SUFFICIENT CONDITIONS FOR OSCILLATION OF THE LIÉNARD EQUATION

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Abstract

Some sufficient conditions for oscillation of the generalized Liénard equations

$$\dot{x} = h(y) - F(x),$$

$$\dot{y} = -g(x)$$

are given, which generalize the results of [1-7].

Keywords Liénard equation, Oscillation 1991 MR Subject Classification 34C10 Chinese Library Classification 0175.24

§1. Introduction

In this paper, we give some sufficient conditions for the oscillation of all solutions of the generalized Liénard equation

$$\dot{x} = h(y) - F(x),$$

$$\dot{y} = -g(x).$$
 (1.1)

Throughout this paper, we assume $h(\cdot), F(\cdot), g(\cdot)$ are continuous functions on R and satisfy locally Lipschitz condition. Moreover we assume $F(0) = 0; yh(y) > 0, y \neq 0; xg(x) > 0, x \neq 0; h(y)$ is strictly increasing and

$$\lim_{y \to \pm \infty} h(y) = \pm \infty, \quad \lim_{|x| \to \infty} G(x) = \infty,$$

where

$$G(x)=\int_0^x g(u)du, \quad H(y)=\int_0^y h(u)du,$$

 $H^{-1}(\cdot), G^{-1}(\cdot)$ are inverse functions of $H(\cdot)$ and $G(\cdot)$. A solution of (1.1) is said to be oscillatory if the solution curve x(y) crosses the y-axis infinitely many times. Equation (1.1) is called oscillatory if all its nonzero solutions are oscillatory.

For $x \ge 0$, in order to obtain the oscillation for (1.1), it is necessary to guarantee each positive semiorbit $O^+(P)$, where P = (0, p) with p > 0, to cross the vertical isocline h(y) = F(x) and then cross the negative y-axis; this property of $O^+(P)$ plays an important role in

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the analysis of center condition, oscillation, asymptotic stability and boundness condition of (1.1). There have been many works in this direction, for example, [1–8]; all of them give sufficient conditions to obtain the above mentioned property of $O^+(P)$ for Equation (1.1) with h(y) = y, f(x) = F'(x).

(1)' From [1], there exists k > 0 such that

$$0 < f(x) < kg(x), \quad x > 0.$$

(2)' From [2], there exists $\alpha > \frac{1}{4}$ such that

$$f(x) > 0, \alpha f(x)F(x) \le g(x), \quad x > 0.$$

(3)' From [3], there exists $0 \le \beta < 8$, such that

$$F^2(x) \le \beta G(x), \quad x > 0.$$

(4)' From [4], there exists $\alpha > \frac{1}{4}$ such that

$$\alpha |F(x)| \leq \int_0^x g(u)/|F(u)|du, \quad x>0.$$

(5)' From [5] and [6], there exists $\alpha > \frac{1}{4}$, such that

$$|F(x)| > 0, \frac{1}{F(x)} \int_0^x \frac{g(u)}{F(u)} du \ge \alpha, \quad x > 0.$$

(6)' From [7], there exists $k_1 > 0, k_2 < 0$ such that

$$k_2 \le f(x)/g(x) \le k_1, \quad x > 0.$$

Recently, for $h(y) = m|y|^p \operatorname{sgn} y, m > 0, p \ge 1$, J. Sugie^[8] obtained the following condition: for x > 0.

(7)'
$$F(x) \ge -\lambda G(x)^{p/(1+p)}$$
, where $0 \le \lambda < \mu = m(1+p) \left(\frac{(1+p)}{mp}\right)^{p/(1+p)}$

J. Jiang^[9] obtained the similar result.

If we consider the above conditions carefully, it is not difficult to prove (see Section 2) that the above conditions could be written as

$$|F(x)| \le M(g(x)) \quad \text{for} \quad x > 0, \tag{1.2}$$

where $M(r) \ge 0$ for $r \ge 0, M(r) = 0$ if and only if r = 0.

But it seems that there is no evident relations between the above conditions and the constants α, β, μ . Furthermove, most of the above papers did not give a method in obtaining these constants; hence, the above results are not easy to be extended to more general cases.

In this paper, by using a new method, we obtain more general sufficient conditions to guarantee the oscillation of Equation (1.1); our method has an evident geometric meaning.

\S **2.** Notations and Lemmas

First, we prove that all the conditions (1)'-(7)' could be rewritten as (1.2). We need only to prove (2)' and (4)'; the other cases are evident.

Lemma 2.1(Bihari Theorem).^[10] If $k, m \ge 0$ and l(s) is positive for s > 0, then the inequality

$$u(t) \le k + m \int_{a}^{t} v(s)l(u(s))ds, \qquad a \le t \le b,$$

$$(2.1)$$

implies that

$$u(t) \le L^{-1} \Big[L(k) + m \int_a^t v(s) ds \Big],$$

where

$$L(u) = \int_{u_0}^{u} \frac{dt}{l(t)}, \qquad 0 \le u_0 < u.$$
(2.2)

Proof of (2)'. Integrating both sides of $\alpha f(x)F(x) \leq g(x)$ for x > 0, we have $\alpha F^2(x) \leq 2G(x)$, that is,

$$|F(x)| \le \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha}G(x)} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha}\int_0^x g(u)du}.$$

Proof of (4)'. By Lemma 2.1, let $k = 0, m = \frac{1}{\alpha}, v(t) = g(x), u(t) = |F(x)|, l(u) = \frac{1}{u}$; then

$$\begin{split} L(u) &= \int_0^u t dt = \frac{u^2}{2}, \quad L^{-1}(u) = \sqrt{2u}, \\ |F(x)| &\leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha}} \int_0^x g(u) du = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha}} G(x) < 2\sqrt{2G(x)} \\ &= 2\sqrt{2} \int_0^x g(u) du, \quad x > 0. \end{split}$$

Second, we introduce the generalized polar coordinates, which is a generalization of the method used in [11].

Let $x(\theta) = C(\theta), y(\theta) = S(\theta)$ be the solution of the following equations

$$\dot{x} = h(y), \qquad \dot{y} = -g(x) \tag{2.3}$$

satisfying the initial conditions G(C(0)) = 1, S(0) = 0.

Then $C(\theta), S(\theta)$ are periodic solutions with period T > 0 $(0 \le \theta \le T)$ and satisfy the following equations

- (a) $G(C(\theta)) + H(S(\theta)) = 1,$ (b) $dC(\theta)/d\theta = h(S(\theta)),$ (2.4)
- (c) $dS(\theta)/d\theta = -g(C(\theta)).$

It is easy to see that the solution curves of (2.3) are simple closed curves surronding the origin:

$$G(x) + H(y) = \text{Const.} \ge 0.$$
(2.5)

If we introduce the generalized polar coordinates $(r, \theta), r \ge 0, 0 \le \theta \le T$,

$$x = f_1(r)C(\theta), \quad y = f_2(r)S(\theta), \tag{2.6}$$

where $f_1(r) = \sqrt{H(r)/H(1)}, f_2(r) = \sqrt{G(r)/G(1)}$, then (2.5) is changed into

$$G(f_1(r)C(\theta)) + H(f_2(r)S(\theta)) = f_3(r)$$

with

$$f_3(r) = G(f_1(r)C(0)), \qquad r \ge 0.$$

Then it is easy to see that $f_i(r)$ are monotone increasing C^1 functions for $r \ge 0$ and $f_i(0) = 0, f_i(1) = 1, f_i(\infty) = \infty, i = 1, 2, 3.$

Lemma 2.2. Consider the following equations

$$\dot{x} = h(y) + \lambda R(x),$$

$$\dot{y} = -g(x),$$

(2.7)_{\lambda}

where $R(x) \neq 0$ for $x \neq 0, \lambda \geq 0$ is a constant. Then there exists a $\lambda_0 > 0$ such that all solutions of $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ are oscillatory for $0 \leq \lambda < \lambda_0$; $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ is not oscillatory for $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$.

Proof. By using the generalized polar coordinates introduced above, $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ is changed into the following form

$$\overline{R}(r,\theta)\frac{dr}{dt} = S(r,\theta,\lambda),$$

$$\overline{R}(r,\theta)\frac{d\theta}{dt} = T(r,\theta,\lambda),$$
(2.8)

where

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{R}(r,\theta) &= f_1'(r)f_2(r) \cdot C(\theta)g(C(\theta)) + f_1(r)f_2'(r)h(S(\theta))S(\theta), \\ S(r,\theta,\lambda) &= f_2(r)g(C(\theta))h(y) - g(x)f_1(r)h(S(\theta)) + \lambda f_2(r)g(C(\theta))R(x), \\ T(r,\theta,\lambda) &= -\left[\frac{g(r)}{2G(r)}yh(y) + \frac{h(r)}{2H(r)}xg(x) + \frac{\lambda g(r)S(\theta)R(x)}{\sqrt{2G(r)G(1)}}\right], \end{aligned}$$

and x, y are given by (2.6), r = 0 if and only if x = y = 0.

It is obvious that $\overline{R}(r,\theta) \ge 0$ and $\overline{R}(r,\theta) = 0$ if and only r = 0. When $\overline{R}(r,\theta) > 0$, $(2.8)_{\lambda}$ is equivalent to the following equation

$$\frac{dr}{d\theta} = \frac{S(r,\theta,\lambda)}{T(r,\theta,\lambda)}.$$
(2.9)_{\lambda}

Write $T(r, \theta, \lambda) = T(r, \theta, 0) + \lambda T_1(r, \theta)$. Then by the assumptions of h and g,

$$T(r,\theta,0) = -\left[\frac{g(r)}{2G(r)}yh(y) + \frac{h(r)}{2H(r)}xg(x)\right] < 0 \text{ for } r > 0,$$

$$T_1(r,\theta) = -g(r)S(\theta)R(x)/\sqrt{2G(r)G(1)}.$$

If for some θ , $T_1(r, \theta) > 0$, then for fixed r, θ , letting $\lambda > 0$ be large enough, we have $T(r, \theta, \lambda) > 0$. Hence $T(r, \theta, \lambda)$ changes sign.

But if $\lambda > 0$ is small enough, $T(r, \theta, \lambda)$ has the same sign as $T(r, \theta, 0)$.

If $T(r, \theta, \lambda) \ge T_0(r) > 0$ for r > 0 and $0 \le \lambda < \lambda_0$ for some $\lambda_0 > 0$ and if y-axis is not an exceptional direction for $(2.7)_{\lambda}$, then all solutions of $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ are oscillatory.

If for some $\lambda_1 > 0$ there exists at least one $\overline{\theta}$ such that $T(r, \overline{\theta}, \lambda)$ changes sign for $\lambda \geq \lambda_1$, for all r > 0, then $\overline{\theta}$ is an exceptional direction for $(2.7)_{\lambda}$. Hence $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ is not oscillatory.

From above discussion, we define $\lambda_0 \ge 0$ as follows: let

$$P(r) = \max_{0 \le \theta \le T} \left| \frac{g(r)S(\theta)R(x)}{2\sqrt{G(r)G(1)}} \right|_{x = f_1(r)C(\theta)},$$
(2.10)

$$Q(r) = \min_{0 \le \theta \le T} \left[\frac{g(r)yh(y)}{2G(r)} + \frac{h(r)xg(x)}{2H(r)} \right]_{\substack{x = f_1(r)C(\theta), \\ y = f_2(r)S(\theta)}}$$
(2.11)

with $f_1(r) = \sqrt{H(r)/H(1)}$, $f_2(r) = \sqrt{G(r)/G(1)}$, and define

$$\lambda_0 = \inf_{r>0} \frac{Q(r)}{P(r)}.$$
 (2.12)

Then λ_0 is the desired value. (If $\lambda_0 = 0$, then for all $\lambda > 0$, $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ is not oscillatory).

§3. Main Results

Theorem 3.1. Let all conditions of h, F, g stated in Introduction be satisfied, $R(x) \neq 0$ for $x \neq 0$. Then for $|\lambda| < \lambda_0, |F(x)| \leq \lambda |R(x)|$, Equation (1.1) is oscillatory, where λ_0 is given by (2.12).

The proof of Theorem 3.1 is a direct consequence of Lemma 2.2 and the comparison theorem of differential equations if we write (1.1) and $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ as

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-g(x)}{h(y) - F(x)} \tag{3.1}$$

and

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-g(x)}{h(y) + \lambda R(x)} \tag{3.2}$$

respectively.

Theorem 3.2. Let $R(x) = h(H^{-1}(G(x))) \operatorname{sgn} x$ in Theorem 3.1. Especially if $h(y) = m|y|^p \operatorname{sgn} y$, with m > 0, p > 0, then

$$R(x) = m \left(\frac{(p+1)G(x)}{m}\right)^{\frac{p}{p+1}} \operatorname{sgn} x,$$

and

$$\lambda_0 = (p+1) \left(\frac{1}{p}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}}.$$
(3.3)

Proof. We first change variables

$$u = \sqrt{2G(x)}\operatorname{sgn} x, \quad y = y, \quad d\tau = \frac{g(x)\operatorname{sgn} xdt}{\sqrt{2G(x)}}.$$
(3.4)

Then by denoting τ by t, u by x again, $(2.7)_{\lambda}$ is transformed into the following form

$$\dot{x} = h(y) + \lambda h(H^{-1}(\frac{x^2}{2}))\operatorname{sgn} x, \qquad (3.5)_{\lambda}$$
$$\dot{y} = -x.$$

Therefore for $h(y) = m|y|^p \operatorname{sgn} y$, the P(r) and Q(r) in (2.10) and (2.11) become

$$Q(r) = \min_{0 \le \theta \le T} \left(\frac{yh(y)}{2r} + \frac{h(r)}{2H(1)} C^2(\theta) \right) \Big|_{y=rS(\theta)}$$
$$= \min_{0 \le \theta \le T} r^p \left(m|S(\theta)|^{p+1} + (p+1)\frac{C^2(\theta)}{2} \right)$$
$$= (p+1)r^p.$$

Here we used the fact $\frac{C^2(\theta)}{2} + \frac{m|S(\theta)|^{p+1}}{p+1} = 1$, which is the result of (a) of (2.4).

$$P(r) = \max_{0 \le \theta \le T} m\left(\frac{p+1}{m}\right)^{\frac{p}{p+1}} r^p |S(\theta)| |C^{\frac{2p}{1+p}}(\theta)|$$

Now what we need is to calculate

$$\max_{0 \le \theta \le T} |S(\theta)| |C(\theta)|^{\frac{2p}{1+p}}.$$

From $\frac{C^2(\theta)}{2} + \frac{m|S(\theta)|^{p+1}}{p+1} = 1$ and Hölder inequality $A^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \cdot B^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \leq \frac{A}{\alpha} + \frac{B}{\beta}$ (the equality holds iff $B^{\frac{1}{\beta}} = A^{\frac{1}{\alpha}(\alpha-1)}$), where $A \geq 0, B \geq 0, \alpha > 1, \frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta} = 1$, by letting

$$A = C^{2}(\theta) \frac{(p+1)}{2p}, \quad B = |S(\theta)m^{\frac{1}{p+1}}|^{p+1},$$

we obtain

$$\begin{split} \max_{0 \le \theta \le T} |S(\theta)| |C(\theta)|^{\frac{2p}{1+p}} &= \max_{0 \le \theta \le T} A^{\frac{p}{1+p}} \cdot B^{\frac{1}{p+1}} / \left[\left(\frac{p+1}{p} \right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}} \cdot m^{\frac{1}{p+1}} \right] \\ &= \left[A \frac{p}{p+1} + B \cdot \frac{1}{p+1} \right] / \left[\left(\frac{p+1}{p} \right)^{\frac{p}{p+1}} \cdot m^{\frac{1}{p+1}} \right] \\ &= \left[\frac{C^2(\theta)}{2} + \frac{m |S(\theta)|^{p+1}}{p+1} \right] / \left[\left(\frac{p+1}{p} \right)^{\frac{p}{p+1}} \cdot m^{\frac{1}{p+1}} \right] \\ &= \frac{p}{p+1} \frac{p}{p+1} \left(\frac{1}{m} \right)^{\frac{1}{p+1}}. \end{split}$$

The equality holds iff $|S(\theta)|^{p+1} = C^2(\theta) \cdot \frac{p+1}{2pm}$, hence $P(r) = p^{\frac{p}{1+p}}r^p$, and

$$\lambda_0 = \frac{Q(r)}{P(r)} = (p+1) \left(\frac{1}{p}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}}, \quad p > 0.$$
(3.6)

Now let $\overline{f}(p) = \ln \lambda_0$. Then

$$\overline{f}'(p) = \frac{\ln p}{(1+p)^2} \begin{cases} > 0, & \text{if } p > 1, \\ < 0, & \text{if } p < 1. \end{cases}$$

We know

$$\max_{p>0} \lambda_0 = \lambda_0|_{p=1} = 2, \quad \inf_{p>0} \lambda_0 = \lim_{p \to +\infty} s\lambda_0 = \lim_{p \to 0^+} \lambda_0 = 1$$

Since

$$h(H^{-1}(G(x))) = m\left(\frac{p+1}{m}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}} \cdot G^{\frac{p}{1+p}}(x),$$

we have

$$\mu = \lambda_0 m \left(\frac{p+1}{m}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}} = m(p+1) \left(\frac{1+p}{pm}\right)^{\frac{p}{1+p}},\tag{3.7}$$

which is the value defined in [8] and [9]. But our result holds also for 0 , so our result cover the corresponding result of [8] and [9].

Remark 3.1. Let m = 1, p = 1. Then

$$\mu = \sqrt{8}, |F(x)| < \sqrt{8G(x)} = \frac{\sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{G(x)}}G(x).$$

Because $G(x) \to \infty$ as $|x| \to \infty$, we obtain the results of (1)'-(3)' and (6)'.

Theorem 3.3. Assume $\lambda \geq 0$ and l(t) is a positive function for t > 0; $v(u) > 0, u \neq 0, L(u) = \int_{0^+}^{u} \frac{dt}{l(t)}$ for u > 0; $L^{-1}(\cdot)$ is the inverse function of $L(\cdot)$. And suppose |F(x)| > 0 for $x \neq 0$ and the following inequality holds:

$$-\lambda \int_{-x}^{0} v(u) l(|F(u)|) du \le F(x) \le \lambda \int_{0}^{x} v(u) l(|F(u)|) du, \quad 0 \le x < +\infty.$$
(3.8)

Then

$$|F(x)| \le L^{-1} \left(\lambda \int_0^{|x|} v(u) du \right)$$
(3.9)

and there exists a $\lambda_0 > 0$ such that for $0 \leq \lambda < \lambda_0$ Equation (1.1) is oscillatory.

Proof. From Lemma 2.1, letting

 $k = 0, \quad m = \lambda, \quad u(t) = |F(x)|, \quad a = 0 = u_0,$

we obtain (3.9). The rest of Theorem 3.3 can be proved by using the same methods used in the proof of Lemma 2.2 and Theorem 3.1.

If we take v(x) = g(x), $l(u) = u^{\alpha}$, $\alpha < 1$ in Theorem 3.3, then from (3.8),

$$|F(x)| \le [(1+\alpha)\lambda G(x)]^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} G^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}(x).$$
(3.10)

From above analysis, we can prove the following

Example 3.1. If $h(y) = m|y|^p \operatorname{sgn} y, \lambda_1 = m^{\frac{1}{p}} (1+p)^{(1+p)/p}, |F(x)| > 0, x \neq 0$, and

$$-\lambda \int_{-x}^{0} |g(u)| |F(u)|^{\frac{-1}{p}} du \le F(x) \le \lambda \int_{0}^{x} g(u) |F(u)|^{\frac{-1}{p}} du, \quad x > 0,$$
(3.11)

where $0 \leq \lambda < \lambda_1$, then Equation (1.1) is oscillatory.

Let $\alpha = -\frac{1}{p}$, then $\frac{1}{1-\alpha} = \frac{p}{1+p}$. From (3.8), (3.9) and (3.11) we obtain (3.10). From (3.7), after some calculation, we get

$$\lambda_1 = m^{\frac{1}{p}} (1+p)^{\frac{1+p}{p}}.$$

Remark 3.2. Let m = p = 1; then $\alpha = -1, \lambda_1 = 4$. We obtain the results of (4)' and (5)'.

Example 3.2. Let $h(y) = y^{2n-1}$, where $n \ge 1$ is a positive integer, $\lambda_2 = (2n)^{\frac{2n}{2n-1}}$, $|F(x)| > 0, x \ne 0$. If

$$-\lambda \int_{-x}^{0} |g(u)| |F(u)|^{-\frac{1}{2n}} du \le F(x) \le \lambda \int_{0}^{x} g(u) |F(u)|^{\frac{-1}{2n-1}} du,$$
(3.12)

where $0 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$, then Equation (1.1) is oscillatory.

Letting p = 2n - 1, m = 1 in Example 3.1, we obtain Example 3.2.

Remark 3.3. The results of (4)' and (5)' are special cases of Example 3.2, that is, when n = 1.

Example 3.3. Let $v(x) = |g(x)|^k$, k > 0; $l(u) = u^{-n}$, $n \ge 0$; $h(y) = y^{2m-1}$, $m \ge 1$. Then (3.8) becomes

$$-\lambda \int_{-x}^{0} (|g(u)|^{k}/|F(u)|^{n}) du \le F(x) \le \lambda \int_{0}^{x} (|g(u)|^{k}/|F(u)|^{n}) du, \quad x \ge 0,$$

and we have

$$|F(x)| \le [(n+1)\lambda \int_0^{|x|} |g(u)|^k du]^{\frac{1}{n+1}}.$$
(3.13)

By Theorem 3.2. we can assume without loss of generality that g(x) = x. Then (3.13) becomes

$$|F(x)| \le [(n+1)\lambda]^{\frac{1}{n+1}} |x|^{k+1} / (k+1).$$
(3.14)

From (2.10)–(2.12), it is not difficult to obtain, if 2m + 2 = k, that

$$Q(r) = 2mr^{2m-1},$$

$$P(r) = \max_{0 \le \theta \le 2\pi} \frac{|\sin \theta| |\cos \theta|^{k+1} r^{k+1}}{k+1} = \frac{(k+1)^{\frac{k-1}{2}}}{(k+2)^{\frac{(k+2)}{2}}} r^{k+1},$$

$$\lambda_0 = \left(\frac{2m(k+2)^{(k+2)/2}}{(k+1)^{(k-1)/2}}\right)^{n+1} / (n+1).$$

Example 3.4. Let $\int_0^x v(u) du = M(G(x)), l(u) = u^{\alpha}, \alpha < 1$ in (3.8), M(r) > 0 for r > 0. Then

$$|F(x)| \le [(1-\alpha)\lambda]^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} [M(G(x))]^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}},$$

and λ_0 is defined as

$$\lambda_0 = \inf_{r>0} \frac{Q(r)^{1-\alpha}}{(1-\alpha)P(r)},$$

where Q(r) is defined by (2.11),

$$P(r) = \max_{0 \le \theta \le T} \left| \frac{(g(r)|S(\theta)|)^{1-\alpha} M(G(x))}{[4G(r)G(1)]^{\frac{1-\alpha}{2}}} \right|_{x = f_1(r)C(\theta)}$$

Remark 3.4. All we discussed above are global properties. If we restrict our attention to local properties of (1.1), we get $\lambda_0 = \lambda_0(\epsilon)$, where $\epsilon > 0$ and $0 \le r \le r(\epsilon) < +\infty$.

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