

Hyers-Ulam stability of an alternative functional equation of Jensen type

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ABSTRACT: Given an integer $\lambda \notin \{-2, -1, 0, 2\}$, we investigate the Hyers-Ulam stability of an alternative Jensen’s functional equation $f(xy^{-1}) - 2f(x) + f(xy) = 0$ or $f(xy^{-1}) - \lambda f(x) + f(xy) = 0$ where f is a mapping from an abelian group to a Banach space.

KEYWORDS: stability, alternative equation, Jensen’s functional equation

MSC2010: 39B82 39B72

INTRODUCTION

The problem of the alternative Cauchy functional equation has been widely studied. For instance, Kannappan et al¹ studied the solutions of the alternative Cauchy functional equation of the form

$$\begin{aligned} (f(x+y) - af(x) - bf(y)) \\ (f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where f is a function from an abelian group to a commutative integral domain of characteristic zero. Ger² extended their results to the alternative functional equation

$$\begin{aligned} (f(x+y) - af(x) - bf(y)) \\ (f(x+y) - cf(x) - df(y)) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Forti³ found the general solution of the alternative Cauchy functional equation of the form

$$\begin{aligned} (cf(x+y) - af(x) - bf(y) - d) \\ (f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Nakmahachalasint⁴ first solved an alternative Jensen’s functional equation of the form

$$f(x) \pm 2f(xy) + f(xy^2) = 0 \quad (2)$$

on a semigroup. His research extended the work of Ng⁵ and Parnami et al⁶ on the classical Jensen’s functional equation

$$f(xy^{-1}) - 2f(x) + f(xy) = 0 \quad (3)$$

on a group. Nakmahachalasint⁷ then investigated the Hyers-Ulam stability of the alternative Jensen’s functional equation (2) in the class of mappings from 2-divisible abelian groups to Banach spaces.

Given an integer $\lambda \neq 2$, Srisawat et al⁸ solved the alternative Jensen’s functional equation of the form

$$\begin{aligned} f(xy^{-1}) - 2f(x) + f(xy) = 0 \quad \text{or} \\ f(xy^{-1}) - \lambda f(x) + f(xy) = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

when f is a function from a group to a uniquely divisible abelian group, but a stability problem has not yet been investigated. In this paper, we will prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the alternative Jensen’s functional equation (4) when $\lambda \notin \{-2, -1, 0, 2\}$ is an integer and f is a mapping from an abelian group (G, \cdot) to a Banach space $(E, \|\cdot\|)$. In other words, for every $\varepsilon \geq 0$, we prove that there exist $\delta_1, \delta_2 \geq 0$ such that if, for an integer $\lambda \notin \{-2, -1, 0, 2\}$, a mapping $f : G \rightarrow E$ satisfies the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(xy^{-1}) - 2f(x) + f(xy)\| \leq \delta_1 \quad \text{or} \\ \|f(xy^{-1}) - \lambda f(x) + f(xy)\| \leq \delta_2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

for every $x, y \in G$, then there exists a unique Jensen’s mapping $J : G \rightarrow E$ with $\|f(x) - J(x)\| \leq \varepsilon$ for all $x \in G$.

AUXILIARY LEMMAS

Throughout this study, we let (G, \cdot) be a group and $(E, \|\cdot\|)$ be a Banach space. Given an integer λ , and

a function $f : G \rightarrow E$. For $x, y \in G$, we define

$$\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) := \|f(xy^{-1}) - \lambda f(x) + f(xy)\|.$$

Furthermore, for $\delta_1, \delta_2 \geq 0$ and $\lambda \notin \{-2, -1, 0, 2\}$, we let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(x) &:= (\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(x) \leq \delta_1 \text{ or } \mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2), \\ \delta &:= \max\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}, \text{ and} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda := (29 + 42|\lambda| + 38\lambda^2 + 20|\lambda^3| + 4\lambda^4)\delta.$$

The set of all solution of (5) is denoted by

$$\mathcal{A}_{(G,E)}^{(\lambda)} := \{f : G \rightarrow E \mid \mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(x), \forall x, y \in G\}.$$

We first prove the bound of $f(x)$ concerning the relation between $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^{-1})$, $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(x)$, and $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(xy)$.

Lemma 1 Let $f \in \mathcal{A}_{(G,E)}^{(\lambda)}$ and $x, y \in G$.

- (i) If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^{-1}) \leq \delta_1$, $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$, and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy) \leq \delta_1$, then $\|f(x)\| \leq 5\delta$.
- (ii) If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^{-1}) \leq \delta_2$, $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$, and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$, then $\|f(x)\| \leq (3 + |\lambda|)\delta$.

Proof:

(i) We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} &\|f(xy^{-2}) + 2(1 - \lambda)f(x) + f(xy^2)\| \\ &\leq \mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^{-1}) + 2\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) + \mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy) \\ &\leq 4\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Consider the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x)$. The inequality $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(2)}(x) \leq \delta_1$ and (6) give $\|(4 - 2\lambda)f(x)\| \leq 5\delta$, while the inequality $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$ and (6) give $\|(2 - \lambda)f(x)\| \leq 5\delta$. Hence $\|f(x)\| \leq 5\delta$.

(ii) We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} &\|f(xy^{-2}) + (2 - \lambda^2)f(x) + f(xy^2)\| \\ &\leq \mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^{-1}) + \lambda\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) + \mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy) \\ &\leq (2 + |\lambda|)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

Consider the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x)$. The inequality $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(2)}(x) \leq \delta_1$ and (7) give $\|(4 - \lambda^2)f(x)\| \leq (3 + |\lambda|)\delta$, while the inequality $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$ and (7) give $\|(2 + \lambda - \lambda^2)f(x)\| \leq (3 + |\lambda|)\delta$. Hence $\|f(x)\| \leq (3 + |\lambda|)\delta$.

Lemma 2 Let $f \in \mathcal{A}_{(G,E)}^{(\lambda)}$ and $x, y \in G$. If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^{-1}) \leq \delta_1$, $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$, and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$, then $\|f(x)\| \leq (14 + 14|\lambda| + 12\lambda^2 + 4|\lambda|^3)\delta$.

Proof: By $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^{-1}) \leq \delta_1$ and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$, we obtain

$$\|f(xy^{-2}) + (1 - 2\lambda)f(x) + 2f(xy)\| \leq 3\delta. \tag{8}$$

Next, we consider two possible cases in $\mathcal{S}f_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x)$:

Case (i): Assume that $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(2)}(x) \leq \delta_1$. Using $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$, $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(2)}(x) \leq \delta_1$, and (8) we obtain

$$\|2f(x) + f(xy)\| \leq 5\delta \tag{9}$$

and

$$\|(2\lambda + 1)f(x) + f(xy^2)\| \leq (2 + 4|\lambda|)\delta. \tag{10}$$

Eliminating $f(xy)$ from (9) and the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(xy^2)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|2f(x) + 2f(xy^2) - f(xy^3)\| &\leq 6\delta \text{ or} \\ \|2f(x) + \lambda f(xy^2) - f(xy^3)\| &\leq 6\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

By (10) and (11), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|4\lambda f(x) + f(xy^3)\| &\leq (10 + 8|\lambda|)\delta \text{ or} \\ \|(2\lambda^2 + \lambda - 2)f(x) + f(xy^3)\| &\leq (6 + 2|\lambda| + 4\lambda^2)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

Consider the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(xy)$.

(i) If $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(2)}(xy) \leq \delta_1$, then we use $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(2)}(xy) \leq \delta_1$ and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$ to obtain

$$\|\lambda f(x) - 3f(xy) + f(xy^3)\| \leq 2\delta. \tag{13}$$

By (12) and (13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|3\lambda f(x) + 3f(xy)\| &\leq (12 + 8|\lambda|)\delta \text{ or} \\ \|(2\lambda^2 - 2)f(x) + 3f(xy)\| &\leq (8 + 2|\lambda| + 4\lambda^2)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Eliminating $f(xy)$ from (9) and (14), we have $\|f(x)\| \leq (12 + |\lambda| + 2\lambda^2)\delta$.

(ii) If $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$, then we use $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$ and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$ to obtain

$$\|\lambda f(x) - (\lambda + 1)f(xy) + f(xy^3)\| \leq 2\delta. \tag{15}$$

By (12) and (15), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|3\lambda f(x) + (\lambda + 1)f(xy)\| &\leq (12 + 8|\lambda|)\delta \text{ or} \\ \square \|(2\lambda^2 - 2)f(x) + (\lambda + 1)f(xy)\| &\leq (8 + 2|\lambda| + 4\lambda^2)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Eliminating $f(xy)$ from (9) and (16), we obtain $\|f(x)\| \leq (17 + 11|\lambda| + 2\lambda^2)\delta$.

Case (ii). Assume that $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$. Using $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$, $\mathcal{F}_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$, and (8) we obtain

$$\|f(x) + f(xy)\| \leq 5\delta \tag{17}$$

and

$$\|(\lambda + 1)f(x) + f(xy^2)\| \leq (2 + 4|\lambda|)\delta. \tag{18}$$

Eliminating $f(xy^2)$ from (18) and the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_{y^2}^{(\lambda)}(xy^2)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|(2\lambda + 3)f(x) + f(xy^4)\| &\leq (5 + 8|\lambda|)\delta \text{ or} \\ \|(\lambda^2 + \lambda + 1)f(x) + f(xy^4)\| &\leq (1 + 2|\lambda| + 4\lambda^2)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

By (17) and the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^2)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x) + 2f(xy^2) - f(xy^3)\| &\leq 6\delta \text{ or} \\ \|f(x) + \lambda f(xy^2) - f(xy^3)\| &\leq 6\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

Consider the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^3)$ as follows.

(i) If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^3) \leq \delta_1$, then we eliminate $f(xy^3)$ from (20) and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^3) \leq \delta_1$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|2f(x) + 3f(xy^2) - f(xy^4)\| &\leq 13\delta \text{ or} \\ \|2f(x) + (2\lambda - 1)f(xy^2) - f(xy^4)\| &\leq 13\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

Using (18) and (21), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|(3\lambda + 1)f(x) + f(xy^4)\| &\leq (19 + 12|\lambda|)\delta \text{ or} \\ \|(2\lambda^2 + \lambda - 3)f(x) + f(xy^4)\| &\leq (15 + 8|\lambda| + 8\lambda^2)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

By (19) and (22), we conclude that

$$\|f(x)\| \leq (24 + 12|\lambda| + 12\lambda^2)\delta.$$

(ii) If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^3) \leq \delta_2$, then we eliminate $f(xy^3)$ from (20) and $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^3) \leq \delta_2$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\lambda f(x) + (2\lambda - 1)f(xy^2) - f(xy^4)\| &\leq (1 + 6|\lambda|)\delta \text{ or} \\ \|\lambda f(x) + (\lambda^2 - 1)f(xy^2) - f(xy^4)\| &\leq (1 + 6|\lambda|)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

Using (18) and (23), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|(2\lambda^2 - 1)f(x) + f(xy^4)\| &\leq (3 + 14|\lambda| + 8\lambda^2)\delta \text{ or} \\ \|(\lambda^3 + \lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 1)f(x) + f(xy^4)\| &\leq (3 + 10|\lambda| + 2\lambda^2 + 4|\lambda^3|)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

By (19) and (24), we conclude that

$$\|f(x)\| \leq (8 + 14|\lambda| + 12\lambda^2 + 4|\lambda^3|)\delta_4.$$

The desired bound of $f(x)$ follows from the consideration of all cases. \square

The following lemma is crucial for the main theorem in the next section.

Lemma 3 If $f \in \mathcal{A}_{(G,E)}^{(\lambda)}$, then $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(x) \leq \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda$ for all $x, y \in G$.

Proof: Let $f \in \mathcal{A}_{(G,E)}^{(\lambda)}$ and $x, y \in G$. Suppose $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(x) > \delta_1$. From the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(x)$, we obtain $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$. The alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^{-1})$ will be considered as follows.

Case (i). Assume that $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy^{-1}) \leq \delta_1$. By Lemma 1 and Lemma 2, we conclude that

$$\|f(x)\| \leq (14 + 14|\lambda| + 12\lambda^2 + 4|\lambda^3|)\delta. \tag{25}$$

Using $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(x) \leq \delta_2$ and (3), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(xy^{-1}) + f(xy)\| \\ \leq (1 + 14|\lambda| + 14\lambda^2 + 12|\lambda^3| + 4\lambda^4)\delta. \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

Hence, by (25) and (26), we have $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(x) \leq \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda$ as desired.

Case (ii). Assume that $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy^{-1}) \leq \delta_2$. Consider the alternatives in $\mathcal{S}f_y^{(\lambda)}(xy)$. If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(\lambda)}(xy) \leq \delta_2$, then Lemma 1 gives $\|f(x)\| \leq (3 + |\lambda|)\delta$. Thus the desired proof is similar to the above case. If $\mathcal{F}_y^{(2)}(xy) \leq \delta_1$, then the proof is as in case (i) after replacing y by y^{-1} and x by xy^{-1} . \square

HYERS-ULAM STABILITY

It should be remarked that Srisawat et al⁸ proved that when $\lambda \notin \{-2, -1, 0\}$, the alternative Jensen’s functional equation (4) is equivalent to Jensen’s functional equation (3). On the other hand, when $\lambda \in \{-2, -1, 0\}$, (4) is not necessarily equivalent to (3). In this section, we will prove the Hyers-Ulam stability of the alternative Jensen’s functional equation (4) when $\lambda \notin \{-2, -1, 0, 2\}$ is an integer by the so-called *direct method*. The stability results of Jensen’s functional equation can be found in, for instance, Kominek⁹ or Jung¹⁰.

Theorem 1 Let \tilde{G} be an abelian group. If $f \in \mathcal{A}_{(\tilde{G},E^Y)}^{(\lambda)}$ then there exists a unique Jensen’s mapping $J : \tilde{G} \rightarrow E$ satisfying (3) with $J(0) = f(0)$ such that $\|f(x) - J(x)\| \leq 2\mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda$ for all $x \in \tilde{G}$. Furthermore, the mapping J is given by

$$J(x) = f(0) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} (f(x^{2^n}) - f(0))$$

for all $x \in \tilde{G}$.

Proof: Assume that $f \in \mathcal{A}_{(\tilde{G},E)}^{(\lambda)}$. By Lemma 3, we obtain $\mathcal{F}_y^{(1)}(x) \leq \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda$ for all $x, y \in \tilde{G}$, i.e.,

$$\|f(xy^{-1}) - 2f(x) + f(xy)\| \leq \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda.$$

We define a function $\tilde{f} : \tilde{G} \rightarrow E$ by $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) - f(0)$. It can be observed that $\tilde{f}(0) = 0$. Then for each $x, y \in \tilde{G}$, we have

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{f}(xy) + \tilde{f}(xy^{-1})) - \tilde{f}(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda. \quad (27)$$

Putting $y = x$, we obtain

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2}\tilde{f}(x^2) - \tilde{f}(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda. \quad (28)$$

For each positive integer n and each $x \in \tilde{G}$, we apply (28) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{1}{2^n} \tilde{f}(x^{2^n}) - \tilde{f}(x) \right\| &= \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{\tilde{f}(x^{2^i})}{2^i} - \frac{\tilde{f}(x^{2^{i-1}})}{2^{i-1}} \right) \right\| \\ &\leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^n}\right) \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Consider the sequence $\{2^{-n}f(x^{2^n})\}$. For all positive integers m, n and every $x \in \tilde{G}$, we use (29) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{\tilde{f}(x^{2^{n+m}})}{2^{n+m}} - \frac{\tilde{f}(x^{2^n})}{2^n} \right\| &= \frac{1}{2^n} \left\| \frac{\tilde{f}(x^{2^n \cdot 2^m})}{2^m} - \tilde{f}(x^{2^n}) \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^m}\right) \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\{2^{-n}f(x^{2^n})\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. We can define a function $\tilde{J} : \tilde{G} \rightarrow E$ by

$$\tilde{J}(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{f}(x^{2^n})}{2^n}.$$

Replacing x by x^{2^n} and y by y^{2^n} in (27), we obtain

$$\left\| \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{f}(x^{2^n}y^{2^n}) + \tilde{f}(x^{2^n}y^{-2^n})) - \tilde{f}(x^{2^n}) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda. \quad (30)$$

Next, multiplying (30) by 2^{-n} and taking $n \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain

$$\tilde{J}(xy) + \tilde{J}(xy^{-1}) - 2\tilde{J}(x) = 0.$$

From (29), as $n \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$\|\tilde{f}(x) - \tilde{J}(x)\| \leq \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda$$

for all $x \in G$. To show the uniqueness of \tilde{J} , let $\mathcal{J} : \tilde{G} \rightarrow E$ satisfy $\mathcal{J}(0) = 0$ and $\|\tilde{f}(x) - \mathcal{J}(x)\| \leq$

$\mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda$ for all $x \in \tilde{G}$. For every positive integer n , we obtain

$$\tilde{J}(x^{2^n}) = 2^n \tilde{J}(x), \quad \mathcal{J}(x^{2^n}) = 2^n \mathcal{J}(x).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{J}(x) - \tilde{J}(x)\| &= \left\| \frac{1}{2^n}(\tilde{J}(x^{2^n}) - \tilde{f}(x^{2^n})) - \frac{1}{2^n}(\tilde{f}(x^{2^n}) - \mathcal{J}(x^{2^n})) \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^n} \|\tilde{f}(x^{2^n}) - \tilde{J}(x^{2^n})\| + \frac{1}{2^n} \|\tilde{f}(x^{2^n}) - \mathcal{J}(x^{2^n})\| \\ &\leq \frac{2}{2^n} \mathcal{M}_\delta^\lambda. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

As $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (31), we have $\mathcal{J}(x) = \tilde{J}(x)$ for all $x \in \tilde{G}$. By defining a function $J : \tilde{G} \rightarrow E$ by $J(x) = \tilde{J}(x) + f(0)$ for all $x \in \tilde{G}$, the proof is complete. \square

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