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# Lyapunov inequalities for a class of nonlinear dynamic systems on time scales

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## Abstract

The purpose of this work is to obtain several Lyapunov inequalities for the nonlinear dynamic systems

$$\begin{cases} x^\Delta(t) = -A(t)x(\sigma(t)) - B(t)y(t)|\sqrt{B(t)y(t)}|^{p-2}, \\ y^\Delta(t) = C(t)x(\sigma(t))|x(\sigma(t))|^{q-2} + A^T(t)y(t), \end{cases}$$

on a given time scale interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$  ( $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$ ), where  $p, q \in (1, +\infty)$  satisfy  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ ,  $A(t)$  is a real  $n \times n$  matrix-valued function on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that  $I + \mu(t)A(t)$  is invertible,  $B(t)$  and  $C(t)$  are two real  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix-valued functions on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,  $B(t)$  is positive definite, and  $x(t), y(t)$  are two real  $n$ -dimensional vector-valued functions on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ .

**MSC:** 34K11; 39A10; 39A99**Keywords:** Lyapunov inequality; nonlinear dynamic system; time scale

## 1 Introduction

The theory of dynamic equations on time scales, which follows Hilger's landmark paper [1], is a new study area of mathematics that has received a lot of attention. For example, we refer the reader to monographs [2, 3] and the references therein. During the last few years, some Lyapunov inequalities for dynamic equations on time scales have been obtained by many authors [4–7].

In 2002, Bohner *et al.* [8] investigated the second-order Sturm-Liouville dynamic equation

$$x^{\Delta^2}(t) + q(t)x^\sigma(t) = 0 \tag{1.1}$$

on time scale  $\mathbb{T}$  under the conditions  $x(a) = x(b) = 0$  ( $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $a < b$ ) and  $q \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, (0, \infty))$  and showed that if  $x(t)$  is a solution of (1.1) with  $\max_{t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}} |x(t)| > 0$ , then

$$\int_a^b q(t)\Delta t \geq \frac{b-a}{C},$$

where  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}} \equiv \{t \in \mathbb{T} : a \leq t \leq b\}$  and  $C = \max\{(t-a)(b-t) : t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}\}$ .

When  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}$ , (1.1) reduces to the Hills equation

$$x''(t) + u(t)x(t) = 0. \tag{1.2}$$

In 1907, Lyapunov [9] showed that if  $u \in C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$  and  $x(t)$  is a solution of (1.2) satisfying  $x(a) = x(b) = 0$  and  $\max_{t \in [a, b]} |x(t)| > 0$ , then the following classical Lyapunov inequality holds:

$$\int_a^b |u(t)| dt > \frac{4}{b-a}.$$

This was later strengthened with  $|u(t)|$  replaced by  $u^+(t) = \max\{u(t), 0\}$  by Wintner [10] and thereafter by some other authors:

$$\int_a^b u^+(t) dt > \frac{4}{b-a}.$$

Moreover, the last inequality is optimal.

When  $\mathbb{T}$  is the set  $\mathbb{Z}$  of the integers, (1.1) reduces to the linear difference equation

$$\Delta^2 x(n) + u(n)x(n+1) = 0. \tag{1.3}$$

In 1983, Cheng [11] showed that if  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $0 < a < b$  and  $x(n)$  is a solution of (1.3) satisfying  $x(a) = x(b) = 0$  and  $\max_{n \in \{a, a+1, \dots, b\}} |x(n)| > 0$ , then

$$\sum_{n=a}^{b-2} |u(n)| \geq \begin{cases} \frac{4(b-a)}{(b-a)^2-1} & \text{if } b-a-1 \text{ is even,} \\ \frac{4}{b-a} & \text{if } b-a-1 \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

The purpose of this paper is to establish several Lyapunov inequalities for the nonlinear dynamic system

$$\begin{cases} x^\Delta(t) = -A(t)x(\sigma(t)) - B(t)y(t)|\sqrt{B(t)}y(t)|^{p-2}, \\ y^\Delta(t) = C(t)x(\sigma(t))|x(\sigma(t))|^{q-2} + A^T(t)y(t), \end{cases} \tag{1.4}$$

on a given time scale interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$  ( $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$ ), where  $p, q \in (1, +\infty)$  satisfy  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ ,  $A(t)$  is a real  $n \times n$  matrix-valued function on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$  such that  $I + \mu(t)A(t)$  is invertible,  $B(t)$  and  $C(t)$  are two real  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix-valued functions on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,  $B(t)$  being positive definite,  $A^T(t)$  is the transpose of  $A(t)$ , and  $x(t), y(t)$  are two real  $n$ -dimensional vector-valued functions on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ .

When  $n = 1$  and  $p = q = 2$ , (1.4) reduces to

$$\begin{cases} x^\Delta(t) = u(t)x(\sigma(t)) + v(t)y(t), \\ y^\Delta(t) = -w(t)x(\sigma(t)) - u(t)y(t), \end{cases} \tag{1.5}$$

where  $u(t), v(t)$ , and  $w(t)$  are real-valued rd-continuous functions on  $\mathbb{T}$  satisfying  $v(t) \geq 0$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{T}$ .

In 2011, He *et al.* [12] obtained the following result.

**Theorem 1.1** ([12]) *Let  $1 - \mu(t)u(t) > 0$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{T}$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}^k$  with  $\sigma(a) \leq b$ . If (1.5) has a real solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} x(a) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x(a)x(\sigma(a)) < 0; \\ x(b) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad x(b)x(\sigma(b)) < 0; \quad \max_{t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}} |x(t)| > 0, \end{aligned}$$

then we have the following inequality:

$$\int_a^b |u(t)| \Delta(t) + \left[ \int_a^{\sigma(b)} v(t) \Delta(t) \int_a^b w^+(t) \Delta(t) \right]^{1/2} \geq 2,$$

where  $w^+(t) = \max\{w(t), 0\}$ .

In 2016, Liu et al. [13] obtained the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.2** *Let  $p = q = 2$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$ . If (1.4) has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  such that*

$$x(a) = x(b) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}} x^T(t)x(t) > 0, \tag{1.6}$$

then for any  $n \times n$  symmetric matrix-valued function  $C_1(t)$  with  $C_1(t) - C(t) \geq 0$ , we have the following inequalities:

(1)

$$\int_a^b \frac{[\int_a^{\sigma(t)} |B(s)| |e_{\Theta A}(\sigma(t), s)|^2 \Delta s][\int_{\sigma(t)}^b |B(s)| |e_{\Theta A}(\sigma(t), s)|^2 \Delta s]}{\int_a^b |B(s)| |e_{\Theta A}(\sigma(t), s)|^2 \Delta s} |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 1,$$

(2)

$$\int_a^b |C_1(t)| \left\{ \int_a^b |B(s)| |e_{\Theta A}(\sigma(t), s)|^2 \Delta s \right\} \Delta t \geq 4,$$

(3)

$$\int_a^b |A(t)| \Delta t + \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^2 \Delta t \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_a^b |C_1(t)| \Delta t \right)^{1/2} \geq 2.$$

For some other related results on Lyapunov-type inequalities, see, for example, [14–23].

**2 Preliminaries and some lemmas**

Throughout this paper, we adopt basic definitions and notation of monograph [2]. A time scale  $\mathbb{T}$  is a nonempty closed subset of the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ . On a time scale  $\mathbb{T}$ , the forward jump operator, the backward jump operator, and the graininess function are defined as

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

respectively.

The point  $t \in \mathbb{T}$  is said to be left-dense (resp. left-scattered) if  $\rho(t) = t$  (resp.  $\rho(t) < t$ ). The point  $t \in \mathbb{T}$  is said to be right-dense (resp. right-scattered) if  $\sigma(t) = t$  (resp.  $\sigma(t) > t$ ). If  $\mathbb{T}$  has a left-scattered maximum  $M$ , then we define  $\mathbb{T}^k = \mathbb{T} - \{M\}$ , otherwise  $\mathbb{T}^k = \mathbb{T}$ .

A function  $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be rd-continuous if  $f$  is continuous at right-dense points and has finite left-sided limits at left-dense points in  $\mathbb{T}$ . The set of all rd-continuous functions from  $\mathbb{T}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  is denoted by  $C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R})$ . For a function  $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the notation  $f^\sigma$  means the composition  $f \circ \sigma$ .

For a function  $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the (delta) derivative  $f^\Delta(t)$  at  $t \in \mathbb{T}$  is defined as the number (if it exists) such that for given any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a neighborhood  $U$  of  $t$  with

$$|f(\sigma(t)) - f(s) - f^\Delta(t)(\sigma(t) - s)| \leq \varepsilon |\sigma(t) - s|$$

for all  $s \in U$ . If the (delta) derivative  $f^\Delta(t)$  exists for every  $t \in \mathbb{T}^k$ , then we say that  $f$  is  $\Delta$ -differentiable on  $\mathbb{T}$ .

Let  $F, f \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R})$  satisfy  $F^\Delta(t) = f(t)$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}^k$ . Then, for any  $c, d \in \mathbb{T}$ , the Cauchy integral of  $f$  is defined as

$$\int_c^d f(t) \Delta t = F(d) - F(c).$$

For any  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and any  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  (the space of real  $n \times n$  matrices), write

$$|z| = \sqrt{z^T z} \quad \text{and} \quad |S| = \max_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n, z \neq 0} \frac{|Sz|}{|z|},$$

which are called the Euclidean norm of  $z$  and the matrix norm of  $S$ , respectively. It is obvious that, for any  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $U, V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,

$$|Uz| \leq |U||z| \quad \text{and} \quad |UV| \leq |U||V|.$$

Let  $\mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  be the set of all symmetric real  $n \times n$  matrices. We can show that, for any  $U \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$ ,

$$|U| = \max_{|\lambda| - U| = 0} |\lambda| \quad \text{and} \quad |U^2| = |U|^2.$$

A matrix  $S \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  is said to be positive definite (resp. semipositive definite), written as  $S > 0$  (resp.  $S \geq 0$ ), if  $y^T S y > 0$  (resp.  $y^T S y \geq 0$ ) for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $y \neq 0$ . If  $S$  is positive definite (resp. semipositive definite), then there exists a unique positive definite matrix (resp. semipositive definite matrix), written as  $\sqrt{S}$ , satisfying  $[\sqrt{S}]^2 = S$ .

In this paper, we establish Lyapunov inequalities for (1.4) that has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  satisfying

$$x(a) = x(b) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}} x^T(t)x(t) > 0. \tag{2.1}$$

We first introduce the following lemmas.

**Lemma 2.1** ([2]) *Let  $1/p + 1/q = 1$  ( $p, q \in (1, +\infty)$ ) and  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  ( $a < b$ ). Then, for any  $f, g \in C_{rd}([a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}, \mathbb{R})$ ,*

$$\int_a^b |f(t)g(t)| \Delta t \leq \left( \int_a^b |f(t)|^p \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |g(t)|^q \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

**Lemma 2.2** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $a < b$ . Suppose that  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $p, q \in (1, +\infty)$  with  $\alpha/p + \beta/q = \gamma/p + \delta/q = 1/p + 1/q = 1$ . Then, for any  $f, g \in C_{rd}([a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}, (-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty))$ ,*

$$\int_a^b |f(t)g(t)| \Delta t \leq \left( \int_a^b |f(t)|^\alpha |g(t)|^\gamma \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |f(t)|^\beta |g(t)|^\delta \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

*Proof* Let  $M(t) = (|f(t)|^\alpha |g(t)|^\gamma)^{\frac{1}{p}}$  and  $N(t) = (|f(t)|^\beta |g(t)|^\delta)^{\frac{1}{q}}$ . Then by Lemma 2.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b |f(t)g(t)| \Delta t &= \int_a^b M(t)N(t) \Delta t \\ &\leq \left( \int_a^b M^p(t) \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b N^q(t) \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left( \int_a^b |f(t)|^\alpha |g(t)|^\gamma \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |f(t)|^\beta |g(t)|^\delta \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Lemma 2.2. □

**Remark 2.3** Let  $\gamma = 0$  in Lemma 2.2. Then we obtain that, for any  $f, g \in C_{rd}([a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}, (-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty))$ ,

$$\int_a^b |f(t)g(t)| \Delta t \leq \left\{ \max_{t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}} |f(t)|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_a^b |f(t)|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |g(t)|^q \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.$$

**Lemma 2.4** ([2]) *If  $A \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^{n \times n})$  with invertible  $I + \mu(t)A(t)$ ,  $f \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $t_0 \in \mathbb{T}$ , and  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then*

$$x(t) = e_{\ominus A}(t, t_0)a + \int_{t_0}^t e_{\ominus A}(t, \tau)f(\tau) \Delta \tau$$

*is the unique solution of the initial value problem*

$$\begin{cases} x^\Delta(t) = -A(t)x(\sigma(t)) + f(t), \\ x(t_0) = a, \end{cases}$$

where  $(\ominus A)(t) = -[I + \mu(t)A(t)]^{-1}A(t)$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{T}^k$ , and  $e_{\ominus A}(t, t_0)$  is the unique matrix-valued solution of the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} Y^\Delta(t) = (\ominus A)(t)Y(t), \\ Y(t_0) = I. \end{cases}$$

**Lemma 2.5** ([2]) *Let  $A, B \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^{n \times n})$  be  $\Delta$ -differentiable. Then*

$$(A(t)B(t))^\Delta = A^\sigma(t)B^\Delta(t) + A^\Delta(t)B(t) = A^\Delta(t)B^\sigma(t) + A(t)B^\Delta(t).$$

**Lemma 2.6** ([13]) *If  $f_1(t), f_2(t), \dots, f_n(t)$  are  $\Delta$ -integrable on  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$  and  $x(t) = (f_1(t), f_2(t), \dots, f_n(t))$ , then*

$$\left| \int_a^b x(t) \Delta t \right| = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \int_a^b f_i(t) \Delta t \right)^2 \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \int_a^b \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n f_i^2(t) \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \Delta t = \int_a^b |x(t)| \Delta t.$$

**Lemma 2.7** ([13]) *If  $A_1, A_2 \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  and  $A_1 - A_2 \geq 0$ , then, for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,*

$$(x^\sigma)^T A_2 x^\sigma \leq |A_1| |x^\sigma|^2.$$

### 3 Main results and proofs

In this section, we assume that  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $p, q \in (1, +\infty)$  satisfy

$$\alpha/p + \beta/q = 1/p + 1/q = 1.$$

For any  $t, \tau \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ , write

$$\begin{aligned} F(t, \tau) &= |e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau)| |\sqrt{B(\tau)}|, \\ G(t) &= |\sqrt{B(t)}y(t)|^{p-2} y^T(t)B(t)y(t) = |\sqrt{B(t)}y(t)|^p, \\ \Phi(\sigma(t)) &= \left( \int_a^{\sigma(t)} F^\alpha(t, s) \Delta s \right)^{\frac{q}{p}}, \\ \Psi(\sigma(t)) &= \left( \int_{\sigma(t)}^b F^\alpha(t, s) \Delta s \right)^{\frac{q}{p}}, \\ P(t) &= \Phi(\sigma(t))\Psi(\sigma(t)) \max_{a \leq \tau \leq \sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau) \max_{\sigma(t) \leq \tau \leq b} F^\beta(t, \tau), \\ Q(t) &= \Phi(\sigma(t)) \max_{a \leq \tau \leq \sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau) + \Psi(\sigma(t)) \max_{\sigma(t) \leq \tau \leq b} F^\beta(t, \tau). \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.1** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$  and  $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  with  $C_1(t) - C(t) \geq 0$ . If (1.4) has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  with  $x(t), y(t) \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfying (2.1) on the interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ , then*

$$\int_a^b \frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 1. \tag{3.1}$$

*Proof* Since  $(x(t), y(t))$  is a solution of (1.4), we have

$$(y^T(t)x(t))^\Delta = (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t)x^\sigma(t) |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} - G(t). \tag{3.2}$$

Integrating (3.2) from  $a$  to  $b$  and noting that  $x(a) = x(b) = 0$ , we obtain

$$\int_a^b G(t) \Delta t = \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t)x^\sigma(t) \Delta t.$$

Noting that  $B(t) > 0$ , we know that  $y^T(t)B(t)y(t) \geq 0, t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ .

We claim that  $y^T(t)B(t)y(t) \not\equiv 0 (t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}})$ . Indeed, if  $y^T(t)B(t)y(t) \equiv 0 (t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}})$ , then

$$|\sqrt{B(t)}y(t)|^2 = y^T(t)B(t)y(t) \equiv 0,$$

which implies  $B(t)y(t) \equiv 0$  ( $t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ ). Thus, the first equation of (1.4) reduces to

$$x^\Delta(t) = -A(t)x(\sigma(t)), \quad x(a) = 0.$$

By Lemma 2.4 it follows

$$x(t) = e_{\ominus A}(t, a) \cdot 0 = 0,$$

which is a contradiction to (2.1). Hence, we obtain that

$$\int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t)x^\sigma(t) \Delta t = \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t > 0, \tag{3.3}$$

and it follows from Lemma 2.4 that, for  $t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= - \int_a^t e_{\ominus A}(t, \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau \\ &= - \int_b^t e_{\ominus A}(t, \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that, for  $t \in [a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x^\sigma(t) &= - \int_a^{\sigma(t)} e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau \\ &= + \int_{\sigma(t)}^b e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

Note that, for  $a \leq \sigma(t) \leq b$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &|e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2}| \\ &\leq |e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau)| |B(\tau)y(\tau)| |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \\ &\leq F(t, \tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)| |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \\ &= F(t, \tau) G^{\frac{1}{q}}(\tau). \end{aligned}$$

Then by Remark 2.3 and Lemma 2.6 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |x^\sigma(t)|^q &= \left| \int_a^{\sigma(t)} e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau \right|^q \\ &\leq \left[ \int_a^{\sigma(t)} |e_{\ominus A}(\sigma(t), \tau) B(\tau)y(\tau) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2}| \Delta \tau \right]^q \\ &\leq \left[ \int_a^{\sigma(t)} F(t, \tau) G^{\frac{1}{q}}(\tau) \Delta \tau \right]^q \\ &\leq \left( \int_a^{\sigma(t)} F^\alpha(t, \tau) \Delta \tau \right)^{\frac{q}{p}} \int_a^{\sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau) G(\tau) \Delta \tau \\ &\leq \max_{a \leq \tau \leq \sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau) \left( \int_a^{\sigma(t)} F^\alpha(t, \tau) \Delta \tau \right)^{\frac{q}{p}} \int_a^{\sigma(t)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau, \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$|x^\sigma(t)|^q \leq \max_{a \leq \tau \leq \sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau) \Phi(\sigma(t)) \int_a^{\sigma(t)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \tag{3.4}$$

Similarly, for  $a \leq \sigma(t) \leq b$ , we have

$$|x^\sigma(t)|^q \leq \max_{\sigma(t) \leq \tau \leq b} F^\beta(t, \tau) \Psi(\sigma(t)) \int_{\sigma(t)}^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \tag{3.5}$$

It follows from (3.4) and (3.5) that

$$|x^\sigma(t)|^q \leq \frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} \int_a^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau.$$

Then by (3.3) and Lemma 2.7 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t \\ & \leq \int_a^b |C_1(t)| \frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} \Delta t \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t \\ & = \int_a^b |C_1(t)| \frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} \Delta t \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t \\ & \leq \int_a^b |C_1(t)| \frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} \Delta t \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t \geq \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t = \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t > 0,$$

we get

$$\int_a^b \frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 1.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1. □

**Corollary 3.2** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$  and  $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  with  $C_1(t) - C(t) \geq 0$ . If (1.4) has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  with  $x(t), y(t) \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfying (2.1) on the interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ , then*

$$\int_a^b Q(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 4. \tag{3.6}$$

*Proof* Note that

$$\frac{P(t)}{Q(t)} \leq \frac{Q(t)}{4}.$$

It follows from (3.1) that

$$\int_a^b \frac{Q(t)}{4} |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 1,$$



that is,

$$\int_a^b Q(t)|C_1(t)|\Delta t \geq 4.$$

This completes the proof of Corollary 3.2. □

**Corollary 3.3** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$  and  $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  with  $C_1(t) - C(t) \geq 0$ . If (1.4) has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  with  $x(t), y(t) \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfying (2.1) on the interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ , then*

$$\int_a^b \sqrt{P(t)}|C_1(t)|\Delta t \geq 2. \tag{3.7}$$

*Proof* Note that

$$Q(t) \geq 2\sqrt{P(t)}.$$

It follows from (3.1) that

$$\int_a^b \sqrt{P(t)}|C_1(t)|\Delta t \geq \int_a^b 2\frac{P(t)}{Q(t)}|C_1(t)|\Delta t \geq 2.$$

This completes the proof of Corollary 3.3. □

**Theorem 3.4** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$  and  $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  with  $C_1(t) - C(t) \geq 0$ . If (1.4) has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  with  $x(t), y(t) \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfying (2.1) on the interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ , then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that*

$$\begin{cases} \int_a^{\sigma(c)} \Phi(\sigma(t)) \max_{a \leq \tau \leq \sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau)|C_1(t)|\Delta t \geq 1, \\ \int_c^b \Psi(\sigma(t)) \max_{\sigma(t) \leq \tau \leq b} F^\beta(t, \tau)|C_1(t)|\Delta t \geq 1. \end{cases} \tag{3.8}$$

*Proof* Set  $U(t) = \Phi(\sigma(t)) \max_{a \leq \tau \leq \sigma(t)} F^\beta(t, \tau)$  and  $V(t) = \Psi(\sigma(t)) \max_{\sigma(t) \leq \tau \leq b} F^\beta(t, \tau)$ . Let

$$f(t) = \int_a^t U(s)|C_1(s)|\Delta s - \int_t^b V(s)|C_1(s)|\Delta s.$$

Then we have  $f(a) < 0$  and  $f(b) > 0$ . Hence, we can choose  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f(c) \leq 0$  and  $f(\sigma(c)) \geq 0$ , that is,

$$\int_a^c U(s)|C_1(s)|\Delta s \leq \int_c^b V(s)|C_1(s)|\Delta s \tag{3.9}$$

and

$$\int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(s)|C_1(s)|\Delta s \geq \int_{\sigma(c)}^b V(s)|C_1(s)|\Delta s. \tag{3.10}$$

By (3.4) we have that

$$|C_1(t)||x^\sigma(t)|^q \leq U(t)|C_1(t)| \int_a^{\sigma(t)} G(\tau)\Delta \tau. \tag{3.11}$$

Integrating (3.11) from  $a$  to  $\sigma(c)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^{\sigma(c)} |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\leq \int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \left( \int_a^{\sigma(t)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau \right) \Delta t \\ &\leq \int_a^c U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^{\sigma(c)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau \\ &\quad + U(c) |C_1(c)| (\sigma(c) - c) \int_a^{\sigma(c)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau \\ &= \int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^{\sigma(c)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain from (3.4) and (3.10) that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\sigma(c)}^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\leq \int_{\sigma(c)}^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_{\sigma(c)}^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau \\ &\leq \int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_{\sigma(c)}^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\leq \int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t \\ &= \int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t \\ &\leq \int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\geq \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t \\ &= \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t > 0, \end{aligned}$$

we have  $\int_a^{\sigma(c)} U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 1$ .

Next, we obtain from (3.5) that

$$|x^\sigma(t)|^q |C_1(t)| \leq V(t) |C_1(t)| \int_{\sigma(t)}^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \tag{3.12}$$

Integrating (3.12) from  $c$  to  $b$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_c^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\leq \int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \left( \int_{\sigma(t)}^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau \right) \Delta t \\ &\leq \int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_{\sigma(c)}^b G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^c |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\leq \int_a^c U(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^{\sigma(c)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau \\ &\leq \int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^{\sigma(c)} G(\tau) \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t &\leq \int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t \\ &= \int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t \\ &\leq \int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have  $\int_c^b V(t) |C_1(t)| \Delta t \geq 1$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 3.4. □

**Theorem 3.5** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $\sigma(a) < b$  and  $C_1 \in \mathbb{R}_s^{n \times n}$  with  $C_1(t) - C(t) \geq 0$ . If (1.4) has a solution  $(x(t), y(t))$  with  $x(t), y(t) \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T}, \mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfying (2.1) on the interval  $[a, b]_{\mathbb{T}}$ , then*

$$\int_a^b |A(t)| \Delta t + \left\{ \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |C_1(t)| \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \geq 2.$$

*Proof* Since  $x(a) = x(b) = 0$ , we have

$$\int_a^b G(t) \Delta t = \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t.$$

It follows from the first equation of (1.4) that, for all  $a \leq t \leq b$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \int_a^t (-A(\tau)x^\sigma(\tau) - B(\tau)|\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2}y(\tau)) \Delta \tau \\ &= \int_t^b (A(\tau)x^\sigma(\tau) + B(\tau)|\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2}y(\tau)) \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &= \left| \int_a^t (-A(\tau)x^\sigma(\tau) - B(\tau)y(\tau)) |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau \right| \\ &\leq \int_a^t |A(\tau)x^\sigma(\tau) + B(\tau)y(\tau)| |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau \\ &\leq \int_a^t |A(\tau)x^\sigma(\tau)| \Delta \tau + \int_a^t |B(\tau)y(\tau)| |\sqrt{B(\tau)}y(\tau)|^{p-2} \Delta \tau \\ &\leq \int_a^t |A(\tau)| |x^\sigma(\tau)| \Delta \tau + \int_a^t |\sqrt{B(\tau)}| G^{\frac{1}{q}}(\tau) \Delta \tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we have

$$|x(t)| \leq \int_t^b |A(\tau)| |x^\sigma(\tau)| \Delta\tau + \int_t^b |\sqrt{B(\tau)}| G^{\frac{1}{q}}(\tau) \Delta\tau.$$

Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |x(t)| &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_a^b |A(t)| |x^\sigma(t)| \Delta t + \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}| G^{\frac{1}{q}}(t) \Delta t \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_a^b |A(t)| |x^\sigma(t)| \Delta t + \left\{ \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b G(t) \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_a^b |A(t)| |x^\sigma(t)| \Delta t + \left\{ \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left( \int_a^b |x^\sigma(t)|^{q-2} (x^\sigma(t))^T C(t) x^\sigma(t) \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_a^b |A(t)| |x^\sigma(t)| \Delta t + \left\{ \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |C_1(t)| |x^\sigma(t)|^q \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Denote  $M = \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |x(t)| > 0$ . Then

$$M \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \int_a^b |A(t)| M \Delta t + \left\{ \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |C_1(t)| M^q \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right].$$

Thus,

$$\int_a^b |A(t)| \Delta t + \left\{ \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\beta \right\}^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \int_a^b |\sqrt{B(t)}|^\alpha \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_a^b |C_1(t)| \Delta t \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \geq 2.$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 3.5. □

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' contributions**

All authors contributed equally and significantly in writing this article. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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**Acknowledgements**

This project is supported by NNSF of China (11461003).

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