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# Oscillation and nonoscillation criteria for linear dynamic systems on time scales<sup>★</sup>

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## Abstract

In this paper we establish oscillation and nonoscillation criteria for the linear dynamic system

$$u^\Delta = pv, \quad v^\Delta = -qu^\sigma.$$

Here we assume that  $p$  and  $q$  are nonnegative, rd-continuous functions on  $\mathbb{T}$ , where  $\mathbb{T}$  is a time scale such that  $\sup\mathbb{T} = \infty$ . Indeed, we extend some known oscillation theories on differential systems and difference systems to the so-called dynamic systems.

*Key words:* Oscillation; Linear dynamic systems; Time scale

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be a time scale, i.e., a nonempty closed subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ , which is unbounded above. This paper is concerned with the linear dynamic system

$$u^\Delta = pv, \quad v^\Delta = -qu^\sigma, \tag{1}$$

where  $p$  and  $q$  are nonnegative, rd-continuous functions on  $\mathbb{T}$ .

The global existence and uniqueness of solutions of (1) can be easily verified by applying Theorem 5.8 of [12]. We say that a solution  $(u, v)$  of (1) is nonoscillatory if both  $u$  and  $v$  are either eventually positive or eventually

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negative. Otherwise, it is oscillatory. System (1) is called oscillatory if all its solutions are oscillatory. Otherwise, it is nonoscillatory.

Oscillation for system (1) has received a lot of attention by many researchers. When  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}$ , system (1) is equivalent to the linear differential system

$$u' = pv, \quad v' = -qu. \quad (2)$$

The oscillatory property of system (2) has been extensively studied, see for example [1], [2], [3], [4], [10] and the references cited therein. When  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{Z}$ , system (1) is equivalent to the linear difference system

$$\Delta x_n = p_n y_n, \quad \Delta y_{n-1} = -q_n x_n. \quad (3)$$

For papers dealing with oscillatory property of system (3), the reader is referred to [5], [6], [7], [8] and the references cited therein. When  $p(t) \neq 0$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ , system (1) can be reduced to a single dynamic equation

$$\left(\frac{1}{p}u^\Delta\right)^\Delta + qu^\sigma = 0,$$

which has been studied by many authors (see, for example, [9], [12], and the references cited therein).

Since there are few works about oscillation of dynamic systems on time scales (see [15]), motivated by [4] and [8], in the present paper we investigate oscillatory property for system (1).

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 contains some basic definitions and the necessary results about time scales. In Section 3, we present our main results, which include some oscillation and nonoscillation criteria for system (1). In Section 4, we provide some useful lemmas. In Section 5, we prove the main results. Finally, in Section 6, we give several examples to illustrate the applicability of the obtained results.

## 2 Preliminary

For completeness, we state some fundamental definitions and results concerning time scales that we will use in the sequel. More details can be found in [11], [12], and [13]. In this section, we assume that  $\mathbb{T}$  is an arbitrary time scale.

**Definition 2.1** *The mappings  $\sigma, \rho : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$  defined by*

$$\sigma(t) := \inf\{s \in \mathbb{T} | s > t\}, \quad \rho(t) := \sup\{s \in \mathbb{T} | s < t\}$$

are called the forward and backward jump operators respectively. In this definition, we put  $\text{inf}\emptyset = \text{sup}\mathbb{T}$  and  $\text{sup}\emptyset = \text{inf}\mathbb{T}$ . Graininess function  $\mu : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is defined by  $\mu(t) := \sigma(t) - t$ .

**Definition 2.2** A point  $t$  in  $\mathbb{T}$  is said to be right-dense if  $t < \text{sup}\mathbb{T}$  and  $\sigma(t) = t$ , and left-dense if  $t > \text{inf}\mathbb{T}$  and  $\rho(t) = t$ . Let  $\bar{\mathbb{T}} = \mathbb{T} \cup \{\text{sup}\mathbb{T}\} \cup \{\text{inf}\mathbb{T}\}$ . We call  $\infty$  left-dense if  $\infty \in \bar{\mathbb{T}}$ , and  $-\infty$  right-dense if  $-\infty \in \bar{\mathbb{T}}$ .

Note that for any left-dense  $t_0 \in \mathbb{T}$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $L_\varepsilon(t_0) = \{t \in \mathbb{T} | 0 < t_0 - t < \varepsilon\}$  is nonempty. If  $\infty \in \bar{\mathbb{T}}$ ,  $L_\varepsilon(\infty) = \{t \in \mathbb{T} | t > \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\}$  is nonempty.

**Definition 2.3** If a function  $f$  maps  $\mathbb{T}$  into  $\mathbb{R}$ , we define  $f^\sigma$  by  $f^\sigma(t) = f(\sigma(t))$  which maps  $\mathbb{T}$  into  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Definition 2.4** Let

$$\mathbb{T}^\mathcal{K} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{T} \setminus (\rho(\text{sup}\mathbb{T}), \text{sup}\mathbb{T}], & \text{if } \text{sup}\mathbb{T} < \infty, \\ \mathbb{T}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

A function  $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called (delta) differentiable at  $t \in \mathbb{T}^\mathcal{K}$  if

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow t} \frac{f^\sigma(t) - f(s)}{\sigma(t) - s}$$

exists, saying  $f^\Delta(t)$ , where  $s \in (t - \delta, t + \delta) \cap \mathbb{T}$  for some  $\delta > 0$ . In this case, we call  $f^\Delta(t)$  the (delta) derivative of  $f$  at  $t$ .

**Definition 2.5** A function on  $\mathbb{T}$  is called rd-continuous if it is continuous at all right-dense points in  $\mathbb{T}$  and its left-sided limits exist at all left-dense points in  $\mathbb{T}$ . The set of all rd-continuous functions on  $\mathbb{T}$  is denoted by  $C_{rd}(\mathbb{T})$ .

**Definition 2.6** A function  $F : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called an antiderivative of  $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  if  $F^\Delta(t) = f(t)$ , and we define  $\int_r^s f(t)\Delta t = F(s) - F(r)$  for all  $r, s \in \mathbb{T}$ .

Note that every rd-continuous function has an antiderivative.

**Lemma 2.7** Assume that  $f, g : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are differentiable at  $t \in \mathbb{T}^\mathcal{K}$  and let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  be a constant. Then the following statements are valid:

- (1)  $f^\sigma(t) = f(t) + \mu(t)f^\Delta(t)$ .
- (2)  $f + g$  is differentiable at  $t$  and

$$(f + g)^\Delta(t) = f^\Delta(t) + g^\Delta(t).$$

- (3)  $\alpha f$  is differentiable at  $t$  and

$$(\alpha f)^\Delta(t) = \alpha f^\Delta(t).$$

(4)  $fg$  is differentiable at  $t$  and

$$(fg)^\Delta(t) = f^\Delta(t)g(t) + f^\sigma(t)g^\Delta(t) = g^\Delta(t)f(t) + g^\sigma(t)f^\Delta(t).$$

(5) If  $f(t)f^\sigma(t) \neq 0$ , then  $1/f$  is differentiable at  $t$  and

$$\left(\frac{1}{f}\right)^\Delta(t) = -\frac{f^\Delta(t)}{f(t)f^\sigma(t)}.$$

(6) If  $f(t)f^\sigma(t) \neq 0$ , then  $g/f$  is differentiable at  $t$  and

$$\left(\frac{g}{f}\right)^\Delta(t) = \frac{f(t)g^\Delta(t) - f^\Delta(t)g(t)}{f(t)f^\sigma(t)}.$$

**Lemma 2.8** (1) If  $f \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T})$  and  $t \in \mathbb{T}^\kappa$ , then  $\int_t^{\sigma(t)} f(\tau)\Delta\tau = \mu(t)f(t)$ .

(2) If  $f^\Delta \geq 0$ , then  $f$  is nondecreasing.

**Lemma 2.9** If  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{T}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $f, g \in C_{rd}$ , then:

(1)  $\int_a^b [f(t) + g(t)]\Delta t = \int_a^b f(t)\Delta t + \int_a^b g(t)\Delta t.$

(2)  $\int_a^b (\alpha f)(t)\Delta t = \alpha \int_a^b f(t)\Delta t.$

(3)  $\int_a^b f(t)g^\Delta(t)\Delta t = (fg)(b) - (fg)(a) - \int_a^b f^\Delta(t)g^\sigma(t)\Delta t.$  (Integration by Parts)

**Lemma 2.10** (Chain Rule) Assume that  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuously differentiable and  $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is delta differentiable. Then  $g \circ f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable and

$$(g \circ f)^\Delta(t) = \left\{ \int_0^1 g' \left( f(t) + h\mu(t)f^\Delta(t) \right) dh \right\} f^\Delta(t).$$

**Lemma 2.11** (L'Hôpital's Rule) Assume that  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable on  $\mathbb{T}$ . If  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0^-} g(t) = \infty$  for some left-dense  $t_0 \in \bar{\mathbb{T}}$ , and there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  such

that  $g(t) > 0$ ,  $g^\Delta(t) > 0$  for all  $t \in L_\varepsilon(t_0)$ , then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0^-} \frac{f^\Delta(t)}{g^\Delta(t)} = r \in \bar{\mathbb{R}}$  implies

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0^-} \frac{f(t)}{g(t)} = r.$$

### 3 Main results

Let  $t_0$  be an arbitrary point in  $\mathbb{T}$ .

**Theorem 3.1** If

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} p(s)\Delta s = \infty, \quad \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s)\Delta s = \infty, \quad (5)$$

then system (1) is oscillatory.

**Theorem 3.2** *If*

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} p(s)\Delta s < \infty, \quad \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s)\Delta s < \infty, \quad (6)$$

then system (1) is nonoscillatory.

In the sequel, we are going to focus on the case

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} p(s)\Delta s = \infty, \quad \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s)\Delta s < \infty. \quad (7)$$

For convenience, we put

$$f(t) = \int_{t_0}^t p(s)\Delta s. \quad (8)$$

**Theorem 3.3** *Suppose that*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu(t)p(t)}{f(t)} = 0 \quad (9)$$

and (7) hold. Suppose also that there exists  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s = \infty. \quad (10)$$

Then system (1) is oscillatory.

According to Theorem 3.3, we can furthermore restrict to the case:

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s < \infty \quad \text{for all } \lambda \in [0, 1]. \quad (11)$$

For convenience, we define

$$g(t, \lambda) = \begin{cases} f^{1-\lambda}(t) \int_t^{\infty} f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s, & \text{if } \lambda < 1, \\ f^{1-\lambda}(t) \int_{t_0}^t f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s, & \text{if } \lambda > 1, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

and we set

$$\begin{aligned} g_*(\lambda) &= \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} g(t, \lambda), \\ g^*(\lambda) &= \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} g(t, \lambda). \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.4** *Let (7), (9) and (11) hold. If*

$$g_*(0) > \frac{1}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad g_*(2) > \frac{1}{4}, \quad (13)$$

then system (1) is oscillatory.

**Theorem 3.5** Let  $g_*(0) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $g_*(2) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ , (7), (9) and (11) hold. Suppose that there exists  $\lambda \in [0, 1)$  such that

$$g^*(\lambda) > \frac{\lambda^2}{4(1-\lambda)} + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right). \quad (14)$$

Then system (1) is oscillatory.

**Corollary 3.6** Let  $g_*(0) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $g_*(2) \leq \frac{1}{4}$  and (7), (9) and (11) hold. If

$$g^*(0) > \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right),$$

then system (1) is oscillatory.

**Theorem 3.7** Let  $g_*(0) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $g_*(2) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ , and (7), (9) and (11) hold. Assume that there exists  $\lambda \in [0, 1)$  such that

$$g_*(0) > \frac{\lambda(2-\lambda)}{4} \quad (15)$$

and

$$g^*(\lambda) > \frac{g_*(0)}{1-\lambda} + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(0)} + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right). \quad (16)$$

Then system (1) is oscillatory.

**Corollary 3.8** Let  $0 < g_*(0) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $g_*(2) \leq \frac{1}{4}$ , and (7), (9) and (11) hold. If

$$g^*(0) > g_*(0) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(0)} + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right), \quad (17)$$

then system (1) is oscillatory.

**Remark** (i) We consider the more general first-order linear dynamic system

$$u^\Delta = au + bv, \quad v^\Delta = cu + dv, \quad (18)$$

where  $a, b, c, d \in C_{rd}$  and  $b \geq 0$ ,  $c \leq 0$ . Suppose that  $1 + \mu a > 0$  and  $1 + \mu(a + d) + \mu^2(ad - bc) > 0$ . Then one can easily verify that system (18) is equivalent to system (1) with

$$p(t) = \frac{b(t)}{[e_\alpha(t, t_0)(1 + \mu a)]} \geq 0, \quad q(t) = \frac{-c(t)e_\alpha(\sigma(t), t_0)}{1 + \mu a} \geq 0,$$

where  $\alpha(t) = [a - d + \mu(a^2 - ad + bc)]/[1 + \mu(a + d) + \mu^2(ad - bc)]$ . Hence the oscillation and nonoscillation criteria for system (18) can be obtained from Theorem 3.1-3.5, 3.7 and Corollary 3.6, 3.8.

(ii) We consider the case

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} p(s)\Delta s < \infty, \quad \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s)\Delta s = \infty. \quad (19)$$

Notice that if  $(u, v)$  is a solution of (1) then  $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{v}) = (v, -u)$  is a solution of

$$\tilde{u}^{\Delta} = -\mu pq\tilde{u} + q\tilde{v}, \quad \tilde{v}^{\Delta} = -p\tilde{u}. \quad (20)$$

From Remark (i), we see that if  $\mu^2 pq < 1$  then system (20) is equivalent to

$$\tilde{u}^{\Delta} = \tilde{p}\tilde{v}, \quad \tilde{v}^{\Delta} = -\tilde{q}\tilde{u}^{\sigma},$$

with

$$\tilde{p} = \frac{q}{[e_{\alpha}(t, t_0)(1 - \mu^2 pq)]} \geq 0, \quad \tilde{q} = \frac{pe_{\alpha}(\sigma(t), t_0)}{1 - \mu^2 pq} \geq 0.$$

Hence if (19) holds and  $\mu^2 pq < 1$  then the oscillation criteria for system (1) can be obtained from Theorem 3.3-3.5, 3.7 and Corollary 3.6, 3.8 by replacing  $p(t)$  and  $q(t)$  by  $\tilde{p}(t)$  and  $\tilde{q}(t)$  respectively.

#### 4 Some auxiliary lemmas

In this section we establish some lemmas which will be needed to prove our main results. Hereafter  $[t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  represents an interval on  $\mathbb{T}$ , that is,  $[t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}} = [t_0, \infty) \cap \mathbb{T}$ . For convenience, we let

$$w(t) = \frac{v(t)}{u(t)}, \quad r = \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t)w(t), \quad \text{and} \quad R = \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(t)w(t). \quad (21)$$

**Lemma 4.1** *Let (7) hold. If  $(u, v)$  is a nonoscillatory solution of (1), then  $uv$  is eventually positive.*

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, we may assume that

$$u(t) > 0 \quad \text{for all } t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}. \quad (22)$$

From (1) we have  $v^{\Delta} \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Hence  $v(t) > 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Otherwise, there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that  $v(t) < 0$  for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . In this case,  $u^{\Delta}(t) \leq 0$ . Then  $\int_{t_1}^t u^{\Delta}(s)\Delta s = \int_{t_1}^t p(s)v(s)\Delta s$  implies

$$u(t) = u(t_1) + \int_{t_1}^t p(s)v(s)\Delta s \leq u(t_1) + v(t_1) \int_{t_1}^t p(s)\Delta s.$$

Letting  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and using (7), we get  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u(t) = -\infty$ , and this contradicts (22).  $\square$



**Lemma 4.2** *Let (7) hold. If  $(u, v)$  is a nonoscillatory solution of (1), then we have eventually*

$$0 \leq fw^\sigma \leq fw \leq 1.$$

*Proof.* By applying Lemma 4.1 and (1), without loss of generality, we may assume that  $u(t) > 0$ ,  $v(t) > 0$ ,  $u^\Delta(t) \geq 0$ , and  $v^\Delta(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}$ . Then we have  $w(t) > 0$  and

$$w^\Delta(t) \leq -q(t) - p(t)w(t)w^\sigma(t), \quad (23)$$

for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}$ . Hence we obtain

$$w^\Delta(t) \leq 0, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}. \quad (24)$$

It follows from (23) and (24) that

$$w^\Delta(t) \leq -q(t) - p(t)(w^\sigma(t))^2, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}. \quad (25)$$

Rewrite (25) as

$$q(t) \leq -w^\Delta(t) - p(t)(w^\sigma(t))^2, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}. \quad (26)$$

By (23) we get on  $[t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}$ ,

$$\frac{-w^\Delta(t)}{w(t)w^\sigma(t)} \geq \frac{q(t)}{w(t)w^\sigma(t)} + p(t) \geq p(t),$$

and therefore

$$\int_{t_0}^t \frac{-w^\Delta(s)}{w(s)w^\sigma(s)} \Delta s \geq \int_{t_0}^t p(s) \Delta s = f(t). \quad (27)$$

Notice that

$$\int_{t_0}^t \frac{-w^\Delta(s)}{w(s)w^\sigma(s)} \Delta s = \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{1}{w(s)} \right)^\Delta \Delta s = \frac{1}{w(t)} - \frac{1}{w(t_0)} \leq \frac{1}{w(t)}. \quad (28)$$

Combining (27) and (28), we deduce that

$$w(t)f(t) \leq 1, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}. \quad (29)$$

By (24) and (29), we have

$$0 \leq f(t)w^\sigma(t) \leq f(t)w(t) \leq 1, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}. \quad (30)$$

□

**Lemma 4.3** *Assume that (7) and (9) hold and let  $\lambda \in [0, 1)$ . Then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_\mathbb{T}$  such that*

$$\int_t^\infty \frac{[(f^\lambda)^\Delta(s)]^2}{p(s)f^\lambda(s)} \Delta s \leq \frac{\lambda^2}{1-\lambda} (1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda} f^{\lambda-1}(t) \quad (31)$$

and

$$\int_t^\infty p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s)\Delta s \leq \frac{(1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda}}{1-\lambda}f^{\lambda-1}(t), \quad (32)$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ .

*Proof.* For  $s \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ , by Lemma 2.10, we have

$$(f^\lambda)^\Delta(s) \leq \lambda f^{\lambda-1}(s)p(s) \quad (33)$$

and

$$(f^{\lambda-1})^\Delta(s) \leq (\lambda-1)f^\sigma(s)^{\lambda-2}p(s). \quad (34)$$

From (33) and (34), we get

$$\frac{[(f^\lambda)^\Delta(s)]^2}{p(s)f^\lambda(s)} \leq \lambda^2 p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s) \leq \frac{-\lambda^2}{1-\lambda} \left( \frac{f(s)}{f^\sigma(s)} \right)^{\lambda-2} (f^{\lambda-1})^\Delta(s). \quad (35)$$

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. From (9), there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that

$$\frac{u(s)p(s)}{f(s)} < \varepsilon, \quad (36)$$

for all  $s \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then for any  $s \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  we have

$$\frac{f^\sigma(s)}{f(s)} = 1 + \frac{\mu(s)p(s)}{f(s)} < 1 + \varepsilon. \quad (37)$$

Integrating (35) from  $t$  to  $\infty$  and by (7) and (37), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_t^\infty \frac{[(f^\lambda)^\Delta(s)]^2}{p(s)f^\lambda(s)} \Delta s &\leq \frac{-\lambda^2}{1-\lambda}(1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda} \int_t^\infty (f^{\lambda-1})^\Delta(s)\Delta s \\ &= \frac{\lambda^2}{1-\lambda}(1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda}f^{\lambda-1}(t), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Therefore we get (31).

With the similar process, we can also get (32). Indeed, it follows from (7), (34) and (37) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_t^\infty p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s)\Delta s &= \int_t^\infty p(s)f^\sigma(s)^{\lambda-2} \left( \frac{f(s)}{f^\sigma(s)} \right)^{\lambda-2} \Delta s \\ &\leq (1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda} \int_t^\infty p(s)f^\sigma(s)^{\lambda-2} \Delta s \\ &\leq (1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda} \int_t^\infty \left( \frac{f^{\lambda-1}(s)}{\lambda-1} \right)^\Delta \Delta s \\ &= \frac{(1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda}}{1-\lambda} f^{\lambda-1}(t), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Therefore (32) holds.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.4** *Assume that (7), (9) and (11) hold. If system (1) is nonoscillatory, then*

$$r^2 - r + g_*(0) \leq 0, \quad (38)$$

$$R^2 - R + g_*(2) \leq 0. \quad (39)$$

*Proof.* Let  $(u, v)$  be a nonoscillatory solution of (1). By applying Lemma 4.1 and (1), without loss of generality, we may assume that  $u(t) > 0$ ,  $v(t) > 0$ ,  $u^\Delta(t) \geq 0$ , and  $v^\Delta(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then by (7) and (30) we obtain that  $0 \leq r \leq R \leq 1$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} w(t) = 0$ .

First, we derive (38). If  $g_*(0) = 0$ , then (38) is clear. Now we suppose that  $g_*(0) \neq 0$ . Integrating (25) from  $t$  to  $\infty$  and then multiplying by  $f(t)$ , we have

$$f(t) \int_t^\infty w^\Delta(s) \Delta s \leq -f(t) \int_t^\infty q(s) \Delta s - f(t) \int_t^\infty p(s) (w^\sigma(s))^2 \Delta s,$$

and hence

$$f(t)w(t) \geq f(t) \int_t^\infty q(s) \Delta s + f(t) \int_t^\infty p(s) (w^\sigma(s))^2 \Delta s, \quad (40)$$

for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . We divide into two cases:  $0 < r \leq 1$  or  $r = 0$ . For the case  $0 < r \leq 1$ , we let  $0 < \varepsilon_1 < \min\{r, g_*(0)\}$ . From (9) and the definitions of  $r$  and  $g_*(0)$ , there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that

$$\frac{f}{f^\sigma} > 1 - \varepsilon_1,$$

$$f(t)w(t) > r - \varepsilon_1,$$

and

$$f(t) \int_t^\infty q(s) \Delta s > g_*(0) - \varepsilon_1, \quad (41)$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Since

$$\int_t^\infty \frac{f^\Delta(s)}{f(s)f^\sigma(s)} \Delta s = \frac{1}{f(t)}, \quad (42)$$

we obtain on  $[t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & f(t) \int_t^\infty p(s) (w^\sigma(s))^2 \Delta s \\ &= f(t) \int_t^\infty \frac{f^\Delta(s)}{f(s)f^\sigma(s)} \frac{f(s)}{f^\sigma(s)} (f^\sigma(s)w^\sigma(s))^2 \Delta s \\ &\geq (1 - \varepsilon_1)(r - \varepsilon_1)^2 f(t) \int_t^\infty \frac{f^\Delta(s)}{f(s)f^\sigma(s)} \Delta s \\ &= (1 - \varepsilon_1)(r - \varepsilon_1)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

By (40), (41) and (43), we get

$$f(t)w(t) \geq (g_*(0) - \varepsilon_1) + (1 - \varepsilon_1)(r - \varepsilon_1)^2, \quad t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}. \quad (44)$$

Taking  $\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty}$  on (44) and letting  $\varepsilon_1 \rightarrow 0$ , we have  $r \geq g_*(0) + r^2$ . Hence (38) follows. For the case  $r = 0$ , it suffices to show that  $g_*(0) \leq 0$ . Let  $0 < \varepsilon_1 < g_*(0)$ . As above, there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that (41) hold on  $[t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then by (40) and (41), we get

$$f(t)w(t) \geq g_*(0) - \varepsilon_1, \quad t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}. \quad (45)$$

Taking  $\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty}$  on (45) and letting  $\varepsilon_1 \rightarrow 0$ , we get  $g_*(0) \leq 0$ . Now we derive (39). If  $g_*(2) = 0$ , then (39) is clear. Now we suppose that  $g_*(2) \neq 0$ . By Lemma 2.7 (1) and Lemma 2.10, we have on  $[t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$(f^2(s))^{\Delta} \leq 2f^{\sigma}(s)p(s) = 2(f(s) + \mu(s)p(s))p(s). \quad (46)$$

Hence, multiplying (26) by  $f^2(t)$  and integrating from  $t_0$  to  $t$  and using (46), we get on  $[t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)q(s)\Delta s &\leq -\int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)w^{\Delta}(s)\Delta s - \int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)p(s)(w^{\sigma}(s))^2\Delta s \\ &= -f^2(t)w(t) + f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t (f^2(s))^{\Delta}w^{\sigma}(s)\Delta s \\ &\quad - \int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)p(s)(w^{\sigma}(s))^2\Delta s \\ &\leq -f^2(t)w(t) + f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t 2\mu(s)(p(s))^2w^{\sigma}(s)\Delta s \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t 2f(s)p(s)w^{\sigma}(s)\Delta s - \int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)p(s)(w^{\sigma}(s))^2\Delta s \\ &\leq -f^2(t)w(t) + f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t 2\mu(s)(p(s))^2w^{\sigma}(s)\Delta s \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^t f(s)p(s)w^{\sigma}(s)[2 - f(s)w^{\sigma}(s)]\Delta s. \end{aligned}$$

Dividing this inequality by  $f(t)$  and rearranging, we get on  $[t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(t)w(t) &\leq -\frac{1}{f(t)} \int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)q(s)\Delta s \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{f(t)} \left[ f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t 2\mu(s)(p(s))^2w^{\sigma}(s)\Delta s \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{f(t)} \int_{t_0}^t f(s)p(s)w^{\sigma}(s)[2 - f(s)w^{\sigma}(s)]\Delta s. \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

We consider the second part of the right hand side of (47). Applying Lemma 2.11 and using (9) and (30), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t 2\mu(s)(p(s))^2w^\sigma(s)\Delta s}{f(t)} \\
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} 2\mu(t)p(t)w^\sigma(t) \\
&\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\mu(t)p(t)}{f(t)} \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

Now we divide into two cases:  $0 \leq R < 1$  or  $R = 1$ . For the case  $0 \leq R < 1$ , we let  $0 < \varepsilon_2 < \min\{1 - R, g_*(2)\}$ . From (9) and the definitions of  $R$  and  $g_*(2)$ , there exists  $t_2 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that

$$0 < f(t)w(t) < R + \varepsilon_2$$

and

$$\frac{1}{f(t)} \int_{t_0}^t f^2(s)q(s)\Delta s > g_*(2) - \varepsilon_2, \tag{49}$$

for all  $t \in [t_2, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Since  $0 < f(s)w^\sigma(s) \leq f(s)w(s) < R + \varepsilon_2 < 1$  on  $[t_2, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ , we obtain that on  $[t_2, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\frac{1}{f(t)} \int_{t_0}^t f(s)p(s)w^\sigma(s)[2 - f(s)w^\sigma(s)]\Delta s < (R + \varepsilon_2)(2 - R - \varepsilon_2). \tag{50}$$

By (47), (49) and (50), we get on  $[t_2, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
f(t)w(t) &\leq (-g_*(2) + \varepsilon_2) \\
&+ \frac{1}{f(t)} [f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t 2\mu(s)(p(s))^2w^\sigma(s)\Delta s] \\
&+ (R + \varepsilon_2)(2 - R - \varepsilon_2).
\end{aligned} \tag{51}$$

Taking  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty}$  on (51) and letting  $\varepsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$ , we have  $R \leq -g_*(2) + R(2 - R)$ .

Hence we get (39). For the case  $R = 1$ , we let  $0 < \varepsilon_2 < g_*(2)$ . As above, there exists  $t_2 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that (49) holds. Since  $0 < f(s)w^\sigma(s) \leq 1 = R$ , we obtain that

$$\frac{1}{f(t)} \int_{t_0}^t f(s)p(s)w^\sigma(s)[2 - f(s)w^\sigma(s)]\Delta s \leq R(2 - R). \tag{52}$$

Then, using (47), (49) and (52), we get on  $[t_2, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
f(t)w(t) &\leq (-g_*(2) + \varepsilon_2) \\
&+ \left(\frac{1}{f(t)} [f^2(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t 2\mu(s)(p(s))^2w^\sigma(s)\Delta s]\right) \\
&+ R(2 - R).
\end{aligned} \tag{53}$$

Taking  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty}$  on (53) and letting  $\varepsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$ , we have  $R \leq -g_*(2) + R(2 - R)$ . Hence we can also easily get (39). Therefore the lemma follows.  $\square$

## 5 Proof of the main results

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* For contradiction, we assume that (1) has a nonoscillatory solution  $(u, v)$ . By applying Lemma 4.1 and (1), without loss of generality, we may assume that  $u(t) > 0$ ,  $v(t) > 0$ ,  $u^\Delta(t) \geq 0$ , and  $v^\Delta(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then

$$u(t) \geq u(t_0) > 0 \quad \text{for all } t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}. \quad (54)$$

Integrating the second equation of (1) from  $t_0$  to  $\infty$  and using (54), we obtain

$$\int_{t_0}^{\infty} v^\Delta(s) \Delta s = - \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s) u^\sigma(s) \Delta s \leq -u(t_0) \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s) \Delta s.$$

It follows that  $u(t_0) \int_{t_0}^{\infty} q(s) \Delta s \leq v(t_0) - v(\infty) \leq v(t_0) < \infty$ , which contradicts (5).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.2.* Let  $c, d > 0$  be given. From (6), there exists  $T \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that

$$\int_T^{\infty} p(s) (d + c \int_s^{\infty} q(\tau) \Delta \tau) \Delta s < a,$$

where  $a = c/2$ . Let  $U$  be the Banach space of all real-valued rd-continuous functions on  $[T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  endowed with the norm  $\|u\| = \sup_{t \in [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}} |u(t)|$ , i.e.,

$$U = \{u : [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \|u\| = \sup_{t \in [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}} |u(t)| < \infty\},$$

and with the usual pointwise ordering  $\leq$ . First, we define a subset  $\Omega$  of  $U$  as :

$$\Omega = \{u \in U \mid a \leq u(t) \leq 2a, \forall t \in [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}\}.$$

Then  $\inf B \in \Omega$  and  $\sup B \in \Omega$  for any nonempty subset  $B$  of  $\Omega$ . Second, we define an operation  $F : \Omega \rightarrow U$  as :

$$(Fu)(t) = a + \int_T^t p(s) (d + \int_s^{\infty} q(\tau) u^\sigma(\tau) \Delta \tau) \Delta s, \quad t \in [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}.$$

Then  $F$  is nondecreasing. Also, if  $u \in \Omega$ , by the definition of  $F$ , it is clear that  $(Fu)(t) \geq a$  and

$$\begin{aligned} (Fu)(t) &\leq a + \int_T^t p(s)(d + \int_s^\infty q(\tau)(2a)\Delta\tau)\Delta s \\ &= a + \int_T^t p(s)(d + c \int_s^\infty q(\tau)\Delta\tau)\Delta s \\ &\leq 2a, \end{aligned}$$

for all  $t \in [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Hence  $F$  maps into itself. By Knaster's fixed-point theorem [14], there exists an  $u \in \Omega$  such that  $u = Fu$ . Set

$$v(t) = d + \int_t^\infty q(k)u^\sigma(\tau)\Delta\tau, \quad t \in [T, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}.$$

It is easy to see that  $v^\Delta(t) = -q(t)u^\sigma(t)$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} v(t) = d > 0$  and  $u^\Delta(t) = p(t)v(t)$ . Hence  $(u, v)$  is a nonoscillatory solution of (1). Therefore we conclude that system (1) is nonoscillatory.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.3.* For contradiction, we assume that (1) has a nonoscillatory solution  $(u, v)$ . By applying Lemma 4.1 and (1), without loss of generality, we may assume that  $u(t) > 0$ ,  $v(t) > 0$ ,  $u^\Delta(t) \geq 0$ , and  $v^\Delta(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then by (30), we obtain that

$$0 < f(t)w^\sigma(t) \leq 1, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}},$$

and hence there exists a positive constant  $c$  such that

$$|f(t)w^\sigma(t)(\lambda - f(t)w^\sigma(t))| < c, \quad t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}. \quad (55)$$

Multiplying (26) by  $f^\lambda(t)$  and then integrating from  $t_0$  to  $t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{t_0}^t f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s \\ &\leq -\int_{t_0}^t f^\lambda(s)w^\Delta(s)\Delta s - \int_{t_0}^t f^\lambda(s)p(s)(w^\sigma(s))^2\Delta s \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

Applying integration by part and Lemma 2.10, we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{t_0}^t f^\lambda(s)w^\Delta(s)\Delta s \\ &= (f^\lambda w)(t) - (f^\lambda w)(t_0) - \int_{t_0}^t (f^\lambda(s))^\Delta w^\sigma(s)\Delta s \\ &\geq (f^\lambda w)(t) - (f^\lambda w)(t_0) - \int_{t_0}^t \lambda f^{\lambda-1}(s)p(s)w^\sigma(s)\Delta s. \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

From (55), (56), (57) and Lemma 4.3, there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{t_0}^t f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s \\
& \leq f^\lambda(t_0)w(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s)[f(s)w^\sigma(s)(\lambda - f(s)w^\sigma(s))]\Delta s \\
& \leq f^\lambda(t_0)w(t_0) + c \int_{t_0}^t p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s)\Delta s \\
& \leq f^\lambda(t_0)w(t_0) + c \int_{t_0}^{t_1} p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s) + \frac{c(1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda}}{1-\lambda} f^{\lambda-1}(t_0),
\end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Therefore we have  $\int_{t_0}^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s < \infty$ , which contradicts (10).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.4.* For contradiction, we assume that (1) is nonoscillatory. Then Lemma 4.4 implies that  $g_*(0) \leq r - r^2 \leq \frac{1}{4}$  and  $g_*(2) \leq R - R^2 \leq \frac{1}{4}$ , which contradicts (13).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.5.* For contradiction, we assume that (1) has a nonoscillatory solution  $(u, v)$ . By applying Lemma 4.1 and (1), without loss of generality, we may assume that  $u(t) > 0$ ,  $v(t) > 0$ ,  $u^\Delta(t) \geq 0$ , and  $v^\Delta(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then Lemma 4.4 implies

$$R \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right). \tag{59}$$

Multiplying (26) by  $f^\lambda(t)$  and then integrating from  $t$  to  $\infty$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s & \leq - \int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)w^\Delta(s)\Delta s - \int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)p(s)(w^\sigma(s))^2\Delta s \\
& = -f^\lambda(\infty)w(\infty) + f^\lambda(t)w(t) + \int_t^\infty (f^\lambda(s))^\Delta w^\sigma(s)\Delta s \\
& \quad - \int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)p(s)(w^\sigma(s))^2\Delta s \\
& = f^\lambda(t)w(t) + \frac{1}{4} \int_t^\infty \frac{[(f^\lambda)^\Delta(s)]^2}{p(s)f^\lambda(s)}\Delta s \\
& \quad - \int_t^\infty \left[ p^{1/2}(s)f^{\lambda/2}(s)w^\sigma(s) - \frac{1}{2}(f^{-\lambda/2}(s)p^{-1/2}(s)(f^\lambda(s))^\Delta \right]^2 \Delta s \\
& \leq f^\lambda(t)w(t) + \frac{1}{4} \int_t^\infty \frac{[(f^\lambda)^\Delta(s)]^2}{p(s)f^\lambda(s)}\Delta s.
\end{aligned}$$

Then multiplying this inequality by  $f^{1-\lambda}(t)$  and applying Lemma 4.3, we have on  $[t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$f^{1-\lambda}(t) \int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s \leq f(t)w(t) + \frac{\lambda^2}{4(1-\lambda)}(1+\varepsilon)^{2-\lambda}, \tag{60}$$



where  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  is given in Lemma 4.3. Taking  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty}$  on (60), letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , and using (59), we obtain

$$g^*(\lambda) \leq R + \frac{\lambda^2}{4(1-\lambda)} \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right) + \frac{\lambda^2}{4(1-\lambda)},$$

which contradicts (14).  $\square$

*Proof of Corollary 3.6.* By taking  $\lambda = 0$  in Theorem 3.5, the proof is done.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.7.* For contradiction, we assume that (1) has a nonoscillatory solution  $(u, v)$ . By applying Lemma 4.1 and (1), without loss of generality, we may assume that  $u(t) > 0$ ,  $v(t) > 0$ ,  $u^\Delta(t) \geq 0$ , and  $v^\Delta(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Then Lemma 4.4 implies

$$\begin{aligned} r &\geq \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(0)} \right) \triangleq m, \\ R &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right) \triangleq M. \end{aligned}$$

By (15), we have  $1 - 4g_*(0) < 1 - \lambda(2 - \lambda) = (1 - \lambda)^2$ , and hence

$$m = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(0)} \right) > \frac{1}{2} (1 - (1 - \lambda)) = \frac{\lambda}{2}.$$

Take  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $(1 - \varepsilon)(m - \varepsilon) \geq \lambda/2$ . Then there exists  $t_1 \in [t_0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that

$$m - \varepsilon < f(t)w(t) < M + \varepsilon \tag{61}$$

and

$$\frac{f}{f^\sigma} > 1 - \varepsilon \tag{62}$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Multiplying (26) by  $f^\lambda(s)$  and then integrating from  $t$  to  $\infty$ , we have on  $[t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s \\ &\leq -\int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)w^\Delta(s)\Delta s - \int_t^\infty p(s)f^\lambda(s)(w^\sigma(s))^2\Delta s \\ &\leq f^\lambda(t)w(t) + \int_t^\infty (f^\lambda(s))^\Delta w^\sigma(s)\Delta s - \int_t^\infty p(s)f^\lambda(s)(w^\sigma(s))^2\Delta s \\ &\leq f^\lambda(t)w(t) + \int_t^\infty \lambda f^{\lambda-1}(s)p(s)w^\sigma(s)\Delta s - \int_t^\infty p(s)f^\lambda(s)(w^\sigma(s))^2\Delta s. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying this inequality by  $f^{1-\lambda}(t)$  and using (61), (62) and Lemma 4.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& f^{1-\lambda}(t) \int_t^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s \\
& \leq f(t)w(t) + f^{1-\lambda}(t) \int_t^\infty p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s)[f(s)w^\sigma(s)(\lambda - f(s)w^\sigma(s))]\Delta s \\
& < (M + \varepsilon) + (1 - \varepsilon)(m - \varepsilon)[\lambda - (1 - \varepsilon)(m - \varepsilon)]f^{1-\lambda}(t) \int_t^\infty p(s)f^{\lambda-2}(s)\Delta s \\
& < (M + \varepsilon) + (1 - \varepsilon)(m - \varepsilon)[\lambda - (1 - \varepsilon)(m - \varepsilon)]\frac{(1 + \varepsilon)^{2-\lambda}}{1 - \lambda},
\end{aligned}$$

for all  $t \in [t_1, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ . Taking  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty}$  and letting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
g^*(\lambda) & \leq M + \frac{m(\lambda - m)}{1 - \lambda} \\
& = \frac{g_*(0)}{1 - \lambda} + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(0)} + \sqrt{1 - 4g_*(2)} \right),
\end{aligned}$$

which contradicts (16).  $\square$

*Proof of Corollary 3.8.* By taking  $\lambda = 0$  in Theorem 3.7, the proof is done.  $\square$

## 6 Some examples

**Example 1** Consider the system

$$u^\Delta(t) = \frac{1}{t \ln t}v(t), \quad v^\Delta(t) = -(t + \sigma(t))u^\sigma(t),$$

where  $\mathbb{T} = a^{\mathbb{N}_0}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_0 = \{0\} \cup \mathbb{N}$ , and  $a > 1$ .

Let  $p(t) = \frac{1}{t \ln t}$  and  $q(t) = t + \sigma(t)$ . Since

$$\int_a^\infty p(s)\Delta s = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{a-1}{i \ln a} = \frac{a-1}{\ln a} \sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{1}{i} = \infty$$

and

$$\int_a^\infty q(s)\Delta s = \sum_{i=1}^\infty a^{2i}(a^2 - 1) = \infty,$$

the system is oscillatory by Theorem 3.1.

**Example 2** Consider the system

$$u^\Delta(t) = \frac{1}{t^2}v(t), \quad v^\Delta(t) = -\frac{1}{t\sigma(t)}u^\sigma(t),$$

where  $\mathbb{T} = a^{\mathbb{N}_0}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_0 = \{0\} \cup \mathbb{N}$ , and  $a > 1$ .

Let  $p(t) = \frac{1}{t^2}$  and  $q(t) = \frac{1}{t\sigma(t)}$ . Since

$$\int_1^\infty p(s)\Delta s = \sum_{i=0}^\infty \frac{a-1}{a^i} = a < \infty$$

and

$$\int_1^\infty q(s)\Delta s = \sum_{i=0}^\infty \frac{a-1}{a^{i+1}} = 1 < \infty,$$

the system is nonoscillatory by Theorem 3.2.

**Example 3** Consider the system

$$u^\Delta(t) = tv(t), \quad v^\Delta(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2}u^\sigma(t),$$

where  $\mathbb{T} = a\mathbb{N} = \{an \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  and  $a$  is a positive constant.

Let  $p(t) = t$  and  $q(t) = \frac{1}{t^2}$ . Since

$$\int_a^\infty p(s)\Delta s = a^2 \sum_{i=1}^\infty i = \infty,$$

$$f(t) = \int_a^t p(s)\Delta s = a^2 \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{a^2 n(n+1)}{2}, \quad \forall t = an \in \mathbb{T}.$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu(t)p(t)}{f(t)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{n+1} = 0,$$

$$\int_a^\infty q(s)\Delta s = \sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{a}{(ai)^2} = \frac{1}{a} \sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{1}{i^2} < \infty,$$

and

$$\int_a^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s = \frac{a^{2\lambda-1}}{2^\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{[i(i+1)]^\lambda}{i^2} > \frac{a^{2\lambda-2}}{2^\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^\infty i^{2\lambda-2} = \infty \text{ if } \frac{1}{2} \leq \lambda < 1,$$

the system is oscillatory by Theorem 3.3.

**Example 4** Consider the system

$$u^\Delta(t) = v(t), \quad v^\Delta(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2}u^\sigma(t),$$

where  $\mathbb{T} = a\mathbb{N} = \{an \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  and  $a$  is a positive constant.

Let  $p(t) = 1$  and  $q(t) = \frac{1}{t^2}$ . We compute

$$\int_a^\infty p(s)\Delta s = \int_a^\infty 1\Delta s = \infty,$$

$$f(t) = \int_a^t 1 \Delta s = \sum_{i=1}^n a = an, \quad \forall t = an \in \mathbb{T},$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu(t)p(t)}{f(t)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0.$$

From Example 3, we know that

$$\int_a^\infty q(s) \Delta s < \infty.$$

Since

$$\int_a^\infty f^\lambda(s) q(s) \Delta s = a^{\lambda-1} \sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{1}{i^{2-\lambda}} < \infty \text{ for all } \lambda \in [0, 1)$$

and

$$g_*(0) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \sum_{i=n}^\infty \frac{1}{i^2} > \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \int_n^\infty \frac{1}{x^2} dx = 1 > \frac{1}{4},$$

the system is oscillatory by Theorem 3.4.

**Example 5** Consider the system

$$u^\Delta(t) = p(t)v(t), \quad v^\Delta(t) = -q(t)u^\sigma(t),$$

where  $\mathbb{T} = 2\mathbb{N} = \{2n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ,  $p(t) = 1 + \frac{1}{t}$  and

$$q(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}8^{-k}, & t = 8^k \\ 0, & t \neq 8^k, \end{cases} \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

First, we compute

$$\int_4^\infty p(s) \Delta s = \sum_{i=2}^\infty 2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2i}\right) = \infty,$$

$$f(t) = \int_4^t p(s) \Delta s = \sum_{i=2}^n 2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2i}\right) = 2n - 2 + \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{1}{i}, \quad \forall t = 2n \in \mathbb{T}.$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu(t)p(t)}{f(t)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right)}{2n - 2 + \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{1}{i}} = 0,$$

and

$$\int_4^\infty q(s) \Delta s = \sum_{k=1}^\infty 2q(8^k) = \sum_{k=1}^\infty 8^{-k} = \frac{1}{7} < \infty.$$

Since  $\lambda < 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_4^\infty f^\lambda(s)q(s)\Delta s &= \sum_{k=1}^\infty 2f^\lambda(8^k)q(8^k) = \sum_{k=1}^\infty \left[ \sum_{l=1}^k 2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{8^l} \right) \right]^\lambda 8^{-k} \\ &< \sum_{k=1}^\infty \left[ 2k + \frac{2}{7} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{8^k} \right) \right] 8^{-k} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

For  $t = 8^m + 2$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ ,

$$g(t, 0) = \left( 8^m + \sum_{i=2}^{8^m/2+1} \frac{1}{i} \right) \sum_{k=m+1}^\infty 8^{-k} \rightarrow \frac{1}{7}, \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

For  $t = 8^m$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ ,

$$g(t, 0) = \left( 8^m - 2 + \sum_{i=2}^{8^m/2} \frac{1}{i} \right) \sum_{k=m}^\infty 8^{-k} \rightarrow \frac{8}{7}, \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

For  $t = 8^m - 2$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ , we have

$$g(t, 2) = \left( 8^m - 4 + \sum_{i=2}^{8^m/2-1} \frac{1}{i} \right)^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \left( 8^k - 2 + \sum_{l=2}^{8^k/2} \frac{1}{l} \right)^2 8^{-k} \rightarrow \frac{1}{7}, \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$

Therefore we get  $g_*(0) \leq \frac{1}{7} \leq \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $g_*(2) \leq \frac{1}{7} \leq \frac{1}{4}$  and  $g^*(0) \geq \frac{8}{7}$ . Hence the system is oscillatory by Corollary 3.6 and 3.8.

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