

Lyapunov-Type Inequalities For A Fractional q - Difference Equation Involving p - Laplacian Operator

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ABSTRACT: In this paper, we present new Lyapunov-type inequalities for a boundary value problem of fractional q - difference equation with p - Laplacian operator. The obtained inequalities are used to obtain a lower bound for the eigenvalues of corresponding equations.

Keywords: Lyapunov-type inequality, fractional q - derivative, eigenvalues, Boundary Value Problem.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The p - Laplacian operator arises in different mathematical models that describe physical and natural phenomena (see, for example, [1-]).

In this paper, we present some Lyapunov-type inequalities for a fractional q - difference equation with p - Laplacian operator. More precisely, we are interested with the nonlinear fractional boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{q,a^+}^\beta \left(\Phi_p \left(D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(t) \right) \right) + \chi(t) \Phi_p u(t) = 0, & a < t < b \\ u(a) = D_q u(a) = D_q u(b) = 0, & D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(a) = D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(b) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, D_{q,a^+}^α , D_{q,a^+}^β are the Riemann-Liouville fractional q - derivatives of orders α, β , $\Phi_p(s) = |s|^{p-2} s$, $p > 1$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function.

Under certain assumptions imposed on the function g , we obtain necessary conditions for the existence of nontrivial solutions to (1.1). Some applications to eigenvalue problems are also presented.

For completeness, let us recall the standard Lyapunov inequality [5], which states that if u is a nontrivial solution of the problem

$$\begin{cases} u''(t) + \chi(t)u(t) = 0, & a < t < b \\ u(a) = u(b) = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $a < b$ are two consecutive zeros of u , and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function, then

$$\int_a^b |\chi(t)| dt > \frac{4}{b-a} \quad (1.2)$$

Note that in order to obtain this inequality, it is supposed that a and b are two consecutive zeros of u . In our case, as it will be observed in the proof of our main result, we assume just that u is a nontrivial solution to (1.1).

Inequality (1.2) is useful in various applications, including oscillation theory, stability criteria for periodic differential equations, and estimates for intervals of disconjugacy.

Several generalizations and extensions of inequality (1.2) to different boundary value problems exist in the literature. As examples, we refer to [6-8] and the references therein.

Some Lyapunov-type inequalities for fractional boundary value problems have

been obtained. Ferreira [14] established a fractional version of inequality (1.2) for a fractional boundary value

problem involving the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of order $1 < \alpha \leq 2$. More precisely, Ferreira [9] studied the fractional boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{a^+}^\alpha (t) + \chi(t)u(t) = 0, & a < t < b \\ u(a) = u(b) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

where D_{q,a^+}^α is the Riemann-Liouville fractional derivative of order $1 < \alpha \leq 2$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. In this case, it was proved that if (1.3) has a nontrivial solution, then

$$\int_a^b |\chi(t)| dt > \Gamma(\alpha) \left(\frac{4}{b-a} \right)^{\alpha-1},$$

where Γ is the Euler gamma function. Observe that if we take $\alpha = 2$ in the last inequality, we obtain the standard Lyapunov inequality (1.2).

Recently, in [10], authors research Lyapunov-type inequalities for a fractional p -Laplacian equation. For other related results, we refer to [11], [12] and the references therein. The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we recall some basic concepts on fractional q -calculus and establish some preliminary results that will be used in Section 3, where we state and prove our main result. In Section 4, we present some applications of the obtained Lyapunov-type inequalities to eigenvalue problems.

II. PRELIMINARIES

For the convenience of the reader, we recall some basic concepts on fractional q -calculus to make easy the analysis of (1.1). For more details, we refer to [13].

Let $C[a, b]$ be the set of real-valued and continuous functions in $[a, b]$. Let $f \in C[a, b]$. Let $\alpha \geq 0$. The Riemann-Liouville fractional q -integral of order α of f is defined by $I_{q,a^+}^0 f \equiv f$ and

$$\left(I_{q,a^+}^\alpha f \right)(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\alpha)} \int_a^t (t-qs)^{(\alpha-1)} f(s) d_qs, \quad \alpha > 0, t \in [a, b],$$

where Γ_q is the q -gamma function.

The q -derivative is defined by

$$\left(D_q f \right)(t) = \frac{f(t) - f(qt)}{t - qt} \quad (t \neq 0), \quad \left(D_q f \right)(0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(D_q f \right)(t)$$

The Riemann-Liouville fractional q -derivative of order $\alpha \geq 0$ of f is defined by

$$\left(D_{q,a^+}^\alpha f \right)(t) = \left(D_q^n I_{q,a^+}^{n-\alpha} f \right)(t), \quad t \in [a, b]$$

where $n = [\alpha] + 1$.

Lemma 2.1[13] Let $\alpha > 0$. If $D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u \in C[a, b]$, then

$$I_{q,a^+}^\alpha D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(t) = u(t) + \sum_{i=1}^n k_i (t-a)^{(\alpha-i)}$$

where $n = [\alpha] + 1$.

Now, in order to obtain an integral formulation of (1.1), we need the following results.

Lemma 2.2 Let $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, and $y \in C[a, b]$. Then the problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(t) + y(t) = 0, & a < t < b, \\ u(a) = D_q u(a) = D_q u(b) = 0, \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution

$$u(t) = \int_a^b G(t, s) y(s) d_q s$$

where

$$G(t, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\alpha)} \begin{cases} \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-1)} - (t-qs)^{(\alpha-1)}, & a \leq qs \leq t \leq b \\ \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-1)}, & a \leq t \leq qs \leq b \end{cases}$$

Proof From Lemma 2.1. we have

$$u(t) = -\left(I_{q, a^+}^\alpha y\right)(t) + k_1(t-a)^{(\alpha-1)} + k_2(t-a)^{(\alpha-2)} + k_3(t-a)^{(\alpha-3)}.$$

for some real constants $k_i, i = 1, 2, 3$, and the condition $u(a) = 0$ yields $k_3 = 0$. Therefore,

$$D_q u(t) = -\left(I_{q, a^+}^{\alpha-1} y\right)(t) + k_1[\alpha-1]_q (t-a)^{(\alpha-2)} + k_2[\alpha-2]_q (t-a)^{(\alpha-3)}.$$

The condition $D_q u(a) = 0$ implies that $k_2 = 0$. Since $D_q u(b) = 0$, we get

$$k_1 = \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\alpha)(b-a)^{(\alpha-2)}} \int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} y(s) d_q s.$$

Thus,

$$u(t) = -\int_a^t \frac{(t-qs)^{(\alpha-1)} y(s)}{\Gamma_q(\alpha)} d_q s + \int_a^b \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\alpha)} \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-1)} y(s) d_q s.$$

For the uniqueness, suppose that u_1 and u_2 are two solutions of the considered problem.

Define $u = u_1 - u_2$. By linearity, u solves the boundary value problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{q, a^+}^\alpha u(t) = 0, & a < t < b, \\ u(a) = D_q u(a) = D_q u(b) = 0, \end{cases}$$

which has as a unique solution $u = 0$. Therefore, $u_1 = u_2$, and the uniqueness follows.

Lemma 2.3 Let $y \in C[a, b]$, $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, $p > 1$ and $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{g} = 1$. Then the problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{q, a^+}^\beta \left(\Phi_p \left(D_{q, a^+}^\alpha u(t) \right) \right) + y(t) = 0, & a < t < b \\ u(a) = D_q u(a) = D_q u(b) = 0, & D_{q, a^+}^\alpha u(a) = D_{q, a^+}^\alpha u(b) = 0 \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution

$$u(t) = -\int_a^b G(t, s) \Phi_g \left(\int_a^b H(s, \tau) y(\tau) d_q \tau \right) d_q s,$$

where

$$H(t, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\beta)} \begin{cases} \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (t-a)^{(\beta-1)} - (t-qs)^{(\beta-1)}, & a \leq qs \leq t \leq b, \\ \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (t-a)^{(\beta-1)}, & a \leq t \leq qs \leq b, \end{cases}$$

Proof From Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.2. we have

$$\Phi_p \left(D_{q, a^+}^\alpha u(t) \right) = -\int_a^t \frac{(t-qs)^{(\beta-1)}}{\Gamma_q(\beta)} y(s) d_q s + \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\beta)} \int_a^b \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (t-a)^{(\beta-1)} y(s) d_q s,$$

that is,

$$\Phi_p \left(D_{q, a^+}^\alpha u(t) \right) = \int_a^b H(t, s) y(s) d_q s.$$

Then we have

$$D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(t) - \Phi_g \left(\int_a^b H(t,s) y(s) d_q s \right) = 0.$$

Setting

$$\mathcal{Y}(t) = -\Phi_g \left(\int_a^b H(t,s) y(s) d_q s \right),$$

we obtain

$$\begin{cases} D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(t) + \mathcal{Y}(t) = 0, & a < t < b, \\ u(a) = D_q u(a) = D_q u(b) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Finally, applying Lemma 2.2, we obtain the desired result.

The following estimates will be useful later.

Lemma 2.4 We have

$$0 \leq G(t,s) \leq G(b,s), \quad (t,s) \in [a,b] \times [a,b].$$

Proof q -differentiating with respect to t , we obtain

$${}_t D_q G(t,s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma_q(\alpha-1)} \begin{cases} \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a} \right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-2)} - (t-qs)^{(\alpha-2)}, & a \leq qs \leq t \leq b, \\ \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a} \right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-2)}, & a \leq t \leq qs \leq b. \end{cases}$$

Set

$$g_1(t,s) = \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a} \right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-2)} - (t-qs)^{(\alpha-2)}, \quad a \leq qs \leq t \leq b.$$

and

$$g_2(t,s) = \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a} \right)^{(\alpha-2)} (t-a)^{(\alpha-2)}, \quad a \leq t \leq qs \leq b.$$

Clearly

$$g_2(t,s) \geq 0, \quad a \leq t \leq qs \leq b.$$

On the other hand, using the inequality

$$tb \geq asq \cdot q^{2n+\alpha-2}, \quad a \leq qs \leq t \leq b, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \alpha > 2, \quad q \in (0,1)$$

we obtain

$$g_1(t,s) \geq 0, \quad a \leq qs \leq t \leq b.$$

As consequence, we have

$$G(t,s) \geq 0, \quad (t,s) \in [a,b] \times [a,b].$$

Then $G(g,s)$ is a nondecreasing function for all $s \in [a,b]$, which yields

$$0 = G(a,s) \leq G(t,s) \leq G(b,s), \quad (t,s) \in [a,b] \times [a,b].$$

The proof is complete.

Lemma 2.5 We have

$$0 \leq H(t,s) \leq H(s,s), \quad (t,s) \in [a,b] \times [a,b].$$

Proof Observe that $H(t,s) = {}_t D_q G(t,s)$ for $\alpha = \beta + 1$. Then, from the proof of Lemma 2.4 we have

$$H(t,s) \geq 0, \quad (t,s) \in [a,b] \times [a,b].$$

On the other hand, for all $s \in [a,b]$, we have

$$\Gamma_q(\beta) H(s,s) = \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a} \right)^{(\beta-1)} (s-a)^{(\beta-1)}$$

For $a \leq t \leq qs \leq b$, we have

$$\Gamma_q(\beta)H(t,s) = \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (t-a)^{(\beta-1)} \leq \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (s-a)^{(\beta-1)} = \Gamma_q(\beta)H(s,s).$$

For $a \leq qs \leq t \leq b$, we have

$$\Gamma_q(\beta)H(t,s) = \left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (t-a)^{(\beta-1)} - (t-qs)^{(\beta-1)}$$

Let $s \in [a, b]$ be fixed. Define the function $\psi : (s, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\psi(t) = \Gamma_q(\beta)H(t,s), \quad t \in (s, b].$$

We have

$${}_t D_q \psi(t) = [\beta - 1]_q \left(\left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} (t-a)^{(\beta-2)} - (t-qs)^{(\beta-2)} \right), \quad t \in (s, b].$$

Using the inequalities

$$\left(\frac{b-qs}{b-a}\right)^{(\beta-1)} \leq 1, \quad \beta - 2 \leq 0, \quad (t-a)^{(\beta-2)} \leq (t-qs)^{(\beta-2)},$$

we get

$${}_t D_q \psi(t) \leq 0, \quad t \in (s, b].$$

Thus, for all $t \in [a, b]$, we have

$$\psi(t) \leq \psi(s),$$

that is,

$$\Gamma_q(\beta)H(t,s) \leq \Gamma_q(\beta)H(s,s), \quad t \in (s, b].$$

The proof is complete.

Now, we are ready to state and prove our main result.

III. MAIN RESULT

Our main result is the following Lyapunov-type inequality.

Theorem 3.1 Suppose that $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, $p > 1$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. If (1.1) has a nontrivial continuous solution, then

$$\int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\beta-1)} (s-a)^{(\beta-1)} |\chi(s)| d_q s \geq \Gamma_q(\beta) [\Gamma_q(\alpha)]^{p-1} (b-a)^{(\beta-1)} \left(\int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} (qs-a) d_q s \right)^{1-p}. \quad (3.1)$$

Proof We endow the set $C[a, b]$ with the Chebyshev norm $\| \cdot \|_\infty$ given by

$$\|u\|_\infty = \max \{ |u(t)| : a \leq t \leq b \}, \quad u \in C[a, b].$$

Suppose that $u \in C[a, b]$ is a nontrivial solution of (1.1). From Lemma 2.3 we have

$$u(t) = - \int_a^b G(t,s) \Phi_g \left(\int_a^b H(s,\tau) \chi(\tau) \Phi_p(u(\tau)) d_q \tau \right) d_q s, \quad t \in [a, b].$$

$$|u(t)| \leq \int_a^b |G(t,s)| \left| \int_a^b H(s,\tau) \chi(\tau) \Phi_p(u(\tau)) d_q \tau \right|^{g-1} d_q s$$

Let $t \in [a, b]$ be fixed. We have

$$\leq \int_a^b |G(t,s)| \theta(s) d_q s,$$

$$\text{Where } \theta(s) = \left| \int_a^b H(s,\tau) |\chi(\tau)| |u(\tau)|^{p-1} d_q \tau \right|^{g-1}, \quad s \in [a, b].$$

Using Lemma 2.4 and Lemma 2.5, we obtain

$$|u(t)| \leq \|u\|_{\infty}^{(p-1)(g-1)} \left(\int_a^b G(b,s) d_q s \right) \left(\int_a^b H(s,s) |\chi(s)| d_q s \right)^{g-1}.$$

Since the last inequality holds for every $t \in [a, b]$, we obtain

$$1 \leq \left(\int_a^b G(b,s) d_q s \right) \left(\int_a^b H(s,s) |\chi(s)| d_q s \right)^{g-1},$$

which yields the desired result.

Corollary 3.2 Suppose that $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, $p > 1$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. If (1.1) has a nontrivial continuous solution, then

$$\int_a^b |\chi(s)| d_q s \geq \frac{[\Gamma_q(\alpha)]^{p-1} \Gamma_q(\beta) (q^{\beta-1} + 1)^{2\beta-2}}{q^{\beta-1} ((b-aq) + aq^{\beta-1}(1-q))^{(\beta-1)}} \left(\int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} (qs-a) d_q s \right)^{1-p}. \quad (3.2)$$

Proof Let

$$\psi(s) = (b-qs)^{(\beta-1)} (s-a)^{(\beta-1)}, \quad s \in [a, b].$$

We have

$$D_q \psi(s) = \frac{[\beta-1]_q (bs)^{\beta-2} \left(\frac{q^2 s}{b}; q \right)_{\infty} \left(\frac{a}{s}; q \right)_{\infty} \left(\frac{b}{1 - \frac{a}{s} q^{\beta-2}} - \frac{sq}{1 - \frac{q^2 s}{b} q^{\beta-2}} \right)}{\left(q^{\beta-1} \frac{q^2 s}{b}; q \right)_{\infty} \left(q^{\beta-1} \frac{a}{s}; q \right)_{\infty}}$$

Observe that the function ψ has a maximum at the point $D_q \psi(s) = 0$, that is,

$$s = \frac{b + aq^{\beta-1}}{q(q^{\beta-1} + 1)}. \text{ So } \| \psi \|_{\infty} = \frac{q^{\beta-1} (b-a)^{(\beta-1)}}{(q^{\beta-1} + 1)^{2\beta-2} ((b-aq) + aq^{\beta-1}(1-q))^{(\beta-1)}}.$$

The desired result follows immediately from the last equality and inequality (3.1).

For $p = 2$, problem (1.1) becomes

$$\begin{cases} D_{q,a^+}^{\beta} (D_{q,a^+}^{\alpha} u(t)) + \chi(t) u(t) = 0, & a < t < b, \\ u(a) = D_q u(a) = D_q u(b) = 0, & D_{q,a^+}^{\alpha} u(a) = D_{q,a^+}^{\alpha} u(b) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

where $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, $p > 1$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. In this case, taking $p = 2$, in Theorem 3.1, we obtain the following result.

Corollary 3.3 Suppose that $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, $p > 1$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. If (3.3) has a nontrivial continuous solution, then

$$\int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\beta-1)} (s-a)^{(\beta-1)} |\chi(s)| d_q s \geq \Gamma_q(\beta) \Gamma_q(\alpha) (b-a)^{(\beta-1)} \left(\int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} (qs-a) d_q s \right)^{-1}.$$

Taking $p = 2$, in Corollary 3.2, we obtain the following result.

Corollary 3.4 Suppose that $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, $p > 1$, and $\chi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. If (3.3) has a nontrivial continuous solution, then

$$\int_a^b |\chi(s)| d_q s \geq \frac{\Gamma_q(\alpha) \Gamma_q(\beta) (q^{\beta-1} + 1)^{2\beta-2}}{q^{\beta-1} ((b-aq) + aq^{\beta-1}(1-q))^{(\beta-1)}} \left(\int_a^b (b-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} (qs-a) d_q s \right)^{-1}.$$

IV. APPLICATIONS TO EIGENVALUE PROBLEMS

In this section, we present some applications of the obtained results to eigenvalue problems.

Corollary4.1 Let λ be an eigenvalue of the problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{q,0^+}^\beta \left(\Phi_p \left(D_{q,0^+}^\alpha u(t) \right) \right) + \lambda \Phi_p u(t) = 0, & 0 < t < 1, \\ u(0) = D_q u(0) = D_q u(1) = 0, & D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(0) = D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(1) = 0, \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

where $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, and $p > 1$, then

$$|\lambda| \geq \frac{\Gamma_q(2\beta)}{\Gamma_q(\beta)} \left(\frac{q\Gamma_q(\alpha)\Gamma_q(\alpha+1)}{\Gamma_q(\alpha-1)} \right)^{(p-1)}. \quad (4.2)$$

Proof Let λ be an eigenvalue of (4.1). Then there exists a nontrivial solution $u = u_\lambda$ to (4.1). Using Theorem3.1 with $(a, b) = (0, 1)$ and $\chi(s) = \lambda$, we obtain

$$|\lambda| \int_0^1 (1-qs)^{(\beta-1)} s^{(\beta-1)} d_q s \geq \Gamma_q(\beta) [\Gamma_q(\alpha)]^{p-1} \left(\int_0^1 qs(1-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} d_q s \right)^{1-p}.$$

Observe that

$$\int_0^1 (1-qs)^{(\beta-1)} s^{(\beta-1)} d_q s = B_q(\beta, \beta)$$

and $\int_0^1 qs(1-qs)^{(\alpha-2)} d_q s = q \int_0^1 s^{2-1} (1-qs)^{(\alpha-1)-1} d_q s = qB_q(2, \alpha-1),$

where B_q is the beta function defined by

$$B_q(s, t) = \int_0^1 u^{(s-1)} (1-qu)^{(t-1)} d_q u, \quad s, t > 0.$$

Using the identity

$$B_q(s, t) = \frac{\Gamma_q(s)\Gamma_q(t)}{\Gamma_q(s+t)},$$

we get the desired result.

Corollary4.2 Let λ be an eigenvalue of the problem

$$\begin{cases} D_{q,0^+}^\beta \left(D_{q,0^+}^\alpha u(t) \right) + \lambda u(t) = 0, & 0 < t < 1, \\ u(0) = D_q u(0) = D_q u(1) = 0, & D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(0) = D_{q,a^+}^\alpha u(1) = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $2 < \alpha \leq 3$, $1 < \beta \leq 2$, and $p > 1$, then

$$|\lambda| \geq \frac{q\Gamma_q(\alpha)\Gamma_q(\alpha+1)\Gamma_q(2\beta)}{\Gamma_q(\alpha-1)\Gamma_q(\beta)}. \quad (4.3)$$

Proof It follows from inequality (4.2) by taking $p = 2$.

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