Hindawi Publishing Corporation
Journal of Applied Mathematics
Volume 2014, Article ID 865136, 13 pages
http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/865136

Research Article

A Generalized Nonlinear Volterra-Fredholm Type Integral Inequality and Its Application

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Received 13 March 2014; Accepted 16 April 2014; Published 21 May 2014

Academic Editor: Kuppalapalle Vajravelu

We establish a new nonlinear retarded Volterra-Fredholm type integral inequality. The upper bounds of the embedded unknown functions are estimated explicitly by using the theory of inequality and analytic techniques. Moreover, an application of our result to the retarded Volterra-Fredholm integral equations for estimation is given.

1. Introduction

Gronwall-Bellman inequality [1, 2] is an important tool in the study of existence, uniqueness, boundedness, oscillation, stability, invariant manifolds, and other qualitative properties of solutions of differential equations and integral equation. A lot of its generalizations in various cases can be found from the literature (e.g., [3–7]). During the past few years, some investigators have established a lot of useful and interesting integral inequalities in order to achieve various goals; see [8–18] and the references cited therein.

Gronwall-Bellman inequality [1, 2] can be stated as follows. If u and f are nonnegative continuous functions on an interval $[a, b]$ satisfying

$$u(t) \le c + \int_a^t f(s) u(s) \, ds, \quad t \in [a, b], \tag{1}$$

for some constant $c \ge 0$, then

$$u(t) \le c \exp\left(\int_a^t f(s) \, ds\right), \quad t \in [a, b]. \tag{2}$$

In 2004, Pachpatte [9] has discussed the linear Volterra-Fredholm type integral inequality with retardation:

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) \le k &+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} a(t, s) \left[f(s) u(s) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{s} c(s, \tau) u(\tau) \, d\tau \right] ds \\ &+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T)} b(t, s) u(s) \, ds, \quad \forall t \in I. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

In 2011, Abdeldaim and yakout [17] studied a new integral inequality of Gronwall-Bellman-Pachpatte type:

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) \le u_0 &+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t} f(s) u(s) \\ &\times \left[u(s) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{s} h(\tau) \times \left[u(\tau) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\tau} g(\xi) u(\xi) \, d\xi \right] d\tau \right] ds. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

In this paper, on the basis of [9, 17], we discuss a new retarded nonlinear Volterra-Fredholm type integral inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} u(t) &\le k + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times \Bigg[f_1(t_1)\phi_1(u(t_1)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[f_2(t_2)\phi_2(u(t_2)) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\phi_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1})) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\phi_n \times (u(t_n))\, dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] dt_1 \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T)} h_1(t_1) \times \Bigg[f_1(t_1)\phi_1(u(t_1)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[f_2(t_2)\phi_2(u(t_2)) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\phi_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1})) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\phi_n \times (u(t_n))\, dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] dt_1, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where k is a constant. The upper bound estimation of the unknown function is given by integral inequality technique, such as change of variable, amplification method, differential and integration, inverse function, and the dialectical relationship between constants and variables. Furthermore, we apply our result to retarded nonlinear Volterra-Fredholm type equations for estimation.

2. Main Result

Throughout this paper, $\mathbf{R}$ denotes the set of real numbers, $\mathbf{R}_+ = [0, +\infty)$, $I = [t_0, T]$, $C^1(M, S)$ denotes the class of continuously differentiable functions defined on set M with range in the set S, $C(M, S)$ denotes the class of continuous functions defined on set M with range in the set S, and $\alpha'(t)$ denotes the derived function of a function $\alpha'(t)$.

We give the following notations used to simplify the details of presentation.

We technically define a sequence of functions $\{w_i(u)\}$ by $\phi_i(u)$ in (5), which can be defined recursively by

$$\begin{aligned} w_1(u) &:= \max_{\tau\in[0,u]} \{\phi_1(\tau)\}, \\ w_{i+1}(u) &:= \max_{\tau\in[0,u]} \left\{ \frac{\phi_{i+1}(\tau)}{w_i(\tau)} \right\} w_i(u), \quad i = 1, \ldots, n. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Obviously, for all $j > i$, the function $w_j(u)/w_i(u)$ is increasing and the sequence $\{w_i(u)\}$ consists of nondecreasing nonnegative functions and satisfies $w_i(u) \ge \phi_i(u)$, $i = 1, \ldots, n$. Moreover,

$$w_i \propto w_{i+1}, \quad i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1, \tag{7}$$

as defined in [4] for comparison of monotonicity of functions, because the ratios $w_{i+1}(u)/w_i(u)$, $i = 1, \ldots, n-1$, are all nondecreasing.

For given constant $u_i > 0$, we define functions

$$W_1(u, u_1) = \int_{u_1}^{u} \frac{ds}{w_1(s)}, \tag{8}$$

$$W_i(u, u_i) = \int_{u_i}^{u} \frac{w_{i-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(\cdots W_{i-1}^{-1}(s)\cdots\right)\right) ds}{w_i\left(W_1^{-1}\left(\cdots W_{i-1}^{-1}(s)\cdots\right)\right)}, \quad i = 2, \ldots, n, \tag{9}$$

which are strictly increasing. When there is no confusion, we simply let $W_i(u)$ denote $W_i(u, u_i)$ and W_i^{-1} denote its inverse.

We define functions $\{H_i(t)\}$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
H_1(t) &= \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) f_1(t_1)\, dt_1, \\
H_2(t) &= \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) f_2(t_2)\, dt_2 \right] dt_1, \\
&\vdots \\
H_{n-1}(t) &= \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \left[\cdots \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, dt_{n-1} \right] \cdots \right] dt_2 \right] dt_1, \\
H_n(t) &= \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \left[\cdots \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, dt_n \right] dt_{n-1} \right] \cdots \right] dt_2 \right] dt_1.
\end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

We define function

$$\begin{aligned}
G(u) = {} & W_n\{W_{n-1}\{\cdots\{W_2\{W_1(2u-k)\}\}\cdots\}\} \\
& - W_n\{W_{n-1}\{\cdots\{W_2\{W_1(u) + H_1(T)\} + H_2(T)\}\cdots\} + H_{n-1}(T)\} \\
& - H_n(T), \quad \forall u > k.
\end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Theorem 1. *Suppose that* $h_n(t), f_i(t), h_i(t) \in C(I, \mathbf{R}_+)$, $(i = 1, \ldots, n-1)$, $\alpha \in C^1(I, I)$ *is nondecreasing with* $\alpha(t) \le t$ *and* $\alpha(t_0) = t_0$ *on* I; *all* ϕ_i *are continuous functions with* $\phi_i(u) > 0$ $(i = 1, \ldots, n)$ *for* $u > 0$, $W_i(+\infty) = +\infty$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. *Suppose that the function* $G(u)$ *is increasing and* $G(u) = 0$ *has a solution* c *for* $u > k$. *If* $u(t)$ *satisfies* (5), *then*

$$\begin{aligned}
u(t) \le {} & W_1^{-1} \\
& \times \left\{ W_2^{-1} \left\{ \cdots \left\{ W_n^{-1} \{ W_n \{ W_{n-1} \{ \cdots \{ W_2 \{ W_1(c) + H_1(t)\} + H_2(t)\} \cdots \} + H_{n-1}(t)\} + H_n(t)\} \right\} \cdots \right\} \right\}, \quad \forall t \in I,
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

where W_i^{-1} $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n)$ *are inverse functions of* W_i, *respectively.*

Proof. From (5) and (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
u(t) \le {} & k \\
& + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times \Bigg[f_1(t_1) w_1(u(t_1)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[f_2(t_2) w_2(u(t_2)) + \cdots \\
& + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) w_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1})) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_n-1} h_n(t_n) w_n \times (u(t_n))\, dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] dt_1 \\
& + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T)} h_1(t_1) \times \Bigg[f_1(t_1) w_1(u(t_1)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[f_2(t_2) w_2(u(t_2)) + \cdots \\
& + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) w_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1}))
\end{aligned}$$

$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, w_n \times (u(t_n))\, dt_n \Big] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Big] dt_2 \Big] dt_1, \tag{13}$$

for all $t \in I$. Let $z_1(t)$ denote the function on the right-hand side of (13), which is a positive and nondecreasing function on I. Then (13) is equivalent to

$$u(t) \le z_1(t), \quad \forall t \in I, \tag{14}$$

$$\begin{aligned} z_1(t_0) &= k + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T)} h_1(t_1) \times \Big[f_1(t_1)\, w_1(u(t_1)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Big[f_2(t_2)\, w_2(u(t_2)) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Big[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, w_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1})) \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, w_n \times (u(t_n))\, dt_n \Big] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Big] dt_2 \Big] dt_1. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Differentiating $z_1(t)$ with respect to t, using (14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} z_1'(t) &= \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \times \Big[f_1(\alpha(t))\, w_1(u(\alpha(t))) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \times \Big[f_2(t_2)\, w_2(u(t_2)) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Big[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, w_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1})) \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, w_n \times (u(t_n))\, dt_n \Big] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Big] dt_2 \Big] \\ &\le \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \times \Big[f_1(\alpha(t))\, w_1(z_1(\alpha(t))) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \times \Big[f_2(t_2)\, w_2(z_1(t_2)) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Big[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, w_{n-1}(z_1(t_{n-1})) \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, w_n \times (z_1(t_n))\, dt_n \Big] dt_{n-1} \cdots \Big] dt_2 \Big], \quad \forall t \in I, \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

by the monotonicity of w_1 and z_1 and the property of α. From (16), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z_1'(t)}{w_1(z_1(t))} &\le \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \times \Big[f_1(\alpha(t)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \times \Big[f_2(t_2) \frac{w_2(z_1(t_2))}{w_1(z_1(t_2))} + \cdots \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Big[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \frac{w_{n-1}(z_1(t_{n-1}))}{w_1(z_1(t_{n-1}))} \\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \end{aligned}$$

$$\left.\left.\left.\times \frac{w_n(z_1(t_n))}{w_1(z_1(t_n))} dt_n \right] dt_{n-1} \cdots \right] dt_2 \right], \quad \forall t \in I. \tag{17}$$

Integrating both sides of the above inequality from t_0 to t, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& W_1(z_1(t)) \\
& \le W_1(z_1(t_0)) \\
& \quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(s) f_1(s)\, ds \\
& \quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \\
& \qquad \times \left[\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \right.\right. \\
& \qquad\quad \times \left[f_2(t_2) \frac{w_2(z_1(t_2))}{w_1(z_1(t_2))} + \cdots \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
& \qquad\qquad\quad \times \left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \frac{w_{n-1}(z_1(t_{n-1}))}{w_1(z_1(t_{n-1}))} \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad\quad \left.\left.\left.\left. \times \frac{w_n(z_1(t_n))}{w_1(z_1(t_n))} dt_n \right] dt_{n-1} \cdots \right] dt_2 \right] dt_1 \\
& \le W_1(z_1(t_0)) \\
& \quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(s) f_1(s)\, ds \\
& \quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \\
& \qquad \times \left[\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \right.\right. \\
& \qquad\quad \times \left[f_2(t_2) \frac{w_2(z_1(t_2))}{w_1(z_1(t_2))} + \cdots \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
& \qquad\qquad\quad \times \left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \frac{w_{n-1}(z_1(t_{n-1}))}{w_1(z_1(t_{n-1}))} \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad\quad \left.\left.\left.\left. \times \frac{w_n(z_1(t_n))}{w_1(z_1(t_n))} dt_n \right] dt_{n-1} \cdots \right] dt_2 \right] dt_1,
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

for $t_0 \le t \le T_1 \le T$; T_1 is chosen arbitrarily, where W_1 is defined by (8).

Let $z_2(t)$ denote the function on the right-hand side of (18), which is a positive and nondecreasing function on $[t_0, T_1]$. Then (18) is equivalent to

$$z_1(t) \le W_1^{-1}(z_2(t)), \quad \forall t \in [t_0, T_1], \tag{19}$$

$$z_2(t_0) = W_1(z_1(t_0)) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(s) f_1(s)\, ds. \tag{20}$$

Differentiating $z_2(t)$ with respect to t, using (19), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& z_2'(t) \\
& = \alpha'(t) h_1(\alpha(t)) \\
& \quad \times \left[\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \right.\right. \\
& \qquad \times \left[f_2(t_2) \frac{w_2(z_1(t_2))}{w_1(z_1(t_2))} \right. \\
& \qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_2} h_3(t_3) \\
& \qquad\qquad \times \left[f_3(t_3) \frac{w_3(z_1(t_2))}{w_1(z_1(t_2))} + \cdots \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad \times \left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \frac{w_{n-1}(z_1(t_{n-1}))}{w_1(z_1(t_{n-1}))} \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\
& \qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \left.\left.\left.\left. \times \frac{w_n(z_1(t_n))}{w_1(z_1(t_n))} dt_n \right] dt_{n-1} \cdots \right] dt_3 \right] dt_2 \right] \\
& \le \alpha'(t) h_1(\alpha(t)) \\
& \quad \times \left[\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \right.\right. \\
& \qquad \times \left[f_2(t_2) \frac{w_2(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2)))}{w_1(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2)))} \right. \\
& \qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_2} h_3(t_3) \\
& \qquad\qquad \times \left[f_3(t_3) \frac{w_3(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_3)))}{w_1(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_3)))} + \cdots \right. \\
& \qquad\qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\times\left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}{w_1\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}}h_n(t_n)$$
$$\left.\left.\left.\left.\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}{w_1\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}dt_n\right]dt_{n-1}\cdots\right]dt_3\right]dt_2\right],$$
$$\forall t\in[t_0,T_1], \tag{21}$$

by the monotonicity of $w_i/w_1 (i=1,2,\ldots,n)$ and the property of α. From (21), we have

$$\frac{z_2'(t)\,w_1\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t))\right)}$$
$$\le \alpha'(t)\,h_1(\alpha(t))$$
$$\times\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)}h_2(t_2)\,f_2(t_2)\,dt_2$$
$$+\alpha'(t)\,h_1(\alpha(t))$$
$$\times\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)}h_2(t_2)$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_2}h_3(t_3)\right.$$
$$\times\left[f_3(t_3)\frac{w_3\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2))\right)}+\cdots\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}}h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})$$
$$\times\left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}}h_n(t_n)$$
$$\left.\left.\left.\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}dt_n\right]dt_{n-1}\cdots\right]dt_3\right]dt_2, \tag{22}$$

for all $t\in[t_0,T_1]$. From (22), we have

$$W_2(z_2(t))$$
$$\le W_2(z_2(t_0))$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)}h_1(t_1)$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1}h_2(t_2)\,f_2(t_2)\,dt_2\right]dt_1$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)}h_1(t_1)$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1}h_2(t_2)\right.$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_2}h_3(t_3)\right.$$
$$\times\left[f_3(t_3)\frac{w_3\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2))\right)}+\cdots\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}}h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})$$
$$\times\left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}}h_n(t_n)$$
$$\left.\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}dt_n\right]dt_{n-1}$$
$$\left.\left.\left.\cdots\right]dt_3\right]dt_2\right]dt_1$$
$$\le W_2(z_2(t_0))$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)}h_1(t_1)$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1}h_2(t_2)\,f_2(t_2)\,dt_2\right]dt_1$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)}h_1(t_1)$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1}h_2(t_2)\right.$$
$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_2}h_3(t_3)\right.$$
$$\times\left[f_3(t_3)\frac{w_3\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_2))\right)}+\cdots\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}}h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})$$
$$\times\left[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_{n-1}))\right)}\right.$$
$$+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}}h_n(t_n)$$
$$\left.\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}{w_2\left(W_1^{-1}(z_2(t_n))\right)}dt_n\right]$$
$$\left.\left.\left.\times\,dt_{n-1}\cdots\right]dt_3\right]dt_2\right]dt_1, \tag{23}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$, where W_2 is defined by (9). Repeating the same derivation as in (19), (23), and so on, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&W_{n-2}(z_{n-2}(t)) \\
&\le W_{n-2}(z_{n-2}(t_0)) \\
&+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \\
&\quad \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \right. \\
&\qquad \cdots \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-3}} h_{n-2}(t_{n-2}) f_{n-2}(t_{n-2})\, dt_{n-2} \right] \cdots \Bigg] dt_1 \\
&+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \\
&\times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \right. \\
&\qquad \times \Bigg[\cdots \\
&\qquad\quad \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \right. \\
&\qquad\quad \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
&\qquad\quad \times \frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \\
&\qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\
&\qquad\quad \times \frac{w_{n}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \\
&\qquad\quad \times dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \Bigg] \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] dt_1 \\
&\le W_{n-2}(z_{n-2}(t_0)) \\
&+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1) \\
&\quad \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \right. \\
&\qquad \cdots \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-3}} h_{n-2}(t_{n-2}) f_{n-2}(t_{n-2})\, dt_{n-2} \right] \cdots \Bigg] dt_1 \\
&+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \\
&\times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \right. \\
&\qquad \times \Bigg[\cdots \\
&\qquad\quad \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \right. \\
&\qquad\quad \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
&\qquad\quad \times \frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \\
&\qquad\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\
&\qquad\quad \times \frac{w_{n}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \\
&\qquad\quad \times dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \Bigg] \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] dt_1,
\end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$, where W_{n-2} is defined by (9).

Let $z_{n-1}(t)$ denote the function on the right-hand side of (24), which is a positive and nondecreasing function on $[t_0, T_1]$. Then (24) is equivalent to

$$z_{n-2}(t) \le W_{n-2}^{-1}(z_{n-1}(t)), \quad \forall t \in [t_0, T_1], \tag{25}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&z_{n-1}(t_0) \\
&\quad = W_{n-2}(z_{n-2}(t_0)) \\
&\qquad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1) \\
&\qquad\quad \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \cdots \right. \\
&\qquad\qquad \times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-3}} h_{n-2}(t_{n-2}) f_{n-2}(t_{n-2})\, dt_{n-2} \right] \cdots \Bigg] dt_1.
\end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

Differentiating $z_{n-1}(t)$ with respect to t, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&z_{n-1}'(t) \\
&= \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \\
&\times \left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \right.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\times \Bigg[\cdots \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \frac{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \times \frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \times dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \Bigg] \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg], \tag{27}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$. From (27), using (25), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{z_{n-1}'(t)\, w_{n-2}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_{n-1})\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \\ &\le \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \times \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[\cdots \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\ &\quad \times \frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-3}^{-1}\left(z_{n-2}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \times dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \Bigg] \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] \\ &\le \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \times \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[\cdots \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times \Bigg[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\ &\quad \times \frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \times dt_n \Bigg] dt_{n-1} \Bigg] \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg], \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$, by the monotonicity of z_{n-1}, $W_1^{-1}, \ldots, W_{n-2}^{-1}$ and w_{n-2}/w_{n-1} and the property of α. Integrating both sides of the above inequality from t_0 to t, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &W_{n-1}(z_{n-1}(t)) \\ &\le W_{n-1}(z_{n-1}(t_0)) \\ &+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[\cdots \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, dt_{n-1} \Bigg] \cdots \Bigg] dt_2 \Bigg] dt_1 \\ &+ \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times \Bigg[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times \Bigg[\cdots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\right.\\
&\quad\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\right.\\
&\quad\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}\\
&\quad\left.\left.\left.\left.\times dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1\\
&\leq W_{n-1}(z_{n-1}(t_0))\\
&+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1)\\
&\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\right.\\
&\quad\times\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, dt_{n-1}\right]\right.\\
&\quad\left.\left.\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1\\
&+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\\
&\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\right.\\
&\quad\times\left[\cdots\right.\\
&\quad\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\right.\\
&\quad\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\right.\\
&\quad\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}\\
&\quad\left.\left.\left.\left.\times dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1,
\end{aligned}\tag{29}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$, where W_{n-1} is defined by (9). Let $z_n(t)$ denote the function on the right-hand side of (29), which is a positive and nondecreasing function on $[t_0, T_1]$. Then (29) is equivalent to

$$z_{n-1}(t) \leq W_{n-1}^{-1}(z_n(t)), \quad \forall t \in [t_0, T_1], \tag{30}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&z_n(t_0)\\
&\quad= W_{n-1}(z_{n-1}(t_0))\\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1)\\
&\quad\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\right.\\
&\quad\times\left[\cdots\right.\\
&\quad\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\right.\\
&\quad\left.\left.\left.\times f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1.
\end{aligned}\tag{31}$$

Differentiating $z_n(t)$ with respect to t, using (30), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&z_n'(t)\\
&= \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t))\\
&\times\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2)\\
&\times\left[\cdots\right.\\
&\quad\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\right.\\
&\quad\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\right.\\
&\quad\times\frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-2}^{-1}\left(z_{n-1}(t_n)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}\\
&\quad\left.\left.\left.\times dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\\
&\leq \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t))\\
&\times\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2)\\
&\times\left[\cdots\right.\\
&\quad\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\right.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \times \frac{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-1}^{-1}\left(z_n\left(t_n\right)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-1}^{-1}\left(z_n\left(t_n\right)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)} \times dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\Bigg]\cdots\Bigg] dt_2, \tag{32}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$. From (32), we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{z_n'(t)\, w_{n-1}\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-1}^{-1}\left(z_n\left(t_n\right)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}{w_n\left(W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-1}^{-1}\left(z_n\left(t_n\right)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\right)}\\ &= \alpha'(t)\, h_1(\alpha(t)) \times \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_2(t_2) \times\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2,\end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$. Integrating both sides of the above inequality from t_0 to t, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}&W_n(z_n(t)) - W_n(z_n(t_0))\\ &\leq \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \times\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1,\end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$. From (19), (25), (30), and (34), we have

$$\begin{aligned}&z_1(t)\\ &\leq W_1^{-1}\left(W_2^{-1}\left(\cdots\left(W_{n-1}^{-1}\left(z_n(t)\right)\right)\cdots\right)\right)\\ &\leq W_1^{-1}\left\{W_2^{-1}\left\{\cdots\left\{W_n^{-1}\left\{W_n\left(z_n\left(t_0\right)\right) + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) \times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1\right\}\right\}\cdots\right\}\right\}\end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

for all $t \in [t_0, T_1]$. Substituting (20), (26), and (31) into (35), we have

$$\begin{aligned}&z_1(t)\\ &\leq W_1^{-1}\Big\{W_2^{-1} \times\Big\{\cdots\Big\{W_n^{-1}\Big\{W_n\Big\{W_{n-1} \times\Big\{W_{n-2}\Big\{\cdots\Big\{W_2\Big\{W_1\left(z_1\left(t_0\right)\right)\\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1)\, f_1(t_1)\, dt_1\Big\}\\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1)\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\, f_2(t_2)\, dt_2\right] dt_1\Big\}\cdots\Big\}\\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1)\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-3}} h_{n-2}(t_{n-2})\, f_{n-2}(t_{n-2})\, dt_{n-2}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1\Big\}\\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T_1)} h_1(t_1)\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\, dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1\Big\}\\ &\quad + \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\left[\cdots\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \times\left[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\, dt_n\right] dt_{n-1}\right]\cdots\right] dt_2\right] dt_1\Big\}\Big\}\cdots\Big\}\Big\},\\ &\qquad \forall t \in [t_0, T_1].\end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Since T_1 is chosen arbitrarily, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&z_1(t) \\
&\leq W_1^{-1}\Big\{W_2^{-1} \\
&\quad\times\Big\{\cdots\Big\{W_n^{-1}\Big\{W_n\Big\{W_{n-1} \\
&\quad\times\Big\{W_{n-2}\Big\{\cdots\Big\{W_2\Big\{W_1(z_1(t_0)) \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) f_1(t_1)\,dt_1\Big\} \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) f_2(t_2)\,dt_2\Big]dt_1\Big\}\cdots\Big\} \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\Big[\cdots \\
&\qquad\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-3}} h_{n-2}(t_{n-2}) f_{n-2}(t_{n-2})\,dt_{n-2}\Big]\cdots\Big]dt_2\Big]dt_1\Big\} \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\Big[\cdots \\
&\qquad\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) f_{n-1}(t_{n-1})\,dt_{n-1}\Big]\cdots\Big]dt_2\Big]dt_1\Big\} \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\Big[\cdots\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
&\quad\times\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n)\,dt_n\Big]dt_{n-1}\Big]\cdots\Big]dt_2\Big]dt_1\Big\}\Big\}\cdots\Big\}\Big\} \\
&= W_1^{-1}\big\{W_2^{-1} \\
&\quad\times\big\{\cdots\big\{W_n^{-1}\{W_n\{W_{n-1}\{\cdots\{W_2 \\
&\quad\times\{W_1(z_1(t_0))+H_1(t)\}+H_2(t)\}\cdots\} \\
&\quad+H_{n-1}(t)\}+H_n(t)\}\big\}\cdots\big\}\big\},\quad \forall t\in[t_0,T].
\end{aligned}\tag{37}$$

By the definition of z_1 and (15), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&2z_1(t_0)-k \\
&= k+2\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(T)} h_1(t_1) \\
&\quad\times\Big[f_1(t_1) w_1(u(t_1)) \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2) \\
&\quad\times\Big[f_2(t_2) w_2(u(t_2))+\cdots \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-2}} h_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) \\
&\quad\times\Big[f_{n-1}(t_{n-1}) w_{n-1}(u(t_{n-1})) \\
&\quad+\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_{n-1}} h_n(t_n) \\
&\quad\times w_n(u(t_n))\,dt_n\Big]dt_{n-1} \\
&\quad\cdots\Big]dt_2\Big]dt_1 = z_1(T).
\end{aligned}\tag{38}$$

From (37) and (38), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&2z_1(t_0)-k \\
&\leq W_1^{-1}\big\{W_2^{-1}\{\cdots\{W_n^{-1}\{W_n\{W_{n-1}\{\cdots\{W_2\{W_1(z_1(t_0)) \\
&\quad+H_1(T)\}+H_2(T)\}\cdots\}+H_{n-1}(T)\}+H_n(T)\}\big\}\cdots\}\big\}
\end{aligned}\tag{39}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}
&W_n\{W_{n-1}\{\cdots\{W_2\{W_1(2z_1(t_0)-k)\}\}\cdots\}\} \\
&\quad-W_n\{W_{n-1}\{\cdots\{W_2\{W_1(z_1(t_0))+H_1(T)\} \\
&\qquad+H_2(T)\}\cdots\}+H_{n-1}(T)\} \\
&\quad-H_n(T)\leq 0.
\end{aligned}\tag{40}$$

By the definition of G, the assumption of Theorem 1, and (40), we observe that

$$G(z_1(t_0))\leq 0=G(c).\tag{41}$$

Since H_2 is increasing, from the last inequality and (14), we have the desired estimation (12).

We define the following functions:

$$\begin{aligned}
H_1(t) &= \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1) f_1(t_1)\,dt_1, \\
H_2(t) &= \int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{\alpha(t)} h_1(t_1)\Big[\int_{\alpha(t_0)}^{t_1} h_2(t_2)\,dt_2\Big]dt_1, \\
E(u) &= W_2\{W_1(2u-k)\}-W_2\{W_1(u)+H_1(T)\}-H_2(T),
\end{aligned}\tag{42}$$

for all $u>k$, where W_i, $i=1,2$ are defined by (8) and (9), respectively. □

Corollary 2. *Let $n=2$, $f_1(t)$, $f_2(t)$, $h_i(t)$, ϕ_i, W_i, $i=1,2,\alpha$ be as in Theorem 1. Suppose that the function $E(u)$ is increasing* *and* $E(u) = 0$ *has a solution* c *for* $u > k$. *If* $u(t)$ *satisfies* (5), *then*

$$u(t) \le W_1^{-1}\left\{W_2^{-1}\left\{W_2\left\{W_1(c) + H_1(t)\right\} + H_2(t)\right\}\right\}, \quad \forall t \in I, \tag{43}$$

where $W_i^{-1}(i = 1, 2)$ *are inverse functions of* W_i, *respectively.*

3. Application

In this section, we apply our result in Theorem 1 to investigate the retarded Volterra-Fredholm integral equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= x_0 + \int_{t_0}^{t} F_1\left\{s, x(s-\gamma(s)), \int_{t_0}^{s} F_2\left[\tau, x(\tau-\gamma(\tau))\right] d\tau\right\} ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^{T} F_1\left\{s, x(s-\gamma(s)), \int_{t_0}^{s} F_2\left[\tau, x(\tau-\gamma(\tau))\right] d\tau\right\} ds, \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

for $t \in I$, where $x \in C(I, \mathbf{R})$, $\gamma \in C^1(I, I)$ is nondecreasing with $t - \gamma(t) \ge t_0$, $\gamma(t_0) = 0$, $\gamma'(t) < 1$, $F_1 \in C(I \times \mathbf{R}^2, \mathbf{R})$, $F_2 \in C(I \times \mathbf{R}, \mathbf{R})$. Let $\beta(t) = t - \gamma(t)$; then $\beta(t) \in C^1(I, I)$, $\beta(t) \le t$. Since $\beta'(t) = 1 - \gamma'(t) > 0$, $\beta(t)$ is an increasing and invertible function.

The following theorem gives the bound on the solution of (44).

Theorem 3. *Suppose that* F_1, F_2 *in* (44) *satisfy the conditions*

$$\begin{aligned} \left|F_1(s, x, y)\right| &\le h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1(|x|) + |y|\right], \\ \left|F_2(s, x)\right| &\le h_2(s) w_2(|x|), \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

where $f_1(s)$, $h_1(s)$, $h_2(s)$, $w_1(s)$ *and* $w_2(s)$ *are as in Theorem 1; let* $M = \max_{t\in I}(1/\beta'(\beta^{-1}(t))) < \infty$. *Assume that the function*

$$\begin{aligned} H_3(u) &= W_2\left[W_1(2u-k)\right] \\ &\quad - W_2\left[W_1(u) + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(T)} h_1(s) f_1(s)\, ds\right] \\ &\quad - \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(T)} h_1(s)\left[\int_{\beta(t_0)}^{s} h_2(\tau) f_2(\tau)\, d\tau\right] ds \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

is increasing and $H_3(t) = 0$ *has a solution* c *for* $u > k$. *If* $x(t)$ *is a solution of* (44), *then*

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| \le W_1^{-1}&\left\{W_2^{-1}\left[W_2\left[W_1(c) + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(t)} M h_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right) f_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right) ds\right]\right.\right. \\ &\left.\left. + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(t)} M h_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right)\left[\int_{\beta(t_0)}^{s} M h_2\left(\beta^{-1}(\tau)\right) d\tau\right] ds\right]\right\}, \quad \forall t \in I, \end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

where W_1, W_2, W_1^{-1}, *and* W_2^{-1} *are as in Theorem 1.*

Proof. Using the condition (45), we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &\le |x_0| + \int_{t_0}^{t} h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1\left(\left|x(s-\gamma(s))\right|\right)\right. \\ &\qquad \left. + \int_{t_0}^{s} h_2(\tau) \times w_2\left(\left|x(\tau-\gamma(\tau))\right|\right) d\tau\right] ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^{T} h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1\left(\left|x(s-\gamma(s))\right|\right)\right. \\ &\qquad \left. + \int_{t_0}^{s} h_2(\tau) w_2\left(\left|x(\tau-\gamma(\tau))\right|\right) d\tau\right] ds \\ &= |x_0| + \int_{t_0}^{t} h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1\left(\left|x(\beta(s))\right|\right)\right. \\ &\qquad \left. + \int_{t_0}^{s} h_2(\tau) w_2\left(\left|x(\beta(\tau))\right|\right) d\tau\right] ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^{T} h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1\left(\left|x(\beta(s))\right|\right)\right. \\ &\qquad \left. + \int_{t_0}^{s} h_2(\tau) w_2\left(\left|x(\beta(\tau))\right|\right) d\tau\right] ds \\ &\le |x_0| + \int_{t_0}^{t} h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1\left(\left|x(\beta(s))\right|\right)\right. \\ &\qquad \left. + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(s)} M h_2\left(\beta^{-1}(\tau)\right) \times w_2(|x(\tau)|)\, d\tau\right] ds \\ &\quad + \int_{t_0}^{T} h_1(s)\left[f_1(s) w_1\left(\left|x(\beta(s))\right|\right)\right. \\ &\qquad + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(s)} M h_2\left(\beta^{-1}(\tau)\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\qquad\qquad\qquad \times w_2\left(|x(\tau)|\right) d\tau \Bigg] ds \\
&\le |x_0| + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(t)} M h_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right) \\
&\qquad \times \Bigg[f_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right) w_1\left(|x(s)|\right) \\
&\qquad\qquad + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{s} M h_2\left(\beta^{-1}(\tau)\right) \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad \times w_2\left(|x(\tau)|\right) d\tau \Bigg] ds \\
&\quad + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{\beta(T)} M h_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right) \\
&\qquad \times \Bigg[f_1\left(\beta^{-1}(s)\right) w_1\left(|x(s)|\right) \\
&\qquad\qquad + \int_{\beta(t_0)}^{s} M h_2\left(\beta^{-1}(\tau)\right) \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad \times w_2\left(|x(\tau)|\right) d\tau \Bigg] ds,
\end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

for $t \in I$, where several changes of variables are made. Applying the result of Theorem 1 to the last inequality, we obtain the desired estimation (47). □

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

Acknowledgments

The present investigation was supported, in part, by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (no. 11161018), in part, by the NSF of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (no. 2012GXNSFAA053009), and, in part, by the Natural Science Foundation of Fujian Province of China (no. 2012J01014). The authors are grateful to the anonymous referees for their careful comments and valuable suggestions on this paper.

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