

Research Article

A Fixed Point Approach to the Stability of a Quadratic Functional Equation in C^* -Algebras

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Received 18 May 2009; Accepted 31 July 2009

Recommended by Tocka Diagana

We use a fixed point method to investigate the stability problem of the quadratic functional equation $f(x+y) + f(x-y) = 2f(\sqrt{xx^* + yy^*})$ in C^* -algebras.

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1. Introduction and Preliminaries

In 1940, the following question concerning the stability of group homomorphisms was proposed by Ulam [1]: *Under what conditions does there exist a group homomorphism near an approximately group homomorphism?* In 1941, Hyers [2] considered the case of approximately additive functions $f : E \rightarrow E'$, where E and E' are Banach spaces and f satisfies *Hyers inequality*

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \epsilon \quad (1.1)$$

for all $x, y \in E$. Aoki [3] and Th. M. Rassias [4] provided a generalization of the Hyers' theorem for additive mappings and for linear mappings, respectively, by allowing the Cauchy difference to be unbounded (see also [5]).

Theorem 1.1 (Th. M. Rassias). *Let $f : E \rightarrow E'$ be a mapping from a normed vector space E into a Banach space E' subject to the inequality*

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \epsilon(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p) \quad (1.2)$$

for all $x, y \in E$, where ϵ and p are constants with $\epsilon > 0$ and $p < 1$. Then the limit

$$L(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} \quad (1.3)$$

exists for all $x \in E$ and $L : E \rightarrow E'$ is the unique additive mapping which satisfies

$$\|f(x) - L(x)\| \leq \frac{2\epsilon}{2 - 2^p} \|x\|^p \quad (1.4)$$

for all $x \in E$. If $p < 0$ then inequality (1.2) holds for $x, y \neq 0$ and (1.4) for $x \neq 0$. Also, if for each $x \in E$ the mapping $t \mapsto f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$, then L is \mathbb{R} -linear.

The result of the Th. M. Rassias theorem has been generalized by Găvruta [6] who permitted the Cauchy difference to be bounded by a general control function. During the last three decades a number of papers and research monographs have been published on various generalizations and applications of the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability to a number of functional equations and mappings (see [7–20]). We also refer the readers to the books [21–25]. A *quadratic functional equation* is a functional equation of the following form:

$$f(x + y) + f(x - y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y). \quad (1.5)$$

In particular, every solution of the quadratic equation (1.5) is said to be a *quadratic mapping*. It is well known that a mapping f between real vector spaces is quadratic if and only if there exists a unique symmetric biadditive mapping B such that $f(x) = B(x, x)$ for all x (see [16, 21, 26, 27]). The biadditive mapping B is given by

$$B(x, y) = \frac{1}{4} [f(x + y) - f(x - y)]. \quad (1.6)$$

The Hyers-Ulam stability problem for the quadratic functional equation (1.5) was studied by Skof [28] for mappings $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$, where E_1 is a normed space and E_2 is a Banach space. Cholewa [8] noticed that the theorem of Skof is still true if we replace E_1 by an Abelian group. Czerwik [9] proved the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of the quadratic functional equation (1.5). Grabiec [11] has generalized these results mentioned above. Jun and Lee [14] proved the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of a Pexiderized quadratic functional equation.

Let E be a set. A function $d : E \times E \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ is called a *generalized metric* on E if d satisfies

- (i) $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x = y$;
- (ii) $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$ for all $x, y \in E$;
- (iii) $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ for all $x, y, z \in E$.

We recall the following theorem by Margolis and Diaz.

Theorem 1.2 (see [29]). *Let (E, d) be a complete generalized metric space and let $J : E \rightarrow E$ be a strictly contractive mapping with Lipschitz constant $L < 1$. Then for each given element $x \in E$, either*

$$d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) = \infty \tag{1.7}$$

for all nonnegative integers n or there exists a non-negative integer n_0 such that

- (1) $d(J^n x, J^{n+1} x) < \infty$ for all $n \geq n_0$;
- (2) the sequence $\{J^n x\}$ converges to a fixed point y^* of J ;
- (3) y^* is the unique fixed point of J in the set $Y = \{y \in E : d(J^{n_0} x, y) < \infty\}$;
- (4) $d(y, y^*) \leq (1/(1-L))d(y, Jy)$ for all $y \in Y$.

Throughout this paper A will be a C^* -algebra. We denote by \sqrt{a} the unique positive element $b \in A$ such that $b^2 = a$ for each positive element $a \in A$. Also, we denote by \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , and \mathbb{Q} the set of real, complex, and rational numbers, respectively. In this paper, we use a fixed point method (see [7, 15, 17]) to investigate the stability problem of the quadratic functional equation

$$f(x + y) + f(x - y) = 2f(\sqrt{xx^* + yy^*}) \tag{1.8}$$

in C^* -algebras. A systematic study of fixed point theorems in nonlinear analysis is due to Hyers et al. [30] and Isac and Rassias [13].

2. Solutions of (1.8)

Theorem 2.1. *Let X be a linear space. If a mapping $f : A \rightarrow X$ satisfies $f(0) = 0$ and the functional equation (1.8), then f is quadratic.*

Proof. Letting $u = x + y$ and $v = x - y$ in (1.8), respectively, we get

$$f(u) + f(v) = 2f\left(\sqrt{\frac{uu^* + vv^*}{2}}\right) \tag{2.1}$$

for all $u, v \in A$. It follows from (1.8) and (2.1) that

$$f(u) + f(v) = f\left(\frac{u+v}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + f\left(\frac{u-v}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \tag{2.2}$$

for all $u, v \in A$. Letting $v = 0$ in (2.2), we get

$$2f\left(\frac{u}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = f(u) \tag{2.3}$$

for all $u \in A$. Thus (2.2) implies that

$$f(u+v) + f(u-v) = 2f(u) + 2f(v) \quad (2.4)$$

for all $u, v \in A$. Hence f is quadratic. \square

Remark 2.2. A quadratic mapping does not satisfy (1.8) in general. Let $f : A \rightarrow A$ be the mapping defined by $f(x) = x^2$ for all $x \in A$. It is clear that f is quadratic and that f does not satisfy (1.8).

Corollary 2.3. *Let X be a linear space. If a mapping $f : A \rightarrow X$ satisfies the functional equation (1.8), then there exists a symmetric biadditive mapping $B : A \times A \rightarrow X$ such that $f(x) = B(x, x)$ for all $x \in A$.*

3. Generalized Hyers-Ulam Stability of (1.8) in C^* -Algebras

In this section, we use a fixed point method (see [7, 15, 17]) to investigate the stability problem of the functional equation (1.8) in C^* -algebras.

For convenience, we use the following abbreviation for a given mapping $f : A \rightarrow X$:

$$Df(x, y) := f(x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f(\sqrt{xx^* + yy^*}) \quad (3.1)$$

for all $x, y \in A$, where X is a linear space.

Theorem 3.1. *Let X be a linear space and let $f : A \rightarrow X$ be a mapping with $f(0) = 0$ for which there exists a function $\varphi : A \times A \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that*

$$\|Df(x, y)\| \leq \varphi(x, y) \quad (3.2)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. If there exists a constant $0 < L < 1$ such that

$$\varphi(\sqrt{2}x, \sqrt{2}y) \leq 2L\varphi(x, y) \quad (3.3)$$

for all $x, y \in A$, then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : A \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2-2L}\phi(x) \quad (3.4)$$

for all $x \in A$, where

$$\phi(x) := \varphi(x, 0) + \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right). \quad (3.5)$$

Moreover, if $f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$ for each fixed $x \in A$, then Q is \mathbb{R} -quadratic, that is, $Q(tx) = t^2Q(x)$ for all $x \in A$ and all $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. Replacing x and y by $(x+y)/2$ and $(x-y)/2$ in (3.2), respectively, we get

$$\left\| f(x) + f(y) - 2f\left(\sqrt{\frac{xx^* + yy^*}{2}}\right) \right\| \leq \varphi\left(\frac{x+y}{2}, \frac{x-y}{2}\right) \quad (3.6)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. Replacing x and y by $x/\sqrt{2}$ and $y/\sqrt{2}$ in (3.2), respectively, we get

$$\left\| f\left(\frac{x+y}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + f\left(\frac{x-y}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - 2f\left(\sqrt{\frac{xx^* + yy^*}{2}}\right) \right\| \leq \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{y}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \quad (3.7)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. It follows from (3.6) and (3.7) that

$$\left\| f\left(\frac{x+y}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + f\left(\frac{x-y}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - f(x) - f(y) \right\| \leq \varphi\left(\frac{x+y}{2}, \frac{x-y}{2}\right) + \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{y}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \quad (3.8)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. Letting $y = x$ in (3.8), we get

$$\left\| f(\sqrt{2}x) - 2f(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, 0) + \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \quad (3.9)$$

for all $x \in A$. By (3.3) we have $\phi(\sqrt{2}x) \leq 2L\phi(x)$ for all $x \in A$. Let E be the set of all mappings $g : A \rightarrow X$ with $g(0) = 0$. We can define a generalized metric on E as follows:

$$d(g, h) := \inf\{C \in [0, \infty] : \|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq C\phi(x) \forall x \in A\}. \quad (3.10)$$

(E, d) is a generalized complete metric space [7].

Let $\Lambda : E \rightarrow E$ be the mapping defined by

$$(\Lambda g)(x) = \frac{1}{2}g(\sqrt{2}x) \quad \forall g \in E \text{ and all } x \in A. \quad (3.11)$$

Let $g, h \in E$ and let $C \in [0, \infty]$ be an arbitrary constant with $d(g, h) \leq C$. From the definition of d , we have

$$\|g(x) - h(x)\| \leq C\phi(x) \quad (3.12)$$

for all $x \in A$. Hence

$$\|(\Lambda g)(x) - (\Lambda h)(x)\| = \frac{1}{2}\|g(\sqrt{2}x) - h(\sqrt{2}x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2}C\phi(\sqrt{2}x) \leq CL\phi(x) \quad (3.13)$$

for all $x \in A$. So

$$d(\Lambda g, \Lambda h) \leq Ld(g, h) \quad (3.14)$$

for any $g, h \in E$. It follows from (3.9) that $d(\Lambda f, f) \leq 1/2$. According to Theorem 1.2, the sequence $\{\Lambda^k f\}$ converges to a fixed point Q of Λ , that is,

$$Q : A \rightarrow X, \quad Q(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\Lambda^k f)(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} f(2^{k/2}x), \quad (3.15)$$

and $Q(\sqrt{2}x) = 2Q(x)$ for all $x \in A$. Also,

$$d(Q, f) \leq \frac{1}{1-L} d(\Lambda f, f) \leq \frac{1}{2-2L}, \quad (3.16)$$

and Q is the unique fixed point of Λ in the set $E^* = \{g \in E : d(f, g) < \infty\}$. Thus the inequality (3.4) holds true for all $x \in A$. It follows from the definition of Q , (3.2), and (3.3) that

$$\|DQ(x, y)\| = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \|Df(2^{k/2}x, 2^{k/2}y)\| \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^k} \varphi(2^{k/2}x, 2^{k/2}y) = 0 \quad (3.17)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. By Theorem 2.1, the function $Q : A \rightarrow X$ is quadratic.

Moreover, if $f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$ for each fixed $x \in \mathbb{X}$, then by the same reasoning as in the proof of [4] Q is \mathbb{R} -quadratic. \square

Corollary 3.2. *Let $0 < r < 2$ and θ, δ be non-negative real numbers and let $f : A \rightarrow X$ be a mapping with $f(0) = 0$ such that*

$$\|Df(x, y)\| \leq \delta + \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \quad (3.18)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : A \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{2\delta}{2-2^{r/2}} + \frac{2+2^{r/2}}{2^{r/2}(2-2^{r/2})} \theta \|x\|^r \quad (3.19)$$

for all $x \in A$. Moreover, if $f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$ for each fixed $x \in A$, then Q is \mathbb{R} -quadratic.

The following theorem is an alternative result of Theorem 3.1 and we will omit the proof.

Theorem 3.3. *Let $f : A \rightarrow X$ be a mapping with $f(0) = 0$ for which there exists a function $\varphi : A \times A \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ satisfying (3.2) for all $x, y \in A$. If there exists a constant $0 < L < 1$ such that*

$$2\varphi(x, y) \leq L\varphi(\sqrt{2}x, \sqrt{2}y) \quad (3.20)$$

for all $x, y \in A$, then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : A \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{L}{2-2L} \phi(x) \quad (3.21)$$

for all $x \in A$, where $\phi(x)$ is defined as in Theorem 3.1. Moreover, if $f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$ for each fixed $x \in A$, then Q is \mathbb{R} -quadratic.

Corollary 3.4. Let $r > 2$ and θ be non-negative real numbers and let $f : A \rightarrow X$ be a mapping with $f(0) = 0$ such that

$$\|Df(x, y)\| \leq \theta(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \quad (3.22)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. Then there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : A \rightarrow X$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{2 + 2^{r/2}}{2^{r/2}(2^{r/2} - 2)} \theta \|x\|^r \quad (3.23)$$

for all $x \in A$. Moreover, if $f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$ for each fixed $x \in A$, then Q is \mathbb{R} -quadratic.

For the case $r = 2$ we use the Gajda's example [31] to give the following counterexample (see also [9]).

Example 3.5. Let $\phi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be defined by

$$\phi(x) := \begin{cases} |x|^2, & \text{for } |x| < 1, \\ 1, & \text{for } |x| \geq 1. \end{cases} \quad (3.24)$$

Consider the function $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by the formula

$$f(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^n} \phi(2^n x). \quad (3.25)$$

It is clear that f is continuous and bounded by $4/3$ on \mathbb{C} . We prove that

$$\left| f(x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f\left(\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2}\right) \right| \leq \frac{64}{3} (|x|^2 + |y|^2) \quad (3.26)$$

for all $x, y \in \mathbb{C}$. To see this, if $|x|^2 + |y|^2 = 0$ or $|x|^2 + |y|^2 \geq 1/4$, then

$$\left| f(x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f\left(\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2}\right) \right| \leq \frac{16}{3} \leq \frac{64}{3} (|x|^2 + |y|^2). \quad (3.27)$$

Now suppose that $0 < |x|^2 + |y|^2 < 1/4$. Then there exists a positive integer k such that

$$\frac{1}{4^{k+1}} \leq |x|^2 + |y|^2 < \frac{1}{4^k}. \quad (3.28)$$

Thus

$$2^{k-1}|x \pm y|, 2^k\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2} \in (-1, 1). \quad (3.29)$$

Hence

$$2^m|x \pm y|, 2^m\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2} \in (-1, 1) \quad (3.30)$$

for all $m = 0, 1, \dots, k - 1$. It follows from the definition of f and (3.28) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| f(x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f\left(\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2}\right) \right| \\ &= \left| \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^n} \left[\phi(2^n(x+y)) + \phi(2^n(x-y)) - 2\phi\left(2^n\sqrt{|x|^2 + |y|^2}\right) \right] \right| \\ &\leq 4 \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^n} = \frac{64}{3 \times 4^{k+1}} \leq \frac{64}{3}(|x|^2 + |y|^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.31)$$

Thus f satisfies (3.26). Let $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a quadratic function such that

$$|f(x) - Q(x)| \leq \beta|x|^2 \quad (3.32)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{C}$, where β is a positive constant. Then there exists a constant $c \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $Q(x) = cx^2$ for all $x \in \mathbb{Q}$. So we have

$$|f(x)| \leq (\beta + |c|)|x|^2 \quad (3.33)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{Q}$. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $m > \beta + |c|$. If $x_0 \in (0, 2^{-m}) \cap \mathbb{Q}$, then $2^n x_0 \in (0, 1)$ for all $n = 0, 1, \dots, m - 1$. So

$$f(x_0) \geq \sum_{n=0}^{m-1} \frac{1}{4^n} \phi(2^n x_0) = m|x_0|^2 > (\beta + |c|)|x_0|^2 \quad (3.34)$$

which contradicts (3.33).

Acknowledgment

The third author was supported by Korea Research Foundation Grant funded by the Korean Government (KRF-2008-313-C00041).

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