AD-A061 891   MISSOURI UNIV-COLUMBIA DEPT OF MATHEMATICS   F/G 12/1
               ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS: OSCILLATION AND STABILITY THEO--ETC(U)
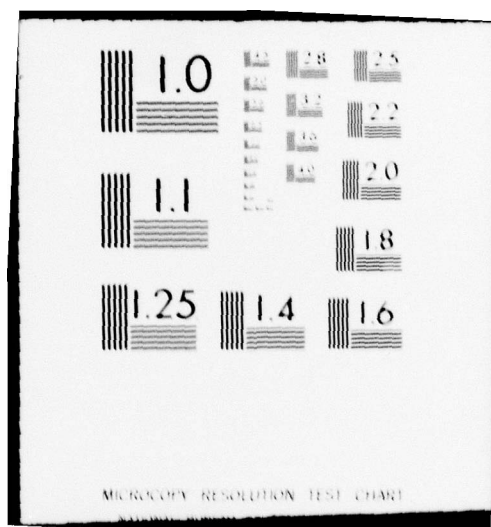   NOV 78   W LEIGHTON   DAAG29-76-6-0206
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TITLE

⑥ ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS:
OSCILLATION AND STABILITY THEORY.

TYPE OF REPORT (TECHNICAL, FINAL, ETC.)

⑨ Final *rept.*

15 April 1976— 31 August 1978

AUTHOR (S)

⑩ Walter Leighton

DATE

⑪ 6 Nov 1978   ⑫ 6p.

U. S. ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE

CONTRACT / GRANT NUMBER

⑮ ✓DAAG29-76-G-0206

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INSTITUTION

DEC 7 1978

University of Missouri-Columbia

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER	2. JOVT ACCESSION NO.	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS: OSCILLATION AND STABILITY THEORY		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Final (April 15, 1976– Aug. 31, 1978)
		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER
7. AUTHOR(s) Walter Leighton		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) DAAG29 76 G 0206
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS University of Missouri-Columbia Department of Mathematics Columbia, MO 65201		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS P-13610-M
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS U. S. Army Research Office P. O. Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709		12. REPORT DATE November 8, 1978
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 4
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS(If different from Controlling Office)		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE

16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report)

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, If different from Report)

18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

The view, opinions, and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.

19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

self-adjoint; asymptotically stable; orthogonal sequence; conjugate points; Liapunov functions; domain of attraction; conjugacy function; minimax function; characteristic numbers; characteristic functions.

x(double dot)
beta(x(dot))

20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

Appreciably larger domains of attraction were found for asymptotically stable equilibrium points of equations of the form $\ddot{x} + \beta\dot{x} + f(x) = 0$; a generalization of a classical result for orthogonal polynomials was obtained; a new comparison theorem for conjugate points of equations $(r(x)y')' + p(x)y = 0$ is given; the last yields a comparison theorem for the minimax function.

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE (When Data Entered)

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To study an asymptotically stable equilibrium point at $x = 0$ of a differential equation

$$\ddot{x} + \beta\dot{x} + f(x) = 0 \quad (\beta > 0)$$

one first writes

(1)
$$\dot{x} = y,$$
$$\dot{y} = -\beta y - f(x).$$

Under reasonable restrictions on $f(x)$, the "standard" [cf. 1] Liapunov function

$$V(x, y) = y^2 + 2 \int_0^x f(x)dx$$

yields a domain of attraction of the origin for (1).

In [2] it is shown that the Liapunov function

(2)
$$V(x, y) = (k - x)\frac{y^2}{2} + \int_0^x (k - x)f(x)dx,$$

with a suitable choice of the constant k yields an appreciably larger domain of attraction. It is then shown that a still larger domain may be obtained using the Liapunov function

$$V(x, y) = e^{-\alpha x}\frac{y^2}{2} + \int_0^x e^{-\alpha x}f(x)dx,$$

for a suitable choice of the constant α.

Next consider the differential system

$$[r(x)y']' + \lambda p(x)y = 0,$$

$$\alpha y(a) + \beta y'(a) = 0,$$

$$\gamma y(b) + \delta y'(b) = 0,$$

where $r(x)$, $p(x)$ are continuous and positive on $[a, b]$, and $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 > 0$, $\gamma^2 + \delta^2 > 0$. Let $0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \ldots \to +\infty$ be the characteristic numbers and $\{y_n(x)\}_1^\infty$ the corresponding characteristic functions of this system. It is well known that the functions $y_n(x)$ form an orthogonal sequence on $[a, b]$ with respect to the weight function $p(x)$.

In [3], it is shown that the functions $y_1'(x)$, $y_2'(x)$, ... form an orthogonal sequence on $[a, b]$ with weight function $r(x)$.

Consider a pair of self-adjoint differential equations

(3)
$$[r(x)y']' + p(x)y = 0,$$
$$[r_1(x)y']' + p_1(x)z = 0,$$

where $p(x)$, $p_1(x)$ are continuous and $r_1(x)$ and $r(x)$ are positive and of class C" on an interval I of the x-axis.

It is shown in [3] that if nonnull solutions $y(x)$ and $z(x)$ of (3) are such that

$$z(a) = z(b) = 0 \quad (a < b),$$
$$y(a) = 0,$$

and if

$$\left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^2 - 2\frac{r''}{r} + 4\frac{p}{r} \geq \left(\frac{r_1'}{r_1}\right)^2 - 2\frac{r_1''}{r_1} + 4\frac{p_1}{r_1} \quad (a \leq x \leq b),$$

with strict inequality holding for at least one point of $[a, b]$, then

$$y(c) = 0 \quad (a < c < b).$$

This comparison theorem leads to a comparison theorem for the zeros of the derivatives of a solution. Specifically, let $\delta(x)$ be the conjugacy function [cf. 4] for the differential equation

(4)
$$[r(x)y']' + p(x)y = 0.$$

Here $r(x)$, $p(x)$ are continuous and positive on an interval I of the x-axis. The conjugacy function $\delta(x)$, it will be recalled, is the (positive) distance from a point $x \in I$ to its first conjugate point. The minimax function $\delta_1(x)$ associated with (4) is the (positive) distance from a point $x \in I$ where the derivative of a solution of (4) vanishes to the derivative's next greater zero.

The result then is this. If

(5)
$$\left(\frac{r'}{r}\right)^2 + 3\left(\frac{p'}{p}\right)^2 \geq 2\left(\frac{p''}{p} + \frac{r''}{r}\right),$$

with strict inequality holding at at least one point,

$$\delta(x) < \delta_1(x).$$

When the inequality (5) is reversed,

$$\delta_1(x) < \delta(x).$$

Work was begun on two other projects, but there is nothing yet ready to report. One project has to do with the detection of singularities of holomorphic functions, and the other involves an attempt to determine new general methods of constructing Liapunov functions. The Principal Investigator hopes to re-examine these problems and others at some time in the future.

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