

On oscillation of the second order ODE and the 1st order delay equation

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"We discuss the oscillation theory of the second order differential equation

$$x''(t) + p(t)x(t) = 0, \quad (1)$$

where

$$p(t) \geq 0.$$

The oscillation of (1) is known to be equivalent to the oscillation of the first order delay equation

$$y'(t) + \left(\frac{1}{e} + \frac{p(t)}{2e}\right)y(t-1) = 0, \quad (2)$$

which is at the critical state. This result is based on transformations typically applied to neutral equations. A recent, independent, center-manifold approach constructed a two-dimensional ODE system, whose oscillation is also equivalent to the oscillation of (2), even when $p(t)$ is allowed to take both positive and negative values. What is more, we prove that the two-dimensional center manifold system coincides with (1), up to some error terms."

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