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# HYERS-ULAM-RASSIAS STABILITY OF A QUADRATIC-CUBIC-QUARTIC FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we investigate Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of a functional equation

$$f(x+ky) + f(x-ky) - k^2 f(x+y) - k^2 f(x-y) + 2(k^2-1)f(x) + (k^2+k^3)f(y) + (k^2-k^3)f(-y) - 2f(ky) = 0.$$

## 1. Introduction

Let V and W be real normed spaces, Y a real Banach space, and k a fixed real number with  $|k| \neq 1$ . In this paper, the following abbreviations are used for a given mapping  $f: V \to W$ :

$$\begin{aligned} Qf(x,y) &:= f(x+y) + f(x-y) - 2f(x) - 2!f(y), \\ Cf(x,y) &:= f(x+2y) - 3f(x+y) + 3f(x) - f(x-y) - 3!f(y), \\ Q'f(x,y) &:= f(x+2y) - 4f(x+y) + 6f(x) - 4f(x-y) + f(x-2y) \\ &- 4!f(y), \\ D_k f(x,y) &:= f(x+ky) + f(x-ky) - k^2 f(x+y) - k^2 f(x-y) \\ &+ 2(k^2 - 1)f(x) + (k^2 + k^3)f(y) + (k^2 - k^3)f(-y) - 2f(ky) \end{aligned}$$

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for all  $x, y \in V$ . All solutions of the functional equations Qf(x, y) = 0, Cf(x, y) = 0, and Q'f(x, y) = 0 are called a quadratic mapping, a cubic mapping, and a quartic mapping, respectively. If a mapping can be represented by the sum of a quadratic mapping, a cubic mapping and a quartic mapping, we call the mapping a quadratic-cubic-quartic mapping. When each solution of a functional equation is a quadratic-cubicquartic mapping and all quadratic-cubic-quartic mapping is a solution of that equation, the functional equation is called a quadratic-cubicquartic functional equation. Gordji *et al.* [4] investigated the stability of the quadratic-cubic-quartic functional equation

$$f(x+ny) + f(x-ny) - n^2 f(x+y) - n^2 f(x-y) - 2(1-n^2)f(x) - \frac{n^2(n^2-1)}{6}(f(2y) + 2f(-y) - 6f(y)) = 0$$

in non-Archimedean normed spaces, when n is a fixed integer.

In 1940, Ulam [6] questioned the stability of group homomorphisms, and in 1941 Hyers [3] showed the stability of the Cauchy additive functional equation as a partial answer to that question. In 1978, Rassias [5] made Hyers' result generalized and Găvruta [2] more generalized Rassias' result. The concept of stability shown by Rassias is called 'Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability'.

In this paper, we will show that the functional equation  $D_r f(x, y) = 0$ is a quadratic-cubic-quartic functional equation when r is a rational number. And also we prove the Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of the functional equation  $D_k f(x, y) = 0$  when k is a real number.

# 2. Main results

The following theorem is a special case of Baker's theorem [1].

THEOREM 2.1. (Theorem 1 in [1]) Suppose that V and W are vector spaces over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\alpha_0, \beta_0, \ldots, \alpha_m, \beta_m$  are scalar such that  $\alpha_j \beta_l - \alpha_l \beta_j \neq 0$  whenever  $0 \leq j < l \leq m$ . If  $f_l : V \to W$  for  $0 \leq l \leq m$  and

$$\sum_{l=0}^{m} f_l(\alpha_l x + \beta_l y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in V$ , then each  $f_l$  is a generalized polynomial mapping of degree at most m - 1.

Baker [1] stated that if f is a generalized polynomial mapping of degree at most m-1, then f is expressed as  $f(x) = x_0 + \sum_{l=1}^{m-1} a_l^*(x)$  for  $x \in V$ , where  $a_l^*$  is a monomial mapping of degree l and  $a_l^*$  has a property  $a_l^*(rx) = r^l a_l^*(x)$  for  $x \in V$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

Suppose that g, f', h are generalized polynomial mappings of degree at most 4 and r is a rational number such that  $r \neq 0, \pm 1$ . Baker [1] also stated that if the equalities  $g(rx) = r^2g(x), f'(rx) = r^3f'(x)$  and  $h(rx) = r^4h(x)$  hold for all  $x \in V$ , then g, f' and h are a quadratic mapping, a cubic mapping and a quartic mapping, respectively.

Now we will show that the functional equation  $D_r f(x, y) = 0$  is a quadratic-cubic-quartic functional equation when r is a rational number such that  $r \neq 0, \pm 1$ .

The following abbreviations are used in this section for convenience.

$$\begin{split} f_o(x) &:= \frac{f(x) - f(-x)}{2}, \quad f_e(x) := \frac{f(x) + f(-x)}{2}, \\ \Delta f(x) &:= \frac{1}{k^4 - k^2} [-D_k f_e((k+2)x, x) - D_k f_e((k-2)x, x) \\ &- 4D_k f_e((k+1)x, x) - 4D_k f_e((k-1)x, x) + 10D_k f_e(kx, x) \\ &+ D_k f_e(2x, 2x) + 4D_k f_e(x, 2x) - k^2 D_k f_e(3x, x) \\ &- 2(k^2 + 1)D_k f_e(2x, x) + (17k^2 - 8)D_k f_e(x, x)] \\ &+ \frac{(17k^2 + 10)D_k f(0, 0)}{2k^2(k^2 - 1)} \end{split}$$

for all  $x, y \in V$ .

THEOREM 2.2. Let r be a rational number such that  $r \neq 0, \pm 1$ . A mapping f satisfies the functional equation  $D_r f(x, y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in V$  if and only if f is a quadratic-cubic-quartic mapping.

Proof. Assume that the mapping  $f: V \to W$  satisfies the functional equation  $D_r f(x, y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in V$ , and g, h are the mappings defined as  $g(x) = \frac{-f_e(2x)+16f_e(x)}{12}$  and  $h(x) = \frac{f_e(2x)-4f_e(x)}{12}$ . Then the equalities  $f(0) = \frac{D_r f(0,0)}{2(r^2-1)} = 0$ ,  $\Delta f(x) = 0$ ,  $D_r f_o(x, y) = 0$ ,  $D_r g(x, y) = 0$ and  $D_r h(x, y) = 0$  hold for all  $x, y \in V$ , and  $f_o, g$  and h are generalized polynomial mappings of degree at most 4 by Theorem 2.1. We can see that the mappings  $f_o, g$  and h satisfy the properties g(2x) = 4g(x),

 $h(2x) = 2^4 h(x)$  and  $f_o(rx) - r^3 f_o(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in V$ , since the equalities

(1) 
$$f_e(4x) - 20f_e(2x) + 64f_e(x) = \Delta f(x),$$
$$f_o(rx) - r^3 f_o(x) = \frac{-D_r f(0, x)}{2}$$

hold for all  $x \in V$ . Therefore, according to Baker's comment before this theorem, g,  $f_o$  and h are a quadratic mapping, a cubic mapping and a quartic mapping, respectively. From  $f = f_o + g + h$ , f is a quadratic-cubic-quartic mapping.

Conversely, assume that f is a quadratic-cubic-quartic mapping, i.e., there exist a quadratic mapping g, a cubic mapping f' and a quartic mapping h such that f = f' + g + h. Notice that the equalities f'(rx) = $r^3f'(x), f'(x) = -f'(-x), g(rx) = r^2g(x), g(x) = g(-x), h(rx) =$  $r^4h(x)$ , and h(x) = h(-x) hold for all  $x \in V$  and  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

The equality  $D_r g(x, y) = 0$  is deduced from the equality

$$D_rg(x,y) = Qg(x,ry) - r^2 Qg(x,y)$$

for all  $x, y \in V$ . In order to prove that  $D_r f'(x, y) = 0$  and  $D_r h(x, y) = 0$ when r is a rational number, let us first see that  $D_r f'(x, y) = 0$  and  $D_n h(x, y) = 0$  when n is a natural number. Using mathematical induction, the equalities  $D_r f'(x, y) = 0$  and  $D_n h(x, y) = 0$  are obtained from the equalities

$$D_{1}f'(x,y) = 0, \qquad D_{1}h(x,y) = 0,$$
  

$$D_{2}f'(x,y) = Cf'(x,y) - Cf'(x-y,y), \quad D_{2}h(x,y) = Q'h(x,y),$$
  

$$D_{n}f'(x,y) = D_{n-1}f'(x+y,y) + D_{n-1}f'(x-y,y) - D_{n-2}f'(x,y) + (n-1)^{2}D_{2}f'(x,y),$$
  

$$D_{n}h(x,y) = D_{n-1}h(x+y,y) + D_{n-1}h(x-y,y) - D_{n-2}h(x,y) + (n-1)^{2}D_{2}h(x,y)$$

for all  $x, y \in V$  and all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let us now see that  $D_r f'(x, y) = 0$  and  $D_r h(x, y) = 0$  hold when r is a rational number such that  $r \neq 0, \pm 1$ . Notice that if  $r \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}$ , then there exist  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $r = \frac{n}{m}$  or  $r = \frac{-n}{m}$ . Since the equalities  $D_{\frac{n}{m}} f'(x, y) = 0$ ,  $D_{\frac{-n}{m}} f'(x, y) = 0$ ,

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 $D_{\frac{n}{m}}h(x,y)=0$  and  $D_{\frac{-n}{m}}h(x,y)=0$  are deduced from the equalities

$$D_{\frac{n}{m}}f'(x,y) = D_n f'\left(x,\frac{y}{m}\right) - \frac{n^2}{m^2} D_m f'\left(x,\frac{y}{m}\right),$$
  

$$D_{\frac{-n}{m}}f'(x,y) = D_{\frac{n}{m}}f'(x,y),$$
  

$$D_{\frac{n}{m}}h(x,y) = D_n h\left(x,\frac{y}{m}\right) - \frac{n^2}{m^2} D_m h\left(x,\frac{y}{m}\right),$$
  

$$D_{\frac{-n}{m}}h(x,y) = D_{\frac{n}{m}}h(x,y)$$

for all  $x, y \in V$  and  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ , we conclude that  $D_r f'(x, y) = 0$  and  $D_r h(x, y) = 0$  hold for all  $x, y \in V$ .

For a given mapping  $f: V \to W$  and a real number  $p \neq 2, 3, 4$ , let  $J_n f: V \to W$  be the mappings defined as  $J_n f(x) :=$ 

$$\begin{split} k^{3n} f_o(k^{-n}x) &+ \frac{4^{2n+1}-4^n}{3} f_e(2^{-n}x) - \frac{4^{2n+2}-4^{n+2}}{3} f_e(2^{-n-1}x) & \text{if } p > 4, \\ k^{3n} f_o(k^{-n}x) &- \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \left( f_e(2^{-n+1}x) - 16 f_e(2^{-n}x) \right) \\ &+ \frac{f_e(2^{n+1}x) - 4 f_e(2^nx)}{12 \cdot 16^n} & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in V$  and all nonnegative integers n when 1 < |k|, and  $J_n f(x) :=$ 

$$\begin{cases} \frac{f_o(k^n x)}{k^{3n}} + \frac{4^{2n+1} - 4^n}{3} f_e(2^{-n} x) - \frac{4^{2n+2} - 4^{n+2}}{3} f_e(2^{-n-1} x) & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \frac{f_o(k^n x)}{k^{3n}} - \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \left( f_e(2^{-n+1} x) - 16 f_e(2^{-n} x) \right) \\ + \frac{f_e(2^{n+1} x) - 4 f_e(2^n x)}{12 \cdot 16^n} & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in V$  and all nonnegative integers n when 0 < |k| < 1. By the definition of  $J_n f$  and (1), we can calculate that  $J_n f(x) - J_{n+1} f(x) =$ 

(2) 
$$\begin{cases} \frac{-k^{3n}}{2} D_k f(0, \frac{x}{k^{n+1}}) + \frac{4^n (4^{n+1}-1)}{3} \Delta f\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+2}}\right) & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \frac{-k^{3n}}{2} D_k f(0, \frac{x}{k^{n+1}}) - \frac{1}{192 \cdot 16^n} \Delta f\left(2^n x\right) - \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \Delta f\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}} x\right) \\ & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in V$  and all nonnegative integers n when 1 < |k|, and  $J_n f(x) - J_{n+1}f(x) =$ 

(3) 
$$\begin{cases} \frac{D_k f(0, k^n x)}{2k^{3n+3}} + \frac{4^n (4^{n+1}-1)}{3} \Delta f(2^{-n-2}x) & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \frac{D_k f(0, k^n x)}{2k^{3n+3}} - \frac{1}{192 \cdot 16^n} \Delta f(2^n x) - \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \Delta f(2^{-n-1}x) & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in V$  and all nonnegative integers n when 0 < |k| < 1. Therefore, together with the equality  $f(x) - J_n f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (J_i f(x) - J_{i+1} f(x))$  for all  $x \in V$ , we obtain the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.3. If  $f: V \to W$  is a mapping such that

$$D_k f(x, y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in V$ , then

$$J_n f(x) = f(x)$$

for all  $x \in V$  and all positive integers n.

From Lemma 2.3, we can prove the following stability theorem.

THEOREM 2.4. Let X be a real normed space, Y a real Banach space, and p a positive real number with  $p \neq 2, 3, 4$ . Suppose that  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a mapping such that

(4) 
$$||D_k f(x,y)|| \le \theta(||x||^p + ||y||^p)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then there exists a unique solution mapping F of the functional equation  $D_k F(x, y) = 0$  such that

(5)

$$\|f(x) - F(x)\| \leq \begin{cases} \frac{\theta \|x\|^p}{2||k|^3 - |k|^p|} + \frac{K\theta \|x\|^p}{3 \cdot 2^p} \left(\frac{4}{2^p - 16} - \frac{1}{2^p - 4}\right) & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \frac{\theta \|x\|^p}{2||k|^3 - |k|^p|} + \frac{K\theta \|x\|^p}{12} \left(\frac{1}{16 - 2^p} + \frac{1}{2^p - 4}\right) & \text{if } 3$$

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for all  $x \in X$ , where

$$K = \frac{37k^2 + 42 + (2k^2 + 8)2^p + k^2 3^p + 10|k|^p + 4|k-1|^p}{|k^4 - k^2|} + \frac{4|k+1|^p + |k-2|^p + |k+2|^p}{|k^4 - k^2|}.$$

*Proof.* We prove this theorem by dividing it into two cases, |k| < 1 and 1 < |k|.

Let us first prove the case of 1 < |k|. From the definition of  $\Delta f$  and (3), we have

$$\begin{split} \|\Delta f(x)\| &= \left\| \frac{1}{k^4 - k^2} [-D_k f_e((k+2)x, x) - D_k f_e((k-2)x, x) - 4D_k f_e((k-1)x, x) + 10D_k f_e(kx, x) + D_k f_e((k+1)x, x) - 4D_k f_e((k-1)x, x) + 10D_k f_e(kx, x) + D_k f_e(2x, 2x) + 4D_k f_e(x, 2x) - k^2 D_k f_e(3x, x) - 2(k^2 + 1)D_k f_e(2x, x) + (17k^2 - 8)D_k f_e(x, x)] + \frac{(17k^2 + 10)D_k f(0, 0)}{2k^2(k^2 - 1)} \right\| \\ (6) &\leq K \|x\|^p \end{split}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . It follows from (2) and (4) that  $||J_n f(x) - J_{n+1} f(x)|| \le$ 

$$\begin{cases} \left(\frac{|k|^{3n}}{2 \cdot |k|^{(n+1)p}} + \frac{4^n (4^{n+1}-1)K}{3 \cdot 2^{(n+2)p}}\right) \theta \|x\|^p & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \left(\frac{|k|^{3n}}{2 \cdot |k|^{(n+1)p}} + \frac{2^{np}K}{12 \cdot 16^{n+1}} + \frac{4^{n-1}K}{3 \cdot 2^{(n+1)p}}\right) \theta \|x\|^p & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Together with the equality  $J_n f(x) - J_{n+m} f(x) = \sum_{i=n}^{n+m-1} (J_i f(x) - J_{i+1} f(x))$  for all  $x \in X$ , we get  $||J_n f(x) - J_{n+m} f(x)|| \le 1$ 

$$(7) \qquad \sum_{i=n}^{n+m-1} \begin{cases} \left(\frac{|k|^{3i}}{2\cdot|k|^{(i+1)p}} + \frac{4^{i}(4^{i+1}-1)K}{3\cdot2^{(i+2)p}}\right)\theta \|x\|^{p} & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \left(\frac{|k|^{3i}}{2\cdot|k|^{(i+1)p}} + \frac{2^{ip}K}{12\cdot16^{i+1}} + \frac{4^{i-1}K}{3\cdot2^{(i+1)p}}\right)\theta \|x\|^{p} & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $n, m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . It follows from (7) that the sequence  $\{J_n f(x)\}$  is a Cauchy sequence for all  $x \in X$ . Since Y is complete, the sequence  $\{J_n f(x)\}$  converges for all  $x \in X$ . Hence we can define a mapping  $F: X \to Y$  by

$$F(x) := \lim_{n \to \infty} J_n f(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Moreover, letting n = 0 and passing the limit  $n \to \infty$  in (7) we get the inequality (5). For the case 2 , from the definition of <math>F, we easily get

$$\begin{split} \|D_k F(x,y)\| &= \lim_{n \to \infty} \left\| \frac{1}{2 \cdot k^{3n}} \left( D_k f\left(k^n x, k^n y\right) - D_k f\left(-k^n x, -k^n y\right) \right) \\ &+ \frac{4^n}{12} \left( -D_k f_e\left(\frac{2x}{2^n}, \frac{2y}{2^n}\right) + 16D_k f_e\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right) \\ &+ \frac{D_k f_e\left(2^{n+1} x, 2^{n+1} y\right) - 4D_k f_e\left(2^n x, 2^n y\right)}{12 \cdot 16^n} \right\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( \frac{k^{np}}{k^{3n}} + \frac{4^n (2^p + 16)}{12 \cdot 2^{np}} + \frac{2^{np} (2^p + 4)}{12 \cdot 16^n} \right) \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p) \\ &= 0 \end{split}$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Also we easily show that  $D_k F(x, y) = 0$  by the similar method for the other cases, either 0 or <math>3 or <math>4 < p.

To prove the uniqueness of F, let  $F': X \to Y$  be another solution mapping satisfying (5). Instead of the condition (5), it is sufficient to show that there is a unique mapping that satisfies condition  $||f(x) - F(x)|| \leq \frac{\theta ||x||^p}{2||k|^3 - |k|^p|} + \frac{K\theta ||x||^p}{12} \left(\frac{1}{|16 - 2^p|} + \frac{1}{|4 - 2^p|}\right)$  simply. Notice that  $||f(x) - F(x)|| = ||f_e(x) - F_e(x)|| = ||f_o(x) - F_o(x)||$  and  $F'(x) = J_n F'(x)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  by Lemma 2.3.

For the case 3 , we have

$$\begin{split} \|J_n f(x) - F'(x)\| \\ &= \|J_n f(x) - J_n F'(x)\| \\ &= \left\| k^{3n} f_o(k^{-n} x) - \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \left( f_e(2^{-n+1} x) - 16 f_e(2^{-n} x) \right) \right. \\ &+ \frac{f_e(2^{n+1} x) - 4 f_e(2^n x)}{12 \cdot 16^n} - k^{3n} F'_o(k^{-n} x) \\ &+ \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \left( F'_e(2^{-n+1} x) - 16 F'_e(2^{-n} x) \right) - \frac{F'_e(2^{n+1} x) - 4 F'_e(2^n x)}{12 \cdot 16^n} \right\| \\ &\leq |k|^{3n} \|(f_o - F'_o)(k^{-n} x)\| + \frac{\|(f_e - F'_e)(2^n x)\|}{3 \cdot 16^n} + \frac{\|(f_e - F'_e)(2^{n+1} x)\|}{12 \cdot 16^n} \\ &+ \frac{4^{n-1}}{3} \|(f_e - F'_e)(2^{-n+1} x)\| + \frac{4^{n+1}}{3} \|(f_e - F'_e)(2^{-n} x)\| \\ &\leq \left( \frac{|k|^{3n}}{|k|^{np}} + \frac{2^{np}}{3 \cdot 16^n} + \frac{4 \cdot 2^{(n+1)p}}{3 \cdot 16^{n+1}} + \frac{4^{n-1}}{3 \cdot 2^{(n-1)p}} + \frac{4^{n+1}}{3 \cdot 2^{np}} \right) \times \\ &\left( \frac{1}{2||k|^3 - |k|^p|} + \frac{K}{12|16 - 2^p|} + \frac{K}{12|4 - 2^p|} \right) \theta \|x\|^p \end{split}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all positive integers n. Taking the limit in the above inequality as  $n \to \infty$ , we can conclude that  $F'(x) = \lim_{n\to\infty} J_n f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . For the other cases, either 0 or <math>2 or <math>4 < p, we also easily show that  $F'(x) = \lim_{n\to\infty} J_n f(x)$  by the similar method. This means that F(x) = F'(x) for all  $x \in X$ .

Now consider the case of |k| < 1, which has not yet been proven. From (3), (4), (6) and the definition of  $J_n f$ , we have  $||J_n f(x) - J_{n+m} f(x)|| \le 1$ 

$$\sum_{i=n}^{n+m-1} \begin{cases} \left(\frac{|k|^{ip}}{2\cdot|k|^{3(i+1)}} + \frac{4^{i}(4^{i+1}-1)}{3\cdot2^{(i+2)p}}K\right)\theta \|x\|^{p} & \text{if } p > 4, \\ \left(\frac{|k|^{ip}}{2\cdot|k|^{3(i+1)}} + \frac{2^{ip}K}{12\cdot16^{i+1}} + \frac{4^{i-1}K}{3\cdot2^{(i+1)p}}\right)\theta \|x\|^{p} & \text{if } 3$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $n, m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . The remainder of the proof in the case of 0 < |k| < 1, derived from the above inequality, is omitted because it proceeds very similar to the case of 1 < |k|.

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