

## Research Article

# Comparison Theorems for the Third-Order Delay Trinomial Differential Equations

**B. Baculíková and J. Džurina**

*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics,  
Technical University of Košice, Letná 9, 042 00 Košice, Slovakia*

Correspondence should be addressed to J. Džurina, [jozef.dzurina@tuke.sk](mailto:jozef.dzurina@tuke.sk)

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The objective of this paper is to study the asymptotic properties of third-order delay trinomial differential equation  $y'''(t) + p(t)y'(t) + g(t)y(\tau(t)) = 0$ . Employing new comparison theorems, we can deduce the oscillatory and asymptotic behavior of the above-mentioned equation from the oscillation of a couple of the first-order differential equations. Obtained comparison principles essentially simplify the examination of the studied equations.

## 1. Introduction

In this paper, we are concerned with the oscillation and the asymptotic behavior of the solution of the third-order delay trinomial differential equations of the form

$$y'''(t) + p(t)y'(t) + g(t)y(\tau(t)) = 0. \quad (E)$$

In the sequel, we will assume that the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i)  $p(t) \geq 0$ ,  $g(t) > 0$ ,
- (ii)  $\tau(t) \leq t$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tau(t) = \infty$ .

By a solution of (E), we mean a function  $y(t) \in C^1[T_x, \infty)$ ,  $T_x \geq t_0$  that satisfies (E) on  $[T_x, \infty)$ . We consider only those solutions  $y(t)$  of (E) which satisfy  $\sup\{|y(t)| : t \geq T\} > 0$  for all  $T \geq T_x$ . We assume that (E) possesses such a solution. A solution of (E) is called oscillatory if it has arbitrarily large zeros on  $[T_x, \infty)$ , and otherwise it is called to be nonoscillatory. Equation (E) itself is said to be oscillatory if all its solutions are oscillatory.

*Remark 1.1.* All functional inequalities considered in this paper are assumed to hold eventually, that is, they are satisfied for all  $t$  large enough.

In the recent years, great attention in the oscillation theory has been devoted to the oscillatory and asymptotic properties of the third-order differential equations (see [1–20]). Various techniques appeared for the investigation of such equations. Some of them [1, 19] make use of the methods developed for the second-order equations [16, 17, 20] like the Riccati transformation and the integral averaging method and extend them to the third-order equations. Our method is based on the suitable comparison theorems.

Lazer [12] has shown that the differential equation without delay

$$y'''(t) + p(t)y'(t) + g(t)y(t) = 0 \quad (E_1)$$

has always a nonoscillatory solution satisfying the condition

$$y(t)y'(t) < 0. \quad (1.1)$$

We say that  $(E)$  has the property  $(P_0)$  if every nonoscillatory solution  $y(t)$  satisfies (1.1). In [6–8, 12], the first criteria for  $(E_1)$  to have property  $(P_0)$  appeared. Those criteria have been improved in [18]. Džurina [3] has presented a set of comparison theorems that enable us to extend the results known for  $(E_1)$  to the delay equation  $(E)$ . This method has been further elaborated by Parhi and Padhi [13, 14] and Džurina and Kotorová [5]. In this paper, we present a new comparison method for the studying properties of  $(E)$ . We will compare  $(E)$  with a couple of the first-order delay differential equations in the sense that the oscillation of these equations yields the studied properties of  $(E)$ .

## 2. Main Results

It will be derived that the properties of  $(E)$  are closely connected with the positive solutions of the corresponding second-order differential equation

$$v''(t) + p(t)v(t) = 0, \quad (V)$$

as the following lemma says.

**Lemma 2.1.** *If  $v(t)$  is a positive solution of  $(V)$ , then  $(E)$  can be written as the binomial equation*

$$\left( v^2(t) \left( \frac{1}{v(t)} y' \right)' \right)' + v(t)g(t)y(\tau(t)) = 0. \quad (E_C)$$

*Proof.* Straightforward computation shows that

$$\frac{1}{v(t)} \left( v^2(t) \left( \frac{1}{v(t)} y'(t) \right)' \right)' = y'''(t) - \frac{v''(t)}{v(t)} y'(t) = y'''(t) + p(t)y'(t). \quad (2.1)$$

Therefore,  $(E)$  really takes the form of  $(E_C)$ .  $\square$

For our next consideration, it is desirable for  $(E_C)$  to be in a canonical form, that is, we require

$$\int^{\infty} v^{-2}(t)dt = \int^{\infty} v(t)dt = \infty. \quad (2.2)$$

It is clear that if  $v(t)$  is a positive solution of  $(V)$ , then the second integral in (2.2) is divergent. So, at first we will investigate the properties of the positive solutions of  $(V)$ , and then we will be able to study the oscillation of the trinomial equation  $(E)$  with, the help of its binomial representation  $(E_C)$ .

The following result (see, e.g., [4, 10] or [11]) is a consequence of Sturm's comparison theorem and guarantees the existence of a nonoscillatory solution.

**Lemma 2.2.** *If*

$$t^2 p(t) \leq \frac{1}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^2 p(t) < \frac{1}{4}, \quad (2.3)$$

*then  $(V)$  possesses a positive solution. If*

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^2 p(t) > \frac{1}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad t^2 p(t) \geq \frac{1}{4} + \varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon > 0, \quad (2.4)$$

*then all solutions of  $(V)$  are oscillatory.*

We present some properties of  $(V)$  that will be utilized later.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Assume that (2.3) is fulfilled, then  $(V)$  always possesses a nonoscillatory solution satisfying (2.2).*

*Proof.* Let  $v_1(t)$  be a positive solution of  $(V)$ . If  $v_1(t)$  does not accomplish (2.2), then another solution of  $(V)$  is given by

$$v_2(t) = v_1(t) \int_t^{\infty} v_1^{-2}(s)ds, \quad (2.5)$$

indeed, because

$$v_2'' = v_1'' \int_t^{\infty} v_1^{-2}(s)ds = -p(t)v_1 \int_t^{\infty} v_1^{-2}(s)ds = -p(t)v_2. \quad (2.6)$$

Moreover,  $v_1(t)$  meets (2.2) by now. Really, if we denote  $U(t) = \int_t^\infty v_1^{-2}(s)ds$ , then  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} U(t) = 0$ . On the other hand,

$$\int_{t_0}^\infty v_2^{-2}(t)dt = \int_{t_0}^\infty \frac{-U'(t)}{U^2(t)} dt = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{U(t)} - \frac{1}{U(t_0)} \right) = \infty. \quad (2.7)$$

□

Picking up all the previous results, we can conclude by the following.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Assume that (2.3) is fulfilled, then the trinomial equation (E) can be always written in its binomial form  $(E_C)$ . Moreover,  $(E_C)$  is in the canonical form.*

In the sequel, to be sure that (V) possesses a nonoscillatory solution, we will always assume that (2.3) holds.

Now, we are ready to study the properties of (E) with the help of  $(E_C)$ . Without loss of generality, we can deal only with the positive solutions of (E). Since every solution of (E) is also a solution of  $(E_C)$ , we are in view of a generalization of Kiguradze's lemma (see [4] or [11]) in the following structure of the nonoscillatory solutions of (E).

**Lemma 2.5.** *Assume that  $v(t)$  is a positive solution of (V) satisfying (2.2), then every positive solution  $y(t)$  of (E) is either of degree 2, that is,*

$$y > 0, \quad \frac{1}{v}y' > 0, \quad v^2\left(\frac{1}{v}y'\right)' > 0, \quad \left(v^2\left(\frac{1}{v}y'\right)'\right)' < 0, \quad (D_2)$$

or of degree 0, that is,

$$y > 0, \quad \frac{1}{v}y' < 0, \quad v^2\left(\frac{1}{v}y'\right)' > 0, \quad \left(v^2\left(\frac{1}{v}y'\right)'\right)' < 0. \quad (D_0)$$

In the sequel, we will assume that the function  $v(t)$  that will be contained in our results is such solution of (V) that satisfies (2.2). If we eliminate the solutions of degree 2 of (E), we get the studied property  $(P_0)$  of (E). The next theorem and its proof provide the details.

**Theorem 2.6.** *If the first-order differential equation*

$$z'(t) + v(t)g(t) \left[ \int_{t_1}^{\tau(t)} v(s) \int_{t_1}^s v^{-2}(x) dx ds \right] z(\tau(t)) = 0 \quad (E_2)$$

is oscillatory, then (E) has the property  $(P_0)$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $y(t)$  is a positive solution of (E). It follows from Lemma 2.5 that  $y(t)$  is either of *degree 2* or of *degree 0*. If  $y(t)$  is of *degree 2*, then using that  $z(t) = v^2(t)((1/v(t))y'(t))'$  is decreasing, we are led to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{v(t)}y'(t) &\geq \int_{t_1}^t \left( \frac{1}{v(u)}y'(u) \right)' du = \int_{t_1}^t \frac{1}{v^2(u)} \left[ v^2(u) \left( \frac{1}{v(u)}y'(u) \right)' \right] du \\ &\geq z(t) \int_{t_1}^t \frac{1}{v^2(u)} du. \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

Integrating from  $t_1$  to  $t$ , we obtain

$$y(t) \geq \int_{t_1}^t z(s)v(s) \int_{t_1}^s \frac{1}{v^2(u)} du ds \geq z(t) \int_{t_1}^t v(s) \int_{t_1}^s \frac{1}{v^2(u)} du ds. \tag{2.9}$$

Obviously,

$$y(\tau(t)) \geq z(\tau(t)) \int_{t_1}^{\tau(t)} v(s) \int_{t_1}^s \frac{1}{v^2(u)} du ds. \tag{2.10}$$

Combining (2.10) together with  $(E_C)$ , we see that

$$-z'(t) = v(t)g(t)y(\tau(t)) \geq \left[ v(t)g(t) \int_{t_1}^{\tau(t)} v(s) \int_{t_1}^s \frac{1}{v^2(u)} du ds \right] z(\tau(t)). \tag{2.11}$$

Or in other words,  $z(t)$  is a positive solution of differential inequality

$$z'(t) + \left[ v(t)g(t) \int_{t_1}^{\tau(t)} v(s) \int_{t_1}^s \frac{1}{v^2(u)} du ds \right] z(\tau(t)) \leq 0. \tag{2.12}$$

Hence, by Theorem 1 in [15], we conclude that the corresponding differential equation  $(E_2)$  also has a positive solution, which contradicts to oscillation of  $(E_2)$ . Therefore,  $y(t)$  is of *degree 0*, and from the first two inequalities of  $(D_0)$ , we conclude that (1.1) holds, which means that (E) has property  $(P_0)$ .  $\square$

Applying the well-known oscillation criterion (Theorem 2.1.1 from [9]) to  $(E_2)$ , we immediately get the sufficient condition for (E) to have the property  $(P_0)$ .

**Corollary 2.7.** *Assume that*

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tau(t)}^t v(u)g(u) \int_{t_1}^{\tau(u)} v(s) \int_{t_1}^s v^{-2}(x)dx ds du > \frac{1}{e}, \tag{C_1}$$

*then (E) has the property  $(P_0)$ .*

*Remark 2.8.* We note that if  $(E)$  has the property  $(P_0)$ , then every positive solution  $y(t)$  satisfies  $(D_0)$ , and then from the first two inequalities of  $(D_0)$ , we have the information only about the zero and the first derivative of  $y(t)$ . We have no information about the second and the third derivatives, but on the other hand, we know the sign properties of the second and the third quasiderivatives of  $y(t)$ .

*Example 2.9.* Consider the third-order trinomial equation of the form

$$y'''(t) + \frac{\alpha(1-\alpha)}{t^2}y'(t) + \frac{a}{t^3}y(\lambda t) = 0, \quad (2.13)$$

with  $0 < \lambda < 1$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1/2$ , and  $a > 0$ . It is easy to see that  $v(t) = t^\alpha$  is the wanted solution of  $(V)$ , and so  $(E_2)$  reduces to

$$z'(t) + a \left[ \frac{\lambda^{2-\alpha}}{(2-\alpha)(1-2\alpha)} \frac{1}{t} + O(t^{-2+2\alpha}) \right] z(\lambda t) = 0, \quad (2.14)$$

where in the function  $O(t^{-2+2\alpha})$  the terms unimportant for the oscillation of (2.14) are included. Applying the oscillation criterion from Corollary 2.7 to (2.14), we see that (2.13) has property  $(P_0)$  provided that the parameter  $a$  realizes the following condition:

$$a \frac{\lambda^{2-\alpha}}{(2-\alpha)(1-2\alpha)} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right) > \frac{1}{e}. \quad (2.15)$$

We note that for

$$a = [\beta(\beta+1)(\beta+2) + \beta\alpha(1-\alpha)]\lambda^\beta, \quad \beta > 0, \quad (2.16)$$

one such solution is  $y(t) = t^{-\beta}$ .

Now, we turn our attention to oscillation of  $(E)$ . We have known that oscillation of  $(E_2)$  brings property  $(P_0)$  of  $(E)$ . If we eliminate also the case  $(D_0)$  of Lemma 2.5, we get oscillation of  $(E)$ .

**Theorem 2.10.** Let  $\tau'(t) > 0$ . Assume that there exists a function  $\xi(t) \in C^1([t_0, \infty))$  such that

$$\xi'(t) \geq 0, \quad \xi(t) > t, \quad \eta(t) = \tau(\xi(\xi(t))) < t. \quad (2.17)$$

If both the first-order delay equations  $(E_2)$  and

$$z'(t) + \left[ v(t) \int_t^{\xi(t)} v^{-2}(s) \int_s^{\xi(s)} v(x)g(x)dx ds \right] z(\eta(t)) = 0 \quad (E_3)$$

are oscillatory, then  $(E)$  is oscillatory.

*Proof.* Assume that  $y(t)$  is a positive solution of (E). It follows from Lemma 2.5 that  $y(t)$  is either of *degree* 2 or of *degree* 0. From Theorem 2.6, we have know that oscillation of (E<sub>2</sub>) eliminates the solutions of *degree* 2. Consequently,  $y(t)$  is of *degree* 0, which implies  $y'(t) < 0$ . Integration of (E<sub>C</sub>) from  $t$  to  $\xi(t)$  yields

$$v^2(t) \left( \frac{1}{v(t)} y'(t) \right)' \geq \int_t^{\xi(t)} v(x)g(x)y(\tau(x))dx \geq y[\tau(\xi(t))] \int_t^{\xi(t)} v(x)g(x)dx. \tag{2.18}$$

Then

$$\left( \frac{1}{v(t)} y'(t) \right)' \geq \frac{y[\tau(\xi(t))]}{v^2(t)} \int_t^{\xi(t)} v(x)g(x)dx. \tag{2.19}$$

Integrating from  $t$  to  $\xi(t)$  once more, we get

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{v(t)} y'(t) &\geq \int_t^{\xi(t)} \frac{y[\tau(\xi(s))]}{v^2(s)} \int_s^{\xi(s)} v(x)g(x)dx ds \\ &\geq y[\eta(t)] \int_t^{\xi(t)} \frac{1}{v^2(s)} \int_s^{\xi(s)} v(x)g(x)dx ds. \end{aligned} \tag{2.20}$$

Finally, integrating from  $t$  to  $\infty$ , one gets

$$y(t) \geq \int_t^\infty y[\eta(u)]v(u) \int_u^{\xi(u)} \frac{1}{v^2(s)} \int_s^{\xi(s)} v(x)g(x)dx ds du. \tag{2.21}$$

Let us denote the right hand side of (2.21) by  $z(t)$ , then  $y(t) \geq z(t) > 0$ , and one can easily verify that  $z(t)$  is a solution of the differential inequality

$$z'(t) + \left[ v(t) \int_t^{\xi(t)} v^{-2}(s) \int_s^{\xi(s)} v(x)g(x)dx ds \right] z(\eta(t)) \leq 0. \tag{2.22}$$

Then Theorem 1 in [15] shows that the corresponding differential equation (E<sub>3</sub>) has also a positive solution. This contradiction finishes the proof. □

Applying the oscillation criterion from [9] to (E<sub>2</sub>) and (E<sub>3</sub>), we obtain the sufficient condition for (E) to be oscillatory.

**Corollary 2.11.** *Let  $\tau'(t) > 0$ . Assume that there exists a function  $\xi(t) \in C^1([t_0, \infty))$  such that (2.17) holds. If, moreover, (C<sub>1</sub>) is satisfied and*

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\eta(t)}^t v(u) \int_u^{\xi(u)} v^{-2}(s) \int_s^{\xi(s)} v(x)g(x)dx ds du > \frac{1}{e}, \tag{C_2}$$

*then (E) is oscillatory.*

*Remark 2.12.* There is an optional function  $\xi(t)$  included in  $(E_3)$  and condition  $(C_2)$ . There is no general rule for its choice. From the experience of the authors, we suggest to select such  $\xi(t)$  for which the composite function  $\xi \circ \xi$  to be "close to" the inverse function  $\tau^{-1}(t)$  of  $\tau(t)$ . In the next example, we provide the details.

*Example 2.13.* We consider (2.13) again. Following Remark 2.12, we set  $\xi(t) = \gamma t, 1 < \gamma < 1/\sqrt{\lambda}$ , where these restrictions on  $\gamma$  result from (2.17). Since  $v(t) = t^\alpha$  is a wanted solution of (V), then  $(E_3)$  reduces to

$$z'(t) + \frac{(1 - \gamma^{\alpha-2})(1 - \gamma^{-\alpha-1})}{(2 - \alpha)(1 + \alpha)} \frac{a}{t} z(\lambda \gamma^2 t) = 0. \quad (2.23)$$

Applying the oscillation criterion  $(C_2)$ , we get in view of Corollary 2.11 that (2.13) is oscillatory provided that  $a$  verifies the following condition:

$$\frac{a}{(2 - \alpha)(1 + \alpha)} (1 - \gamma^{\alpha-2})(1 - \gamma^{-\alpha-1}) \ln\left(\frac{1}{\lambda \gamma^2}\right) > \frac{1}{e}. \quad (2.24)$$

Obviously, we obtain the best oscillatory result if we choose such  $\gamma \in (1, 1/\sqrt{\lambda})$ , for which the function

$$f(\gamma) = (1 - \gamma^{\alpha-2})(1 - \gamma^{-\alpha-1}) \ln\left(\frac{1}{\lambda \gamma^2}\right) \quad (2.25)$$

attains its maximum. If we are not able to find the maximum value of  $f(\gamma)$ , we simply put  $\gamma = (1 + \sqrt{\lambda})/2\sqrt{\lambda}$ , which is the middle point of the prescribed interval. In this case, (2.24) takes the form

$$\frac{a \left(1 - \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{\lambda}}{2\sqrt{\lambda}}\right)^{\alpha-2}\right) \left(1 - \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{\lambda}}{2\sqrt{\lambda}}\right)^{-\alpha-1}\right) \ln\left(4 / \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{\lambda}}{2\sqrt{\lambda}}\right)^2\right)}{(2 - \alpha)(1 + \alpha)} > \frac{1}{e}. \quad (2.26)$$

Thus, it follows from Theorem 2.10 that (2.13) is oscillatory provided that (2.26) holds.

Applying MATLAB, we can draw the graph of  $f(\gamma)$  with  $\alpha = 0.3, \lambda = 0.5$  and verify that the maximum value of  $f(\gamma)$  is reached for  $\gamma = 1.24$ . On the other hand, the middle  $\gamma = 1.20$ .

Therefore, Theorems 2.6 and 2.10 imply that if  $\alpha = 0.3, \lambda = 0.5$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} a > 1.1726, & \text{ then (2.13) has the property } (P_0), \\ a > 41.3856, & \text{ then (2.13) is oscillatory.} \end{aligned} \quad (2.27)$$

On the other hand, if we apply the middle  $\gamma$ , we get a bit weaker result for oscillation of (2.13), namely,  $a > 43.1905$ .



*Remark 2.14.* The oscillation of  $(E)$  is a new phenomena in the oscillation theory. The previous results [3, 5, 13] do not help to study this case, because they are based on transferring the properties of the ordinary equation  $(E_1)$  to the delay equation  $(E)$ , and since  $(E_1)$  is not oscillatory, we cannot deduce oscillation of  $(E)$  from that of  $(E_1)$ .

Our comparison method is based on the canonical representation  $(E_C)$  of  $(E)$ . Although the condition (2.3) of Lemma 2.2 guarantees the existence of the wanted solution  $v(t)$  of  $(V)$  so that canonical representation  $(E_C)$  is possible, a natural question arises; what to do if we are not able to find  $v(t)$  because it is needed in the crucial  $(E_2)$  and  $(E_3)$ ? In the next considerations, we crack this problem. Employing the additional condition, we revise both  $(E_2)$  and  $(E_3)$  into the form that instead of  $v(t)$  requires its asymptotic representation which essentially simplifies our calculations.

We say that  $v^*(t)$  is an asymptotic representation of  $v(t)$  if  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (v(t)/v^*(t)) = 1$ . We denote this fact by  $v(t) \sim v^*(t)$ .

The following result is recalled from [2].

**Theorem 2.15.** *If*

$$\int^{\infty} sp(s)ds < \infty, \tag{2.28}$$

*then  $(V)$  has a solution  $v(t)$  with the property  $v(t) \sim 1$ .*

Combining Theorem 2.15 together with Corollaries 2.7 and 2.11, we get new oscillatory criterion for  $(E)$ .

**Theorem 2.16.** *Assume that (2.28) holds and*

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tau(t)}^t g(u) \frac{(\tau(u) - t_1)^2}{2} du > \frac{1}{e}, \tag{C_1^*}$$

*then  $(E)$  has the property  $(P_0)$ .*

*If, moreover,  $\tau'(t) > 0$  and there exists a function  $\xi(t) \in C^1([t_0, \infty))$  such that (2.17) holds and*

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\eta(t)}^t \int_u^{\xi(u)} \int_s^{\xi(s)} g(x) dx ds du > \frac{1}{e}, \tag{C_2^*}$$

*then  $(E)$  is oscillatory.*

*Proof.* It follows from Theorem 2.15 that for any  $C \in (0, 1)$ , we have

$$C < v(t) < \frac{1}{C}, \tag{2.29}$$

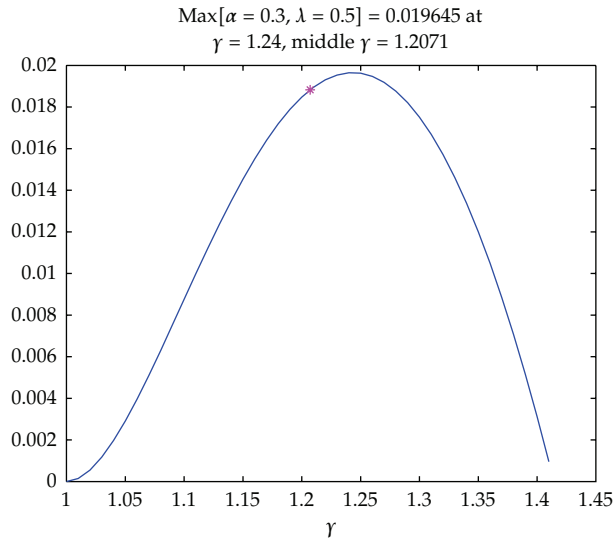


Figure 1

eventually. Moreover,  $(C_1^*)$  implies that there exists  $C \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{e} &< \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} C^4 \int_{\tau(t)}^t g(u) \frac{(\tau(u) - t_1)^2}{2} du \\ &= \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tau(t)}^t C g(u) \int_{t_1}^{\tau(u)} C \int_{t_1}^s \frac{1}{C^{-2}} dx ds du \\ &\leq \liminf_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tau(t)}^t v(u) g(u) \int_{t_1}^{\tau(u)} v(s) \int_{t_1}^s v^{-2}(x) dx ds du, \end{aligned} \tag{2.30}$$

where we have used (2.29). We see that  $(C_1)$  holds and Corollary 2.7 guarantees the property  $(P_0)$  of  $(E)$ .

The proof of the second part runs similarly, and so it can be omitted. □

*Example 2.17.* Consider the third-order trinomial equation of the form

$$y'''(t) + \frac{\alpha(1-\alpha)}{t^3} y'(t) + \frac{a}{t^3} y(\lambda t) = 0, \tag{2.31}$$

with  $0 < \lambda < 1$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1/2$ , and  $a > 0$ . It is easy to see that (2.28) holds. Now,  $(C_1^*)$  reduces to

$$\frac{a\lambda^2}{2} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right) > \frac{1}{e}, \tag{2.32}$$

which insures the property  $(P_0)$  of (2.23).

On the other hand, setting  $\xi(t) = \gamma t$ , where  $1 < \gamma < 1/\sqrt{\lambda}$ , the condition  $(C_2^*)$  takes the form

$$\frac{a}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\gamma^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \ln\left(\frac{1}{\lambda\gamma^2}\right) > \frac{1}{e}. \quad (2.33)$$

If we put  $\gamma = (1 + \sqrt{\lambda})/2\sqrt{\lambda}$ , which is the middle point of the prescribed interval, (2.33) rises to

$$\frac{a}{2} \left(1 - \frac{4\lambda}{(1 + \sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2\sqrt{\lambda}}{1 + \sqrt{\lambda}}\right) \ln\left(\frac{4}{(1 + \sqrt{\lambda})^2}\right) > \frac{1}{e}, \quad (2.34)$$

that in view of Theorem 2.16 yields the oscillation of (2.31).

### 3. Summary

In this paper, we have presented a new comparison principle for studying the oscillatory and asymptotic behavior of the third-order delay trinomial equation  $(E)$ . Our method essentially makes use of its binomial representation  $(E_C)$ , which is based on the existence of the suitable positive solution of the corresponding second-order equation  $(V)$ , so that we can deduce property  $(P_0)$  or even oscillation of  $(E)$  from the oscillation of a couple of the first-order delay equations  $(E_2)$  and  $(E_3)$ . Moreover, in a partial case, we can examine the studied properties of  $(E)$  without finding a positive solution of  $(V)$ . Obtained comparison theorems are easily applicable.

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