/2}, \quad (2.1)$$

where h is locally integrable with respect to s in D .

In this paper, let a function $\tilde{h} = \tilde{h}(t, s, l)$ be continuous on $D = \{(t, s, l) : t_0 \leq l \leq s \leq t < +\infty\}$, which satisfies $\tilde{h}(t, t, l) = 0$, $\tilde{h}(t, s, l) > 0$ for $l \leq s < t$ and has the partial derivative $\partial \tilde{h}/\partial s$ on D such that $\partial \tilde{h}/\partial s$ is locally integrable with respect to s in D , and we call the two positive numbers γ and δ admissible [22] if they satisfy the condition $\gamma\delta > 1$.

Theorem 2.1. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{h^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(h^2(t, s, t_0) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.2)$$

where $\Psi(s) = b(s)[-C - f(A + A^*) + f^2 B - f'I](s)$, I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix, $b(s) = \exp(-2 \int_{x_0}^s f(\zeta) d\zeta)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} P(t, s, t_0) = & b(s) h^2(t, s, t_0) \left[f(A + A^*) - A^* B^{-1} A \right](s) \\ & - b(s) h(t, s, t_0) \left[h'_s(t, s, t_0) - f(s) h(t, s, t_0) \right] \times \left[A^* B^{-1} + B^{-1} A \right](s) \\ & - b(s) \left[(h'_s(t, s, t_0) - f(s) h(t, s, t_0)) B^{-1/2}(s) - f(s) h(t, s, t_0) B^{1/2}(s) \right]^2, \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

then system (1.1) is oscillatory.

Proof. Suppose to the contrary that system (1.1) is nonoscillatory. Then there exists a nontrivial prepared solution $(U(t), V(t))$ of (1.1) such that $U(t)$ is nonsingular on $[T, \infty)$ for some $T > t_0$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $\det U(t) \neq 0$ for $t \geq t_0$. Define

$$W(t) = b(t) \left[V(t) U^{-1}(t) + f(t) I \right], \quad t \geq t_0. \quad (2.4)$$

Then $W(t)$ is well defined, Hermitian, and it satisfies the Riccati equation

$$\left\{ W' + W A + A^* W + \frac{1}{b} W B W - f [W B + B W - 2W] + \Psi \right\}(t) = 0 \quad (2.5)$$

on $[t_0, \infty)$. Multiplying (2.5), with t replaced by s , by $h^2(t, s, t_0)$, integrating from t_0 to t , and picking two admissible numbers γ and δ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_0}^t h^2(t, s, t_0) \Psi(s) ds = & - \int_{t_0}^t h^2(t, s, t_0) W'(s) ds - \int_{t_0}^t \frac{h^2(t, s, t_0)}{b(s)} [W B W](s) ds \\ & - \int_{t_0}^t h^2(t, s, t_0) [W A + A^* W - f(W B + B W - 2W)](s) ds \\ = & h^2(t, t_0, t_0) W(t_0) - \int_{t_0}^t \frac{h^2(t, s, t_0)}{b(s)} [W B W](s) ds \\ & - \int_{t_0}^t h^2(t, s, t_0) [W A + A^* W - f(W B + B W)](s) ds \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + 2 \int_{t_0}^t \hbar(t, s, t_0) [\hbar'_s(t, s, t_0) - f(s)\hbar(t, s, t_0)] W(s) ds \\
& = \hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0) W(t_0) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{t_0}^t [(Q^* Q)(t, s, t_0)] ds - \gamma \delta \int_{t_0}^t [P(t, s, t_0)] ds \\
& \quad - \frac{\gamma \delta - 1}{\gamma \delta} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{\hbar^2(t, s, t_0)}{b(s)} [(RW)^*(RW)](s) ds,
\end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

where $R(t) = \sqrt{B(t)}$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
Q(t, s, t_0) &= \frac{\hbar(t, s, t_0)}{\sqrt{\delta b(s)}} (RW)(s) - \gamma \left[\sqrt{\delta b(s)} \hbar(t, s, t_0) \right] (fR - R^{-1}A)(s) \\
& \quad + \gamma \sqrt{\delta b(s)} [\hbar'_s(t, s, t_0) - f(s)\hbar(t, s, t_0)] R^{-1}(s).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds &= \hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0) W(t_0) - \frac{1}{\gamma} \int_{t_0}^t [(Q^* Q)(t, s, t_0)] ds \\
& \quad - \frac{\gamma \delta - 1}{\gamma \delta} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{\hbar^2(t, s, t_0)}{b(s)} [(RW)^*(RW)](s) ds \\
& \leq \hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0) W(t_0).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

This implies that

$$\lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] \leq \hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0) \lambda_1(W(t_0)), \tag{2.9}$$

and then

$$\frac{1}{\hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] \leq \lambda_1(W(t_0)). \tag{2.10}$$

Taking the upper limit in both sides of (2.10) as $t \rightarrow \infty$, the right-hand side is always bounded, which contradicts condition (2.2). This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1. $\square$

By applying the matrix theory [8, 21], we have the following theorem from Theorem 2.1.

Theorem 2.2. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \operatorname{tr} \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta \operatorname{tr} P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.11)$$

where $\Psi(s)$, $b(s)$, and $P(t, s, t_0)$ are as in Theorem 2.1, then system (1.1) is oscillatory.

By [8], the trace $\operatorname{tr} : S \rightarrow R$ is a positive linear functional on S , where the space S is the linear space of all real symmetric $n \times n$ matrices. And noting that two admissible numbers γ, δ satisfying $\gamma\delta > 1$, then we have the following corollary from Theorem 2.2.

Corollary 2.3. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \operatorname{tr} \Psi(s) + \operatorname{tr} P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.12)$$

where $\Psi(s)$, $b(s)$, and $P(t, s, t_0)$ are as in Theorem 2.1, then system (1.1) is oscillatory.

Proof. By virtue of a simple property of limits

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \operatorname{tr} \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta \operatorname{tr} P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] \\ & > \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\hbar^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, t_0) \operatorname{tr} \Psi(s) + \operatorname{tr} P(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

and (2.12), the conclusion follows from Theorem 2.2. $\square$

If we choose $\hbar(t, s, t_0) = \sqrt{H(t, s)/H(t, t_0)}$ in Theorem 2.1, then

$$\hbar(t, t_0, t_0) = \sqrt{\frac{H(t, t_0)}{H(t, t_0)}} = 1, \quad (2.14)$$

we have the following.

Corollary 2.4. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{H(t, t_0)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(H(t, s) \Psi_1(s) + \gamma \delta P_1(t, s) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.15)$$

where $H(t, s)$ are as in Erbe, Kong, and Ruan's Theorem, $\Psi_1(s) = b(s)[-C - \gamma\delta A^*B^{-1}A + f^2B - f'I + \gamma\delta f(A^*B^{-1} + B^{-1}A)](s)$, I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix, $b(s) = \exp(-2 \int_{x_0}^s f(\zeta)d\zeta)$, and

$$P_1(t, s) = \frac{b(s)h(t, s)\sqrt{H(t, s)}}{2} [A^*B^{-1} + B^{-1}A](s) - b(s) \left[\left(\frac{h(t, s)}{2} + f(s)\sqrt{H(t, s)} \right) B^{-1/2}(s) + f(s)\sqrt{H(t, s)} B^{1/2}(s) \right]^2, \quad (2.16)$$

then system (1.1) is oscillatory.

Remark 2.5. In the last literature [1–4, 12, 15, 23], most oscillation results were given in the form of $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup(1/(H(t, t_0)))\lambda_1[\cdot] = +\infty$. Obviously, Theorem 2.1 extends and improves a number of existing results and handles the cases not covered by known criteria, which can be seen from Corollary 2.4.

If we choose $f(t) = 0$ and let $h(t, s, r) = \sqrt{(t-s)^\alpha/(t-r)^\beta}$ for $\alpha, \beta > 1/2$ in Theorem 2.1, then we have the following.

Corollary 2.6. If there exist two real numbers $\alpha, \beta > 1/2$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \frac{1}{t^\alpha} \lambda_1 \left\{ \int_{t_0}^t \frac{(t-s)^\alpha}{\gamma\delta} \left[\frac{\alpha(t-s)^{\alpha-1}}{2} (A^*B^{-1} + B^{-1}A) - A^*B^{-1}A - \frac{\alpha(t-s)^{2(\alpha-1)}}{4} B^{-1} - \gamma\delta C \right] ds \right\} = \infty, \quad (2.17)$$

then system (1.1) is oscillatory.

If we choose appropriate f in Theorem 2.1 such that $b(t)B^{-1}(t) \leq I$ for $t \geq t_0$ and let $h(t, s, r) = \sqrt{(t-s)^\alpha/(t-r)^\beta}$ for $\alpha > 2$, then we have the following

Corollary 2.7. If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that for some $\alpha > 1/2$ and for every $r \geq t_0$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sup \frac{1}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \lambda_1 \left[\int_r^t (t-s)^2 (s-r)^{2\alpha} (\Psi(s) + \gamma\delta P_1(t, s, r)) ds \right] > \frac{\alpha}{(2\alpha-1)(2\alpha+1)}, \quad (2.18)$$

where $\Psi(s)$, $b(s)$ are as in Theorem 2.1 and

$$\begin{aligned}
P_1(t, s, r) &= b(s) \left[f(A + A^*) - A^* B^{-1} A \right](s) \\
&\quad - \frac{b(s)}{(t-s)(s-r)} [r + \alpha t - (\alpha + 1)s] \left[A^* B^{-1} + B^{-1} A \right](s) \\
&\quad + b(s) f(s) \left[A^* B^{-1} + B^{-1} A - f(B + 2I + B^{-1}) \right](s) \\
&\quad + \frac{2b(s)f(s)}{(t-s)(s-r)} [r + \alpha t - (\alpha + 1)s] (I + B^{-1}) \\
&\quad - \frac{b(s)}{(t-s)^2(s-r)^2} B^{-1},
\end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

then system (1.1) is oscillatory.

Proof. Assume to the contrary that (1.1) is nonoscillatory. Then $U(t)$ is nonsingular for all sufficiently large t , say $t \geq T \geq t_0$. Similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1, for $t \geq T \geq t_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_T^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, T) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P_1(t, s, T) \right) ds &\leq \gamma \delta \int_T^t b(s) B^{-1}(s) [\hbar'_s(t, s, T)]^2 ds \\
&\leq \gamma \delta \int_T^t (s - T)^{2(\alpha-1)} [T + \alpha t - (\alpha + 1)s]^2 ds.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.20}$$

This implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_1 \left[\int_T^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, T) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P_1(t, s, T) \right) ds \right] &\leq \int_T^t (s - T)^{2(\alpha-1)} [T + \alpha t - (\alpha + 1)s]^2 ds \\
&= \frac{\alpha}{(2\alpha - 1)(2\alpha + 1)} (t - T)^{2(\alpha+1)}.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.21}$$

Then

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \lambda_1 \left[\int_T^t \left(\hbar^2(t, s, T) \Psi(s) + \gamma \delta P_1(t, s, T) \right) ds \right] \leq \frac{\alpha}{(2\alpha - 1)(2\alpha + 1)}, \tag{2.22}$$

which contradicts assumption (2.18). This completes the proof of Corollary 2.7. $\square$

When $A(t) \equiv 0$, $B^{-1}(t) = P(t)$ and $-C(t) = Q(t)$ for $t \geq t_0$, then system (1.1) reduces to system (1.3).

As an immediate result of Theorem 2.1, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 2.8. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{h^2(t, t_0, t_0)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(h^2(t, s, t_0) \Psi_1(s) + \gamma \delta P_2(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.23)$$

where $\Psi_1(s) = b(s)[Q(t) + f^2 P^{-1}(t) - f' I](s)$, I is the $n \times n$ identity matrix, $b(s) = \exp(-2 \int_{x_0}^s f(\zeta) d\zeta)$, and

$$P_2(t, s, t_0) = -b(s) \left[\left(h'_s(t, s, t_0) - f(s) h(t, s, t_0) \right) P^{1/2}(s) - f(s) h(t, s, t_0) P^{-1/2}(s) \right]^2, \quad (2.24)$$

then system (1.3) is oscillatory.

By applying the matrix theory [8, 21], we have the following theorem from Theorem 2.8.

Theorem 2.9. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(h^2(t, s, t_0) \operatorname{tr} \Psi_1(s) + \gamma \delta \operatorname{tr} P_2(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.25)$$

where $\Psi_1(s)$, $b(s)$, and $P_2(t, s, t_0)$ are as in Theorem 2.8, then system (1.3) is oscillatory.

By [8], the trace $\operatorname{tr} : S \rightarrow R$ is a positive linear functional on S , where the space S is the linear space of all real symmetric $n \times n$ matrices. And noting that two admissible numbers γ, δ satisfying $\gamma \delta > 1$, then we have the following corollary from Theorem 2.9.

Corollary 2.10. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1 \left[\int_{t_0}^t \left(h^2(t, s, t_0) \operatorname{tr} \Psi_1(s) + \operatorname{tr} P_2(t, s, t_0) \right) ds \right] = \infty, \quad (2.26)$$

where $\Psi_1(s)$, $b(s)$, and $P_2(t, s, t_0)$ are as in Theorem 2.8, then system (1.3) is oscillatory.

By Corollary 2.7 and (1.3), we easily get the following theorem:

Theorem 2.11. *If there exist a function $f \in C^1[t_0, \infty)$ and two admissible numbers γ, δ such that for some $\alpha > 1/2$ and for every $r \geq t_0$,*

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \lambda_1 \left[\int_r^t (t-s)^2 (s-r)^{2\alpha} (\Psi_1(s) + \gamma \delta P_3(t, s, r)) ds \right] > \frac{\alpha}{(2\alpha-1)(2\alpha+1)}, \quad (2.27)$$

where $\Psi_1(s)$, $b(s)$ are as in Theorem 2.8 and

$$\begin{aligned} P_3(t, s, r) = & -b(s)f^2(s)\left(P + 2I + P^{-1}\right)(s) - \frac{b(s)}{(t-s)^2(s-r)^2}P(s) \\ & + \frac{2b(s)f(s)}{(t-s)(s-r)}[r + \alpha t - (\alpha + 1)s](I + P)(s), \end{aligned} \quad (2.28)$$

then system (1.3) is oscillatory.

3. Examples

Example 3.1. Consider the Euler differential system

$$Y'' + \text{diag}\left(\frac{n}{t^2}, \frac{m}{t^2}\right)Y = 0, \quad t \geq 1, \quad m \geq n > 0. \quad (3.1)$$

If we choose $f(t) = 0$, then $a(t) = 1$, $\Psi_1(t) = \text{diag}(n/t^2, m/t^2)$ and $P_3(t, s, r) = (1/((t-s)^2(s-r)^2))I$. Note that for each $r \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \left[\int_r^t (t-s)^2(s-r)^{2\alpha} \left(\frac{m}{t^2} - \frac{\gamma\delta}{(t-s)^2(s-r)^2} \right) ds \right] \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \int_r^t \frac{m(t-s)^2(s-r)^{2\alpha}}{t^2} ds - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\gamma\delta}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \int_r^t (s-r)^{2\alpha-2} ds \\ &= \frac{m}{\alpha(2\alpha-1)(2\alpha+1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Obviously, for any $m > 1/4$, there exists $\alpha > 1/2$ such that

$$\frac{m}{\alpha(2\alpha-1)(2\alpha+1)} > \frac{\alpha}{(2\alpha-1)(2\alpha+1)}. \quad (3.3)$$

This means that (2.25) holds. By Theorem 2.11, we find that system (3.1) is oscillatory for $m > 1/4$.

Remark 3.2. As pointed out in [3], the above-mentioned criteria (1.5) of Erbe, Kong, and Ruan cannot be applied to the Euler differential system (3.1), for

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{H(t, 1)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_1^t \left(H(t, s)Q(s) - \frac{1}{4}h^2(t, s)I \right) ds \right] \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{m}{s^2} ds = m < \infty. \quad (3.4)$$

Though the above-mentioned criteria (1.7) of Meng, Wang, and Zheng's Theorem can be applied to the Euler differential system, our results are sharper than theirs, which can be seen from Example 3.1.

Remark 3.3. It is interesting for the fact that If we choose $f(t) = 0$, $h(t, s, T) = \sqrt{H(t, s)/H(t, T)}$, then for differential system (1.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1 \left[\int_1^t \left(h^2(t, s, 1) \Psi_1(s) + P_2(t, s, 1) \right) ds \right] \\ = \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{H(t, 1)} \lambda_1 \left[\int_1^t \left(H(t, s) Q(s) - \frac{1}{4} h^2(t, s) I \right) ds \right], \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

where $H(t, s)$ are as in Erbe, Kong, and Ruan's Theorem. Obviously, Theorem 2.8 extends and improves a number of existing results and handles the cases not covered by known criteria.

Example 3.4. Consider the 4-dimensional system (1.1) where

$$A(t) \equiv 0, \quad B(t) = (t+1)^2 I_2, \quad C(t) = - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\rho}{t^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sigma}{2t^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (3.6)$$

and where $\rho \geq \sigma > 0$ and $t \geq 1$. If we let $f(t) = 0$, then $b(t) = 1$ and $b(t)B^{-1}(t) \leq I_2$ for $t \geq 1$. Thus, we have

$$\Psi(s) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\rho}{t^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\sigma}{2t^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad P_1(t, s, r) = - \frac{1}{(t-s)^2 (s-r)^2 (s+1)^2} I_2. \quad (3.7)$$

Thus, if we choose two admissible numbers γ, δ such that $\gamma\delta = 3/2$, then for some $\alpha > 1/2$ and for every $r \geq t_0$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{2\alpha+1}} \left[\int_r^t (t-s)^2 (s-r)^{2\alpha} \left(\frac{\rho}{t^2} - \frac{3}{2(t-s)^2 (s-r)^2 (s+1)^2} \right) ds \right] = \frac{\rho}{\alpha(2\alpha-1)(2\alpha+1)}. \quad (3.8)$$

By Corollary 2.6, we find that system (3.1) is oscillatory for $\rho > 1/4$.

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