

# GLOBAL ATTRACTIVITY OF A CLASS OF DELAY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS WITH IMPULSES

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## Abstract

In this paper, we study the global attractivity of the zero solution of a particular impulsive delay differential equation. Some sufficient conditions that guarantee every solution of the equation converges to zero are obtained.

## 1. Introduction

Recently, with the rapid development of the theory and applications of impulsive differential equations, the study of the impulsive delay differential equation has attracted the interest of many mathematicians [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]. The purpose of this paper is to study the global attractivity of the following impulsive delay differential equation:

$$\begin{cases} x'(t) + a(t)x(t) = p(t)(1 - e^{x(t-\tau)}), & t \geq 0, t \neq t_k, \\ x(t_k^+) - x(t_k) = b_k x(t_k), & k \in N, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $a(t), p(t) \in C([0, +\infty), [0, +\infty))$ ,  $\tau > 0$ ,  $b_k > -1$ ,  $p(t) > 0$ , for all  $k \in N, t \geq 0, 0 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots$ , with  $t_k \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ .

In the special case where  $p(t) = aN_0a(t)$ , (1.1) has been used to model the impulsive growth of red blood cells.

As usual, we say that  $x(t)$  defined in  $[-\tau, +\infty)$  is a solution of (1.1), if  $x(t)$  is absolutely continuous at points  $t \neq t_k$  and at  $t = t_k, x(t_k^+)$  exists,  $x(t)$  is left-continuous for  $t \geq -\tau$ , and satisfies (1.1) for  $t \geq 0$ .

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## 2. Main results

The main results are as follows.

**THEOREM 1.** *Suppose that:*

(i) *there is a positive number  $p$  such that*

$$p(p + 1/2) < 1; \tag{2.1}$$

(ii) *for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an integer  $N$  such that*

$$\prod_{k=n}^{n+m} (1 + b_k) < 1 + \epsilon, \quad n > N, m \geq 0; \tag{2.2}$$

(iii)

$$\int_0^{+\infty} p(s)e^{\int_0^s a(u) du} \prod_{0 \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds = +\infty; \tag{2.3}$$

(iv) *for sufficiently large  $t$ , we have*

$$\int_{t-\tau}^t p(s)e^{\int_t^s a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds \leq p + \frac{1}{2}e^{-\int_{t-\tau}^t a(u) du} \tag{2.4}$$

and

$$a(t) \geq a(t - \tau), \quad t \geq \tau. \tag{2.5}$$

Then every solution of (1.1) tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

**THEOREM 2.** *Suppose that (2.2), (2.3) and (2.5) hold and for sufficiently large  $t$ , we have*

$$\int_{t-\tau}^t p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds \leq 3/2. \tag{2.6}$$

Then every solution of (1.1) tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

**REMARK 1.** Condition (2.2) is not critical; it allows the convergence of

$$\prod_{k=1}^{+\infty} (1 + b_k)$$

and the possibility that  $-1 < b_k \leq 0$  as special cases. Condition (2.5) allows constant functions, nondecreasing functions and  $\tau$ -periodic functions as special cases.

**REMARK 2.** If the impulsives disappeared and  $a(t) \equiv 0$ , Theorem 2 is the main result of [4]. If  $a(t) \equiv \lambda$ , then the conditions of Theorem 2 are

$$\int_0^{+\infty} p(t)e^{\lambda t} dt = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{t-\tau}^t p(s)e^{(s-t+\tau)\lambda} ds \leq \frac{3}{2},$$

which improve the conditions in [5].

### 3. Proofs of the theorems

**LEMMA 1.** *Suppose that (2.2) and (2.3) hold. Then every nonoscillatory solution of (1.1) tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .*

**PROOF.** Without loss of generality, suppose that  $x(t)$  is eventually positive. Then there exists  $T_1 \geq 0$  such that  $x(t - \tau) > 0$  for  $t \geq T_1$ ,  $t \neq t_k$ . Moreover,  $x(t)$  is decreasing in  $(t_k, t_{k+1}]$  with  $t_k \geq T_1$ . Let  $\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = \alpha$ , then  $\alpha \geq 0$ . We shall prove that  $\alpha = 0$ . Since  $x(t_k)$  is the left minimum value of  $x(t)$ , there exists a subsequence  $\{x(t_{k_j})\}$  such that  $\lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} x(t_{k_j}) = \alpha$ . If  $\alpha > 0$ , choosing  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $\alpha - \epsilon > 0$ , again there exists  $T > T_1$  such that  $x(t - \tau) > \alpha - \epsilon$ , for  $t \geq T$ . Then by (1.1), we have

$$\prod_{T \leq t_k < t_{k_j}} (1 + b_k)^{-1} x(t_{k_j}) - x(T) \leq (1 - e^{\alpha - \epsilon}) \int_T^{t_{k_j}} p(s)e^{\int_T^s a(u)du} \prod_{T \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds,$$

which contradicts (2.2) and (2.3), so  $\alpha = 0$ . Now for any  $t \geq T$ , there exists  $t_{k_j}$  such that  $t_{k_j} \leq t < t_{k_{j+1}}$  and  $t_{k_j} < t_{k_{j+1}} < \dots < t_{k_{j+l}} \leq t$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < x(t) < x(t_{k_{j+l}}^+) &= (1 + b_{k_{j+l}})x(t_{k_{j+l}}) \leq (1 + b_{k_{j+l}})x(t_{k_{j+l-1}}^+) \\ &= (1 + b_{k_{j+l}})(1 + b_{k_{j+l-1}})x(t_{k_{j+l-1}}) \leq \dots \leq \prod_{s=0}^l (1 + b_{k_{j+s}})x(t_{k_j}). \end{aligned}$$

From (2.3), there exists a constant  $A > 0$ , such that  $\prod_{s=0}^l (1 + b_{k_{j+s}}) \leq A$  for any  $l$  and any  $k_j$ . Hence  $0 < x(t) \leq Ax(t_{k_j})$ . Let  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . Then we obtain  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = 0$ .

**LEMMA 2.** *Suppose that (2.2), (2.4) or (2.6), and (2.5) hold. Then every oscillatory solution of (1.1) is bounded.*

**PROOF.** From (2.4) and (2.5), or (2.5) and (2.6), we obtain

$$\int_{t-\tau}^t p(s)e^{\int_t^s a(u)du} \prod_{s \leq t_k < t} (1 + b_k) ds \leq M,$$

where  $M$  is a positive constant. First, we shall prove that  $x(t)$  is bounded above. By (1.1),

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \leq p(t), \quad t \geq 0, \quad t \neq t_k. \tag{3.1}$$

Choose any sequence  $\{c_n\}$  such that  $x(c_n) = 0$  and  $0 < c_1 < c_2 < \dots$ , with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} c_n = +\infty$ ,  $x(t) \geq 0$  for  $t \in [c_{2i-1}, c_{2i}]$  and  $x(t) \leq 0$  for  $t \in [c_{2i}, c_{2i+1}]$ . Let

$$\hat{x}_i = \sup_{t \in [c_{2i-1}, c_{2i}]} x(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{x}_i = \inf_{t \in [c_{2i}, c_{2i+1}]} x(t).$$

We shall prove that  $\{\hat{x}_i\}$  and  $\{\tilde{x}_i\}$  are bounded. First, we prove that  $\{\hat{x}_i\}$  is bounded above; there are two cases to consider.

Case 1:  $\hat{x}_i$  is the maximum value of  $x(t)$  in  $[c_{2i-1}, c_{2i}]$ . Then there exists  $c \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$  such that  $\hat{x}_i = x(c) > 0$ ,  $x'(c) \geq 0$ . By (1.1),  $x(c - \tau) \leq 0$ , so there exists  $\xi \in (c - \tau, c)$  such that  $x(\xi) = 0$ . Integrating (3.1) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , we obtain

$$\hat{x}_i = x(c) \leq \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_c^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \leq M.$$

Case 2:  $\hat{x}_i$  is not the maximum value of  $x(t)$  in  $[c_{2i-1}, c_{2i}]$ . Then there exists  $t_{k+l} \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$  such that  $\hat{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+)$ . We assume that  $c_{2i-1} < t_{k+1} < \dots < t_{k+l}$ . There are two possible cases to consider.

Subcase 2.1:  $x(t_{k+l})$  is the left locally maximum value. By Case 1, we have  $x(t_{k+l}) \leq M$ , so  $\hat{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+) = (1 + b_{k+l})x(t_{k+l}) \leq (1 + b_{k+l})M$ .

Subcase 2.2:  $x(t_{k+l})$  is not the left locally maximum value. There are two possible subcases to consider.

Subcase 2.2.1: If  $x(t_{k+l}^+) < x(t_{k+l})$ , then  $x(t)$  has maximum value noted by  $x(c)$  in  $(t_{k+l-1}, t_{k+l})$ . By Case 1,  $x(c) \leq M$ , so  $\hat{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+) = (1 + b_{k+l})x(t_{k+l}) \leq (1 + b_{k+l})x(c) \leq (1 + b_{k+l})M$ .

Subcase 2.2.2: If  $x(t_{k+l-1}^+) \geq x(t_{k+l})$ , we have two possible cases to consider.

Subcase 2.2.2.1: If  $x(t_{k+l-1})$  is the left locally maximum value, then, by Case 1,  $x(t_{k+l-1}) \leq M$ . Thus  $\hat{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+) = (1 + b_{k+l})x(t_{k+l}) \leq (1 + b_{k+l})(1 + b_{k+l-1})M$ .

Subcase 2.2.2.2:  $x(t_{k+l-1})$  is not the left maximum of  $x(t)$ . Repeating this process, at the end, if  $x(t_{k+1})$  is the left locally maximum value of  $x(t)$ , then  $x(t_{k+1}) \leq M$ . Therefore

$$\hat{x}_i \leq \dots \leq \prod_{s=1}^l (1 + b_{k+s})x(t_{k+1}) \leq \prod_{s=1}^l (1 + b_{k+s})M.$$

Otherwise, since  $x(c_{2i-1}) = 0$ ,  $x(t)$  has maximum value noted by  $x(c)$  in  $(c_{2i-1}, t_{k+1})$ . By Case 1,  $x(c) \leq M$ , so

$$\hat{x}_i \leq \prod_{s=1}^l (1 + b_{k+s})x(t_{k+1}) \leq \prod_{s=1}^l (1 + b_{k+s})x(c) \leq \prod_{s=1}^l (1 + b_{k+s})M.$$

Then  $\hat{x}_i \leq AM$ , where  $A$  is defined in Lemma 1.

From Cases 1 and 2, we have  $\hat{x}_i \leq \max\{M, AM\} = B$ . Next we shall prove that  $\{\tilde{x}_i\}$  is bounded below. By (1.1), we obtain

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \geq (1 - e^B)p(t), \quad t \geq 0, t \neq t_k.$$

Using a similar method to the above, we obtain

$$\tilde{x}_i \geq (1 - e^B)M \quad \text{or} \quad \tilde{x}_i \geq (1 - e^B)AM.$$

This shows that  $\{\tilde{x}_i\}$  is bounded below, and completes the proof of the lemma.

**LEMMA 3.** *Suppose that (2.1), (2.2), (2.4) and (2.5) hold. Then every oscillatory solution of (1.1) tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose  $x(t)$  is any oscillatory solution of (1.1). By Lemma 2,  $x(t)$  is bounded, so let  $\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = v$ ,  $\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = u$ , Then  $-\infty < u \leq 0 \leq v < +\infty$ , and by (2.2), for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N$  such that

$$\prod_{k=n}^{n+m} (1 + b_k) < 1 + \epsilon, \quad n \geq N, m \geq 0.$$

Again for this  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $T \geq t_N$  such that

$$u_1 = u - \epsilon < x(t - \tau) < v + \epsilon = v_1, \quad t \geq T.$$

Then (1.1) gives

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \leq (1 - e^{\mu_1})p(t), \quad t \geq T, t \neq t_k, \tag{3.2}$$

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \geq (1 - e^{\nu_1})p(t), \quad t \geq T, t \neq t_k. \tag{3.3}$$

Choose a sequence  $\{c_n\}$  such that  $x(c_n) = 0$ ,  $T < c_1 < \dots < c_n \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $x(t) \geq 0$ , for  $t \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$  and  $x(t) \leq 0$  for  $t \in (c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$ . Let

$$\hat{x}_i = \sup_{t \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})} x(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{x}_i = \inf_{t \in (c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})} x(t).$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that  $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} \hat{x}_i = v$  and  $\liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{x}_i = u$ . First, we prove that

$$\hat{x}_i \leq p(1 - e^{\mu_1})(1 + \epsilon) \tag{3.4}$$

or

$$\hat{x}_i \leq p(1 - e^{\mu_1})(1 + \epsilon)^2. \tag{3.5}$$

There are two possible cases to consider.

Case 1:  $\hat{x}_i$  is the maximum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$ . Then there exists  $c \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$  such that  $\hat{x}_i = x(c) > 0, x'(c) \geq 0$ . By (1.1),  $x(c - \tau) \leq 0$ , so there exists  $\xi \in (c - \tau, c)$  such that  $x(\xi) = 0$ , if  $t \in [\xi, c]$  then  $t - \tau \leq \xi$ . Integrating (3.2) from  $t - \tau$  to  $\xi$ , we have

$$- \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < \xi} (1 + b_k)x(t - \tau)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^t a(u) du} \leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s)e^{\int_0^s a(u) du} \prod_{s \leq t_k < \xi} (1 + b_k) ds. \quad (3.6)$$

Since  $1 - e^x \leq -x$  and by (1.1), we have

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \leq -p(t)x(t - \tau), \quad t \geq 0, t \neq t_k. \quad (3.7)$$

Then

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \leq (1 - e^{u_1})p(t) \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds. \quad (3.8)$$

Integrating (3.8) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} &\leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} \\ &\quad \times \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds dt \\ &\leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \left[ \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \left( p + \frac{1}{2}e^{-\int_{t-\tau}^t a(u) du} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \times e^{\int_{t-\tau}^t a(u) du} dt - \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \int_{\xi}^t p(s)e^{\int_0^s a(u) du} \\ &\quad \left. \times \prod_{s \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) ds e^{-\int_0^{t-\tau} a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k)^{-1} dt \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Using (2.2), (2.4) and (2.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} &\leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \left( \frac{1}{2} + pe^{\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u) du} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1 - e^{u_1}}{1 + \epsilon} e^{-\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \\ &\quad \times \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \int_{\xi}^t p(s)e^{\int_0^s a(u) du} \prod_{s \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) ds dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \left( \frac{1}{2} + p e^{\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u) du} \right) \\
 &\quad - \frac{1 - e^{u_1}}{1 + \epsilon} e^{-\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} \frac{1}{2} \left( \int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right)^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

In the following, we consider two possible subcases.

Subcase 1.1:  $\int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \leq (1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}$ . Since the function

$$\left( 1/2 + p e^{\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u) du} \right) x - (1 + \epsilon)^{-1} e^{-\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} x^2 / 2$$

is increasing, we obtain  $x(c) e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} \leq p(1 - e^{u_1}) e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} (1 + \epsilon)$ . Then (3.4) holds.

Subcase 1.2:  $\int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt > (1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}$ . We choose  $\eta \in (\xi, c)$  such that

$$\int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt = (1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}.$$

Integrating (3.2) from  $\xi$  to  $\eta$ , we have

$$x(\eta) e^{\int_0^{\eta} a(u) du} \leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < \eta} (1 + b_k) dt.$$

Integrating (3.8) from  $\eta$  to  $c$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &x(c) e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} - \prod_{\eta \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) x(\eta) e^{\int_0^{\eta} a(u) du} \\
 &\leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s) e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} du \\
 &\quad \times \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds dt.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(c) e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} &\leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \left[ \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right. \\
 &\quad + \int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s) e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} du \\
 &\quad \left. \times \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds dt \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly to the argument we used in Subcase 1.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} &\leq (1 - e^{u_1}) \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\
 &\quad - \frac{1 - e^{u_1}}{2(1 + \epsilon)e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}} \left[ \left( \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right)^2 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \left( \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right)^2 \right] \\
 &\quad + (1 - e^{u_1}) \left( \frac{1}{2} + pe^{\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u) du} \right) \int_{\eta}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\
 &= p(1 - e^{u_1})(1 + \epsilon)e^{\int_0^c a(u) du}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence (3.4) is proved.

Case 2:  $\hat{x}_i$  is not the maximum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$ . Then there exists  $t_{k+l} \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$  such that  $\hat{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+)$ . Suppose that  $c_{2i-1} < t_{k+1} < \dots < t_{k+l}$ . Proving that  $x(t)$  is bounded, we obtain

$$\hat{x}_i \leq \prod_{s=j}^l (1 + b_k) p(1 - e^{u_1})(1 + \epsilon), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, l.$$

Then  $\hat{x}_i \leq (1 + \epsilon)^2 p(1 - e^{u_1})$ . From (3.4) and (3.5), let  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  to obtain

$$v \leq p(1 - e^u). \tag{3.9}$$

Next, we shall prove

$$u \geq (p + 1/2)(1 - e^v). \tag{3.10}$$

There are two cases to consider.

Case 1:  $\tilde{x}_i$  is the minimum value of  $x(t)$  in  $[c_{2i}, c_{2i+1}]$ . Then there exists  $c \in (c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$  such that  $x(c) = \tilde{x}_i \leq 0, x'(c) = 0$ . By (1.1),  $x(c - \tau) \geq 0$ . Then there exists  $\xi \in [c - \tau, c)$  such that  $x(\xi) = 0$ . Integrating (3.3) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , we obtain

$$x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} \geq (1 - e^{v_1}) \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt.$$

Then by (2.2) and (2.4), we get

$$\tilde{x}_i \geq (1 + \epsilon)(1 - e^{v_1})(p + 1/2). \tag{3.11}$$

Case 2:  $\tilde{x}_i$  is not the minimum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$ . Then there exists  $t_{k+l} \in (c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$  such that  $\tilde{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+)$ . Suppose that  $c_{2i} < t_{k+1} < \dots < t_{k+l}$ . Proving that  $x(t)$  is bounded, we get

$$\tilde{x}_i \geq \prod_{s=j}^l (1 + b_{k+s})(1 + \epsilon)(p + 1/2)(1 - e^{v_1}). \tag{3.12}$$

By (2.2),  $\tilde{x}_i \geq (1 + \epsilon)^2(p + 1/2)(1 - e^{v_1})$ . Let  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . By (3.11) and (3.12), we get (3.10). From (2.1), (3.9), (3.10) and the fact that  $-\infty < u \leq 0 \leq v < +\infty$ , we get  $u = v = 0$ . Then  $x(t)$  tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . By Lemmas 1 and 3, Theorem 1 is proved.

In order to prove Theorem 2, we need the following lemma.

**LEMMA 4.** *Suppose that (2.2), (2.5) and (2.6) hold. Then every oscillatory solution of (1.1) tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .*

**PROOF.** From Lemma 2,  $x(t)$  is bounded. By the proof of Lemma 3, we get (3.2), (3.3) and (3.6). Choose  $\{c_n\}$  satisfying the conditions in Lemma 3, with  $\hat{x}_i \rightarrow v, \tilde{x}_i \rightarrow u$  as  $i \rightarrow +\infty$ . There are two cases to consider.

Case 1:  $\hat{x}_i$  is the maximum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$ . Substituting (3.6) into (1.1), we have, for  $t \in [\xi, c], t \neq t_k$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \\ &\leq p(t) \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -A \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds \right) \right], \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

where  $1 - e^{u_1} = A$ . Integrating (3.13) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u)du} &\leq \int_{\xi}^c p(t) \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -A \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u)du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds \right) \right] \\ &\quad \times e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ &\leq \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt - \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \\ &\quad \times \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \exp \left( -A \int_{t-\tau}^t p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u)du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. + A \int_{\xi}^t p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u)du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)^{-1} ds \right) dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ &\quad - e^{-3A/2} \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \\ &\quad \times \exp\left(\frac{A \int_{\xi}^t p(s)e^{\int_0^s a(u) du} \prod_{s \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) ds}{e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k)}\right) dt \\ &\leq \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt - e^{-3A/2} A^{-1} (1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} \\ &\quad \times \left[ \exp\left(\frac{A \int_{\xi}^c p(s)e^{\int_0^s a(u) du} \prod_{s \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) ds}{(1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}}\right) - 1 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Case 1.1:  $\int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \leq -(1/A) \ln(1 - A) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} (1 + \epsilon)$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u) du} &\leq -\frac{\ln(1 - A)}{A} e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} (1 + \epsilon) - \frac{e^{-3A/2}}{(1 - A)(1 + \epsilon)^{-1} e^{-\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}} \\ &= -\frac{\ln(1 - A)}{A} e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} (1 + \epsilon) - \frac{1 + \epsilon}{1 - A} e^{-3A/2} e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$x(c) \leq (1 + \epsilon) \left( -\frac{\ln(1 - A)}{A} - \frac{e^{-3A/2}}{1 - A} \right).$$

By Kuang’s method [1, (2.21)], we get

$$\hat{x}_i = x(c) \leq (1 + \epsilon)(A - A^2/6). \tag{3.14}$$

Case 1.2:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt &\leq \frac{3}{2} e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} (1 + \epsilon) \\ &< -\frac{\ln(1 - A)}{A} e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du} (1 + \epsilon). \end{aligned}$$

Then, integrating (3.13) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , similarly to Case 1.1, we get

$$\hat{x}_i = x(c) \leq 3(1 + \epsilon)/2 + (1 + \epsilon)(e^{3A/2} - 1)/A.$$

By a method similar to that used by Kuang in [1, (2.19)], we get (3.14).

Case 1.3:  $\int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt > -(1/A) \ln(1 - A)(1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}$ .

Choose  $\eta \in (\xi, c)$  such that

$$\int_{\eta}^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt = -\frac{\ln(1 - A)}{A} (1 + \epsilon) e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u) du}.$$

Integrating (3.2) from  $\xi$  to  $\eta$ , we have

$$x(\eta)e^{\int_0^\eta a(u)du} \leq A \int_\xi^\eta p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < \eta} (1 + b_k) dt.$$

Integrating (3.13) from  $\eta$  to  $c$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u)du} - \prod_{\eta \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k)x(\eta)e^{\int_0^\eta a(u)du} \\ \leq \int_\eta^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \left[ 1 - \exp \left( -A \int_{t-\tau}^\xi \frac{p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u)du}}{\prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)} ds \right) \right] dt. \end{aligned}$$

Deleting  $x(\eta)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x(c)e^{\int_0^c a(u)du} \\ \leq A \int_\xi^\eta p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt + \int_\eta^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ - e^{-3A/2} \int_\eta^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \exp \left( A \int_\xi^t \frac{p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u)du}}{\prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)} ds \right) dt \\ \leq A \int_\xi^\eta p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt + \int_\eta^c p(t)e^{\int_0^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ - \frac{1 + \epsilon}{e^{3A/2}A} e^{\int_0^{c-\tau} a(u)du} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{A}{1 + \epsilon} \int_\xi^c p(t)e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right) \right. \\ \left. - \exp \left( \frac{A}{1 + \epsilon} \int_\xi^\eta p(t)e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{x}_i = x(c) \leq A(1 + \epsilon)e^{-\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u)du} \int_\xi^\eta p(t)e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ + e^{-\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u)du} \int_\eta^c p(t)e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ - \frac{1 + \epsilon}{e^{3A/2}A} e^{-\int_{c-\tau}^c a(u)du} \left( \exp \left( \frac{A}{1 + \epsilon} \int_\xi^c p(t)e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right) \right. \\ \left. - \exp \left( \frac{A}{1 + \epsilon} \int_\xi^\eta p(t)e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u)du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq (1 + \epsilon)(3A/2 - ((1 - A)/A) \ln(1 - A) - 1).$$

By Kuang’s method in [1, (2.21)], we get (3.14).

Case 2: If  $\hat{x}_i$  is not the maximum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$ , then there exists  $t_{k+l} \in (c_{2i-1}, c_{2i})$  such that  $\hat{x}_i = x(t_{k+l})$ . Suppose that  $c_{2i-1} < t_{k+1} < \dots < t_{k+l}$ . Then we can obtain

$$\hat{x}_i \leq \prod_{s=j}^l (1 + b_{k+s})(1 + \epsilon)(A - A^2/6), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, l.$$

Then by (2.2), we get  $\hat{x}_i \leq (1 + \epsilon)^2(A - A^2/6)$ . By (3.13) and (3.14), let  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  to obtain  $v \leq (1 - e^v) - (1 - e^v)^2/6$ .

Next we prove

$$u \geq (1 - e^v) - (1 - e^v)^2/6. \tag{3.15}$$

There are two cases to consider.

Case 1:  $\tilde{x}_i$  is the minimum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$ . Then there exists  $c \in (c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$  such that  $x(c) = \tilde{x}_i < 0, x'(c) \leq 0$ . There exists  $\xi \in (c - \tau, c)$  such that  $x(\xi) = 0$ . If  $t \in [\xi, c]$ , then  $t - \tau \leq \xi$ . Integrating (3.3) from  $t - \tau$  to  $\xi$ , then

$$- \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < \xi} (1 + b_k)x(t - \tau)e^{\int_0^{t-\tau} a(u) du} \geq B \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du} \prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k) ds,$$

where  $B = 1 - e^{v_1}$ . By (1.1), we get, for  $t \in [\xi, c], t \neq t_k$ ,

$$x'(t) + a(t)x(t) \geq p(t) \left( 1 - \exp \left( -B \int_{t-\tau}^{\xi} \frac{p(s)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^s a(u) du}}{\prod_{t-\tau \leq t_k < s} (1 + b_k)} ds \right) \right). \tag{3.16}$$

There are three subcases to consider.

Subcase 1.1:  $\int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \leq 1 + \epsilon$ . Integrating (3.7) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , we have

$$\tilde{x}_i = x(c) \geq B \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_c^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt.$$

Then

$$\tilde{x}_i \geq (1 + \epsilon)B \geq (1 + \epsilon)(B - B^2/6). \tag{3.17}$$

Subcase 1.2:

$$1 + \epsilon < \int_{\xi}^c p(t)e^{\int_{t-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \leq \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{\ln(1 - B)}{B} \right) (1 + \epsilon).$$

Integrating (3.3) from  $\xi$  to  $c$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}_i = x(c) &\geq B \int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_c^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ &\geq B \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{\ln(1 - B)}{B} \right) (1 + \epsilon) \geq (1 + \epsilon) \left( B - \frac{1}{6} B^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence (3.17) is proved.

Subcase 1.3:

$$\frac{3}{2}(1 + \epsilon) \geq \int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt > \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{\ln(1 - B)}{B} \right) (1 + \epsilon).$$

Choose  $\eta \in (\xi, c)$  such that

$$\int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt = \left( \frac{3}{2} + \frac{\ln(1 - B)}{B} \right) (1 + \epsilon).$$

Integrating (3.3) from  $\xi$  to  $\eta$  and integrating (3.16) from  $\eta$  to  $c$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{x}_i = x(c) &\geq B \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t) e^{\int_c^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt + \int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_c^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ &\quad - e^{-3B/2} \int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) \\ &\quad \times \exp \left( \frac{B}{1 + \epsilon} \int_{\xi}^t p(s) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^s a(u) du} \prod_{s \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) ds \right) dt \\ &\geq B \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt + \int_{\eta}^c p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \\ &\quad - \frac{1 + \epsilon}{B e^{3B/2}} \left( \exp \left( \frac{B}{1 + \epsilon} \int_{\xi}^c p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \exp \left( \frac{B}{1 + \epsilon} \int_{\xi}^{\eta} p(t) e^{\int_{c-\tau}^t a(u) du} \prod_{t \leq t_k < c} (1 + b_k) dt \right) \right) \\ &\geq (1 + \epsilon) \left( \frac{3}{2} B - \frac{1}{B} ((1 - B) \ln(1 - B) + B) \right) \geq (1 + \epsilon) \left( B - \frac{1}{6} B^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then (3.17) is proved. The last inequality is obtained by the method used by Yu in [6, page 234].

Case 2:  $\tilde{x}_i$  is not the minimum value of  $x(t)$  in  $(c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$ . Then there exists  $t_{k+l} \in (c_{2i}, c_{2i+1})$  such that  $\tilde{x}_i = x(t_{k+l}^+)$ . Suppose that  $c_{2i} < t_{k+1} < \dots < t_{k+l}$ . Then we can obtain  $\tilde{x}_i \geq \prod_{s=j}^l (1 + b_{k+s})(1 + \epsilon)(B - B^2/6)$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, l$ . By (2.2), we have

$$\tilde{x}_i \geq (1 + \epsilon)^2(B - B^2/6). \quad (3.18)$$

From (3.17) and (3.18), let  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  to obtain (3.15).

Let  $1 - e^u = x$ ,  $1 - e^v = -y$ . Then (3.15) and (3.16) become

$$\ln(1 + y) \leq x - x^2/6, \quad \ln(1 - x) \geq -y - y^2/6.$$

By [6, Lemma 1.4],  $x = y = 0$ , so  $u = v = 0$ . Then  $x(t)$  tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . By Lemmas 1 and 4, we obtain Theorem 2.

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