

HYERS-ULAM-RASSIAS STABILITY OF A QUADRATIC TYPE FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

SANG HAN LEE AND KIL-WOUNG JUN

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we prove the stability of a quadratic type functional equation

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 f\left(\frac{x+y+z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x-y+z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x+y-z}{a}\right) \\ + a^2 f\left(\frac{-x+y+z}{a}\right) = 4f(x) + 4f(y) + 4f(z). \end{aligned}$$

1. Introduction

In 1940, S. M. Ulam ([9]) posed the following question on the stability of homomorphisms: Given a group G_1 , a metric group G_2 with a metric d and a number $\epsilon > 0$, does there exist a $\delta > 0$ such that if a mapping $f : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ satisfies the inequality

$$d(f(xy), f(x)f(y)) < \delta$$

for all $x, y \in G_1$, then a homomorphism $h : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ exists with

$$d(f(x), h(x)) < \epsilon$$

for all $x \in G_1$? This question became a source of the stability theory in the Hyers-Ulam sense. The case of approximately additive mappings was solved by D. H. Hyers ([1]) under the assumption that G_1 and G_2 are Banach spaces.

In 1978, Th. M. Rassias ([7]) generalized the result of Hyers as follows: Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping between Banach spaces and let $0 \leq p < 1$ be fixed. If f satisfies the inequality

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p)$$

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for some $\theta \geq 0$ and all $x, y \in X$, then there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|A(x) - f(x)\| \leq \frac{2\theta}{2 - 2^p} \|x\|^p$$

for all $x \in X$. If, in addition, $f(tx)$ is continuous in t for each fixed $x \in X$, then A is linear.

The quadratic function $f(x) = x^2$ is a solution of the following functional equations

$$f(x + y) + f(x - y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & f(x + y + z) + f(x - y + z) + f(x + y - z) + f(-x + y + z) \\ &= 4f(x) + 4f(y) + 4f(z). \end{aligned}$$

So, it is natural that each equation is called a quadratic functional equation. In particular, every solution of the quadratic functional equation $f(x + y) + f(x - y) = 2f(x) + 2f(y)$ is said to be a quadratic function.

In this paper we deal with a quadratic type functional equation

$$\begin{aligned} & a^2 f\left(\frac{x + y + z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x - y + z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x + y - z}{a}\right) \\ &+ a^2 f\left(\frac{-x + y + z}{a}\right) = 4f(x) + 4f(y) + 4f(z). \end{aligned}$$

Throughout this paper a is a nonzero real constant.

2. Solutions of a quadratic type functional equation

Throughout this section X and Y will be real linear spaces. Given a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$, consider the following equation

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} & a^2 f\left(\frac{x + y + z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x - y + z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x + y - z}{a}\right) \\ &+ a^2 f\left(\frac{-x + y + z}{a}\right) = 4f(x) + 4f(y) + 4f(z). \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 1. *If an even function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$ and $f(0) = 0$, then f is quadratic.*

Proof. Note that $f(-x) = f(x)$ for all $x \in X$ since f is an even function. Putting $y = z = 0$ in (2.1) we have

$$(2.2) \quad a^2 f\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) = f(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (2.2) in (2.1) we have

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} & f(x + y + z) + f(x - y + z) + f(x + y - z) + f(-x + y + z) \\ &= 4f(x) + 4f(y) + 4f(z) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. Putting $z = 0$ in (2.3) we deduce $2f(x) + 2f(y) = f(x + y) + f(x - y)$ for all $x, y \in X$. This shows that f is quadratic. \square

LEMMA 2. *If an odd function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$, then f is additive.*

Proof. Note that $f(0) = 0$ and $f(-x) = -f(x)$ for all $x \in X$ since f is an odd function. Putting $y = z = 0$ in (2.1) we have

$$(2.4) \quad a^2 f\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) = 2f(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (2.4) in (2.1) we have

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} & f(x + y + z) + f(x - y + z) + f(x + y - z) + f(-x + y + z) \\ &= 2f(x) + 2f(y) + 2f(z) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. Putting $z = 0$ in (2.5) we deduce $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$ for all $x, y \in X$. This shows that f is additive. \square

REMARK. In Lemma 2, an additive mapping f is nonzero in general. But if a is a rational number and $a \neq 2$ in (2.1), then $f \equiv 0$.

THEOREM 3. *If a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies (2.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$ and $f(0) = 0$, then there exist an additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ and a quadratic function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$(2.6) \quad f(x) = Q(x) + A(x)$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Let $A(x) := \frac{1}{2}(f(x) - f(-x))$ for all $x \in X$. Then $A(-x) = -A(x)$ and A satisfies (2.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$. By Lemma 2, A is additive.

Let $Q(x) := \frac{1}{2}(f(x) + f(-x))$ for all $x \in X$. Then $Q(0) = 0$, $Q(-x) = Q(x)$ and Q satisfies (2.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$. By Lemma 1, Q is quadratic. Clearly, we have $f(x) = Q(x) + A(x)$ for all $x \in X$. \square

3. Stability of a quadratic type functional equation

Let \mathbb{R}_+ denote the set of nonnegative real numbers. Recall that a function $H : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is homogeneous of degree $p > 0$ if it satisfies $H(tu, tv, tw) = t^p H(u, v, w)$ for all nonnegative real numbers t, u, v and w . Throughout this section X and Y will be a real normed linear space and a real Banach space, respectively. We may assume that H is homogeneous of degree p . Given a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$, we set

$$Df(x, y, z) := a^2 f\left(\frac{x+y+z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x-y+z}{a}\right) + a^2 f\left(\frac{x+y-z}{a}\right) \\ + a^2 f\left(\frac{-x+y+z}{a}\right) - 4f(x) - 4f(y) - 4f(z)$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$.

THEOREM 4. Assume that $\delta \geq 0$, $p \in (0, \infty) \setminus \{1\}$ and $\delta = 0$ when $p > 1$. Let an odd function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfy

$$(3.1) \quad \|Df(x, y, z)\| \leq \delta + H(\|x\|, \|y\|, \|z\|)$$

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

$$(3.2) \quad \|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta + \frac{1}{|2-2^p|}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$, where $h(x) = \frac{1}{4}(H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0) + H(\|2x\|, 0, 0))$.

Proof. Note that $f(0) = 0$ and $f(-x) = -f(x)$ for all $x \in X$ since f is an odd function. Putting $y = z = 0$ in (3.1) and then replacing x by $2x$ we have

$$(3.3) \quad \left\| a^2 f\left(\frac{2x}{a}\right) - 2f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}(\delta + H(\|2x\|, 0, 0))$$

for all $x \in X$. Putting $y = x$ and $z = 0$ in (3.1) we have

$$(3.4) \quad \left\| a^2 f\left(\frac{2x}{a}\right) - 4f(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}(\delta + H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0))$$

for all $x \in X$. By (3.3) and (3.4), we have

$$(3.5) \quad \|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta + h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$, where $h(x) = \frac{1}{4}(H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0) + H(\|2x\|, 0, 0))$.

We divide the remaining proof by two cases.

(I) The case $0 < p < 1$. By (3.5), we have

$$(3.6) \quad \left\| f(x) - \frac{f(2x)}{2} \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\delta + \frac{1}{2}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (3.6) we have

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} - \frac{f(2^{n+1} x)}{2^{n+1}} \right\| &= \frac{1}{2^n} \left\| f(2^n x) - \frac{f(2 \cdot 2^n x)}{2} \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^{n+2}}\delta + \frac{1}{2}2^{(p-1)n}h(x) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . By (3.7), we have

$$(3.8) \quad \left\| \frac{f(2^m x)}{2^m} - \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} \right\| \leq \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2^{k+2}}\delta + \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2}2^{(p-1)k}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers m and n with $m < n$. This shows that $\left\{ \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} \right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$ since the right side of (3.8) converges to zero when $m \rightarrow \infty$. Consequently, we can define a mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$A(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n}$$

for all $x \in X$. Since $f(-x) = -f(x)$ for all $x \in X$, we have $A(-x) = -A(x)$ for all $x \in X$. Also, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|DA(x, y, z)\| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{-n} \|Df(2^n x, 2^n y, 2^n z)\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{-n} \delta + 2^{(p-1)n} H(\|x\|, \|y\|, \|z\|) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. By Lemma 2, it follows that A is additive. By (3.6) and (3.7), we have

$$(3.9) \quad \left\| \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n} - f(x) \right\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2^{k+2}} \delta + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2} 2^{(p-1)k} h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . Taking the limit in (3.9) as $n \rightarrow \infty$, we get (3.2).

Now, let $A' : X \rightarrow Y$ be another additive mapping satisfying (3.2). Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|A(x) - A'(x)\| &= 2^{-n} \|A(2^n x) - A'(2^n x)\| \\ &\leq 2^{-n} (\|A(2^n x) - f(2^n x)\| + \|A'(2^n x) - f(2^n x)\|) \\ &\leq 2^{-n} \delta + \frac{2}{|2 - 2^p|} 2^{(p-1)n} h(x) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(2^{-n} \delta + \frac{2}{|2 - 2^p|} 2^{(p-1)n} h(x) \right) = 0,$$

we can conclude that $A(x) = A'(x)$ for all $x \in X$. This proves the uniqueness of A .

(II) The case $p > 1$. Replacing x by $\frac{x}{2}$ in (3.5) we have

$$(3.10) \quad \|2f(2^{-1}x) - f(x)\| \leq 2^{-p} h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (3.10) we have

$$(3.11) \quad \|2^n f(2^{-n}x) - 2^{n+1} f(2^{-(n+1)}x)\| \leq 2^{-p} 2^{(1-p)n} h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . By (3.10) and (3.11), we have

$$\|2^n f(2^{-n}x) - f(x)\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 2^{(1-p)k} 2^{-p} h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . The rest of the proof is similar to the corresponding part of the case $0 < p < 1$. \square

THEOREM 5. *Assume that $\delta \geq 0$, $p \in (0, \infty) \setminus \{2\}$ and $\delta = 0$ when $p > 2$. Let an even function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfy (3.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$ and $f(0) = 0$. Then there exists a unique quadratic function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$(3.12) \quad \|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\delta + \frac{1}{|4 - 2^p|}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$, where $h(x) = \frac{1}{2}H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0) + \frac{1}{4}H(\|2x\|, 0, 0)$.

Proof. Putting $y = x$ and $z = 0$ in (3.1) we have

$$(3.13) \quad \left\| a^2 f\left(\frac{2x}{a}\right) - 4f(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}(\delta + H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0))$$

for all $x \in X$. Putting $y = z = 0$ in (3.1) and then replacing x by $2x$ we have

$$(3.14) \quad \left\| a^2 f\left(\frac{2x}{a}\right) - f(2x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4}(\delta + H(\|2x\|, 0, 0))$$

for all $x \in X$. By (3.13) and (3.14), we have

$$(3.15) \quad \|f(2x) - 4f(x)\| \leq \frac{3}{4}\delta + h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$, where $h(x) = \frac{1}{2}H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0) + \frac{1}{4}H(\|2x\|, 0, 0)$.

We divide the remaining proof by two cases.

(I) The case $0 < p < 2$. By (3.15), we have

$$(3.16) \quad \left\| f(x) - \frac{f(2x)}{4} \right\| \leq \frac{3}{16}\delta + \frac{1}{4}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (3.16) we have

$$(3.17) \quad \begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{f(2^n x)}{4^n} - \frac{f(2^{n+1} x)}{4^{n+1}} \right\| &= \frac{1}{4^n} \left\| f(2^n x) - \frac{f(2 \cdot 2^n x)}{4} \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{3}{16}4^{-n}\delta + \frac{1}{4}2^{(p-2)n}h(x) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . By (3.16) and (3.17), we have

$$(3.18) \quad \left\| \frac{f(2^m x)}{4^m} - \frac{f(2^n x)}{4^n} \right\| \leq \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \frac{3}{16}4^{-k}\delta + \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \frac{1}{4}2^{(p-2)k}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$ and all nonnegative integers m and n with $m < n$. This shows that $\left\{ \frac{f(2^n x)}{4^n} \right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$. Consequently, we can define a function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$Q(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{4^n}$$

for all $x \in X$. We have $Q(0) = 0$, $Q(-x) = Q(x)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \|DQ(x, y, z)\| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^{-n} \|Df(2^n x, 2^n y, 2^n z)\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (4^{-n} \delta + 2^{(p-2)n} H(\|x\|, \|y\|, \|z\|)) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. By Lemma 1, it follows that Q is quadratic. Putting $m = 0$ in (3.18) and letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ we have (3.12). The proof of the uniqueness of Q is similar to the proof of Theorem 4.

(II) The case $p > 2$. Replacing x by $\frac{x}{2}$ in (3.15) we have

$$(3.19) \quad \|4f(2^{-1}x) - f(x)\| \leq 2^{-p}h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (3.19) we have

$$(3.20) \quad \|4^n f(2^{-n}x) - 4^{n+1} f(2^{-(n+1)}x)\| \leq 2^{-p} 2^{(2-p)n} h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. By (3.19) and (3.20), we have

$$\|4^n f(2^{-n}x) - f(x)\| \leq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 2^{(2-p)k} 2^{-p} h(x)$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . The rest of the proof is similar to the corresponding part of the case $p < 2$. \square

THEOREM 6. *Let $\delta \geq 0$ and $p \in (0, \infty) \setminus \{1, 2\}$. Assume that $\delta = 0$ if $p > 1$ and $\|(a^2 - 3)f(0)\| = 0$ if $p > 2$. If a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfy (3.1) for all $x, y, z \in X$, then there exist a unique quadratic function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ and a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that*

$$(3.21) \quad \begin{aligned} &\|f(x) - f(0) - Q(x) - A(x)\| \\ &\leq \frac{3}{4}\delta + \|(a^2 - 3)f(0)\| + \frac{1}{|4 - 2p|}h_1(x) + \frac{1}{|2 - 2p|}h_2(x), \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.22) \quad \left\| \frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2} - f(0) - Q(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\delta + \|(a^2 - 3)f(0)\| + \frac{1}{|4 - 2^p|}h_1(x),$$

and

$$(3.23) \quad \left\| \frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2} - A(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta + \frac{1}{|2 - 2^p|}h_2(x)$$

for all $x \in X$, where $h_1(x) = \frac{1}{2}H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0) + \frac{1}{4}H(\|2x\|, 0, 0)$ and $h_2(x) = \frac{1}{4}(H(\|x\|, \|x\|, 0) + H(\|2x\|, 0, 0))$.

Proof. Let $q_1(x) := \frac{1}{2}(f(x) + f(-x))$ for all $x \in X$. Then $q_1(0) = f(0)$, $q_1(-x) = q_1(x)$ and

$$\|Dq_1(x, y, z)\| \leq \delta + H(\|x\|, \|y\|, \|z\|)$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$.

Let $q(x) := q_1(x) - q_1(0)$ for all $x \in X$. Then $q(0) = 0$, $q(-x) = q(x)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \|Dq(x, y, z)\| &= \|Dq_1(x, y, z) - (4a^2 - 12)q_1(0)\| \\ &\leq \|Dq_1(x, y, z)\| + \|(4a^2 - 12)q_1(0)\| \\ &\leq \delta + \|(4a^2 - 12)f(0)\| + H(\|x\|, \|y\|, \|z\|) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. By Theorem 5, there exists a unique quadratic function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying (3.22).

Let $g(x) := \frac{1}{2}(f(x) - f(-x))$ for all $x \in X$. Then $g(-x) = -g(x)$ and

$$\|Dg(x, y, z)\| \leq \delta + H(\|x\|, \|y\|, \|z\|)$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. By Theorem 4, there exists a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfying (3.23). Clearly, we have (3.21) for all $x \in X$. \square

Define a function $H : \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ by $H(a, b, c) = (a^p + b^p + c^p)\theta$ where $\theta \geq 0$ and $p \in (0, \infty)$. Then H is homogeneous of degree p . Thus we have the following corollaries.

COROLLARY 7. Assume that $\delta \geq 0$, $p \in (0, \infty) \setminus \{1\}$ and $\delta = 0$ when $p > 1$. Let an odd function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfy

$$\|Df(x, y, z)\| \leq \delta + \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|z\|^p)$$

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

$$\|f(x) - A(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta + \frac{2 + 2^p}{4|2 - 2^p|}\theta\|x\|^p$$

for all $x \in X$.

COROLLARY 8. Assume that $\delta \geq 0$, $p \in (0, \infty) \setminus \{2\}$ and $\delta = 0$ when $p > 2$. Let an even function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfy

$$\|Df(x, y, z)\| \leq \delta + \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|z\|^p)$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$ and $f(0) = 0$. Then there exists a unique quadratic function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\delta + \frac{4 + 2^p}{4|4 - 2^p|}\theta\|x\|^p$$

for all $x \in X$.

COROLLARY 9. Let $\delta \geq 0$ and $p \in (0, \infty) \setminus \{1, 2\}$. Assume that $\delta = 0$ if $p > 1$ and $\|(a^2 - 3)f(0)\| = 0$ if $p > 2$. If a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfy

$$\|Df(x, y, z)\| \leq \delta + \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|z\|^p)$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$, then there exist a unique quadratic function $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ and a unique additive mapping $A : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|f(x) - f(0) - Q(x) - A(x)\| \\ & \leq \frac{3}{4}\delta + \|(a^2 - 3)f(0)\| + \left(\frac{4 + 2^p}{4|4 - 2^p|} + \frac{2 + 2^p}{4|2 - 2^p|} \right) \theta\|x\|^p, \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\| \frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2} - f(0) - Q(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4}\delta + \|(a^2 - 3)f(0)\| + \frac{4 + 2^p}{4|4 - 2^p|}\theta\|x\|^p,$$

and

$$\left\| \frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2} - A(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta + \frac{2 + 2^p}{4|2 - 2^p|}\theta\|x\|^p$$

for all $x \in X$.

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SANG HAN LEE, DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES, CHUNGBUK PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, OKCHEON 373-807, KOREA
E-mail: shlee@ctech.ac.kr

KIL-WOUNG JUN, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, CHUNGNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, TAEJEON 305-764, KOREA
E-mail: kwjun@math.chungnam.ac.kr