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A GENERAL GENERALIZATION OF JORDAN'S INEQUALITY AND A REFINEMENT OF L. YANG'S INEQUALITY

FENG QI, DA-WEI NIU, AND JIAN CAO

ABSTRACT. In this article, for $t \geq 2$, a general generalization of Jordan's inequality $\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mu_k \ \theta^t - x^{t-k} \leq \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k \ \theta^t - x^{t-k}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\theta \in (0, \pi]$ is established, where the coefficients μ_k and ω_k defined by recursing formulas (11) and (12) are the best possible. As an application, L. Yang's inequality is refined.

1. INTRODUCTION

The well known Jordan's inequality (see [2, 6], [4, p. 143], [8, p. 269] and [11, p. 33]) states that

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \le \frac{\sin x}{x} < 1 \tag{1}$$

for $0 < |x| \le \frac{\pi}{2}$. The equality in (1) is valid if and only if $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Jordan's inequality has important applications in analysis and other branches of mathematics. Therefore, many mathematicians have struggled to refine, generalize and apply it. For more detailed information, please refer to [8, pp. 274–275] and [1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33], especially [15], and the references therein.

In [1, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19], among other things, Jordan's inequality had been refined as

$$\frac{1}{\pi^3}x(\pi^2 - 4x^2) \le \sin x - \frac{2}{\pi}x \le \frac{\pi - 2}{\pi^3}x(\pi^2 - 4x^2).$$
(2)

In [33], a stronger sharp double inequality for $x \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ was obtained:

$$\frac{12-\pi^2}{16\pi^5} \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^2 \le \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{1}{\pi^3} \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right) \le \frac{\pi - 3}{\pi^5} \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^2.$$
(3)

Recently in [12], the following general refinement of Jordan's inequality was showed:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha_k \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^k \le \frac{\sin x}{x} \le \frac{2}{\pi} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_k \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^k,\tag{4}$$

where the constants

$$\alpha_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{(4\pi)^k k!} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^i c_{i-1}^k \sin\left(\frac{k+i}{2}\pi\right)$$
(5)

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spital's rule, refinement, application.

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$$\beta_k = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \frac{2}{\pi} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \alpha_i \pi^{2i}}{\pi^{2n}}, & k = n\\ \alpha_k, & 1 \le k < n \end{cases}$$
(6)

with

$$c_i^k = \begin{cases} (i+k-1)c_{i-1}^{k-1} + c_i^{k-1}, & 0 < i \le k\\ 1, & i = 0 \end{cases}$$
(7)

in (4) are the best possible.

In [26], as a generalization of Jordan's inequality (1), the following sharp inequality

$$\frac{1}{2\tau^{2}} \left[(1+\lambda) \left(\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \cos\theta \right) - \theta \sin\theta \right] \left(1 - \frac{x^{\tau}}{\theta^{\tau}} \right)^{2} \\
\leq \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \left(\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \cos\theta \right) \left(1 - \frac{x^{\lambda}}{\theta^{\lambda}} \right) \\
\leq \left[1 - \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \left(\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \cos\theta \right) \right] \left(1 - \frac{x^{\tau}}{\theta^{\tau}} \right)^{2} \quad (8)$$

was obtained for $0 < x \le \theta \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2}], \tau \ge 2$ and $\tau \le \lambda \le 2\tau$. The equalities in (8) holds if and only if $x = \theta$. The coefficients of the term $\left(1 - \frac{x^{\tau}}{\theta^{\tau}}\right)^2$ are the best possible. If $1 \le \tau \le \frac{5}{3}$ and either $\lambda \ne 0$ or $\lambda \ge 2\tau$ then inequality (8) is reversed. Specially, when $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$, inequality (8) becomes

$$\frac{4\lambda+4-\pi^2}{4\tau^2\pi^{2\tau+1}}\left(\pi^{\tau}-2^{\tau}x^{\tau}\right)^2 \leq \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{2}{\lambda\pi^{\lambda+1}}\left(\pi^{\lambda}-2^{\lambda}x^{\lambda}\right)$$
$$\leq \frac{\lambda\pi-2\lambda-2}{\lambda\pi^{2\tau+1}}\left(\pi^{\tau}-2^{\tau}x^{\tau}\right)^2 \quad (9)$$

for $0 < x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$, $\tau \geq 2$ and $\tau \leq \lambda \leq 2\tau$. If $1 \leq \tau \leq \frac{5}{3}$ and either $\lambda \neq 0$ or $\lambda \geq 2\tau$ then inequality (9) is reversed. If taking $(\tau, \lambda) = (2, 2)$ in (9), then inequality (3) can be deduced.

For recent developments of the refinements, generalizations and applications of Jordan's inequality, please refer to the expository and summary article [15].

The first aim of this paper is to generalize inequalities (4) and (8). One of the main results of this paper is the following Theorem 1.

Theorem 1. For $0 < x \le \theta < \pi$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $t \ge 2$, inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mu_k \left(\theta^t - x^t\right)^k \le \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \le \sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k \left(\theta^t - x^t\right)^k \tag{10}$$

holds with the equalities if and only if $x = \theta$, where the constants

$$\mu_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{k!t^k} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_{i-1}^k \theta^{k-i-kt} \sin\left(\theta + \frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right)$$
(11)

and

$$\omega_k = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mu_i \theta^{ii}}{\theta^{tn}}, & k = n\\ \mu_k, & 1 \le k < n \end{cases}$$
(12)

with

$$a_i^k = \begin{cases} a_i^{k-1} + [i + (k-1)(t-1)]a_{i-1}^{k-1}, & 0 < i \le k \\ 1, & i = 0 \\ 0, & i > k \end{cases}$$
(13)

in (10) are the best possible.

Remark 1. Taking t = 2 in (10) yields inequality (4). Letting n = 2 in (10) leads to (8) for $\lambda = \tau = 2$.

The second aim of this paper is to apply Theorem 1 to refine L. Yang's inequality [27] as follows.

Theorem 2. Let $0 \le \lambda \le 1$, $0 < x \le \theta < \pi$, $t \ge 2$ and $A_i > 0$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \le \pi$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \ge 2$, then

$$L_m(n,\lambda) \le H(n,\lambda) \le R_m(n,\lambda),\tag{14}$$

where

$$L_m(n,\lambda) = \binom{n}{2} \lambda^2 \pi^2 \left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{-kt} \mu_k \left(2^t \theta^t - \lambda^t \pi^t \right)^k \right]^2 \cos^2 \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} \pi \right), \tag{15}$$

$$H(n,\lambda) = (n-1)\sum_{k=1}^{n} \cos^2(\lambda A_k) - 2\cos(\lambda \pi)\sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} \cos(\lambda A_i)\cos(\lambda A_j), \quad (16)$$

$$R_m(n,\lambda) = \binom{n}{2}\lambda^2\pi^2 \left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{-kt}\omega_k \left(2^t\theta^t - \lambda^t\pi^t\right)^k\right]^2 \cos^2\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right),\tag{17}$$

and μ_k and ω_k are defined by (11).

2. Lemmas

To prove our main results, the following lemmas are necessary.

Lemma 1. For x > 0, let $u_0(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$ and $u_k(x) = \frac{u'_{k-1}(x)}{x^r}$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \ge 1$. Then

$$u_k(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \frac{a_{i-1}^k \sin\left(x + \frac{i+k-1}{2}\pi\right)}{x^{kr+i}},$$
(18)

where a_i^k is defined by (13).

Proof. It is apparent that $u_1(x) = x^{-r} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x}\right)' = x^{-1-r} \cos x - x^{-2-r} \sin x$, which tells us that formula (18) is valid for k = 1.

Now assume formula (18) holds for some given k > 1. Direct computation by using (13) gives

$$u_{k+1} = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_{i-1}^k \left[\frac{1}{x^{kr+i+r}} \cos\left(x + \frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right) \right]$$

$$\begin{split} &-\frac{1}{x^{kr+i+r+1}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right)\Big]\\ &=\frac{a_0^k}{x^{kr+r+1}}\cos\left(x+\frac{k}{2}\pi\right) - \frac{(kr+k+1)a_k^k}{x^{kr+r+k+2}}\sin(x+k\pi)\\ &-\sum_{i=0}^{k-1}\frac{a_i^k(kr+1+i)+a_{i+1}^k}{x^{kr+r+i+2}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i}{2}\pi\right)\\ &=\frac{a_0^{k+1}}{x^{kr+r+1}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+1}{2}\pi\right) + \frac{a_{k+1}^{k+1}}{x^{kr+r+k+2}}\sin[x+(k+1)\pi]\\ &+\sum_{i=0}^{k-1}\frac{a_{i+1}^{k+1}}{x^{kr+r+i+2}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i+2}{2}\pi\right)\\ &=\sum_{i=1}^{k+2}\frac{a_{i-1}^{k+1}}{x^{kr+i+r}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i}{2}\pi\right). \end{split}$$

By mathematical induction, Lemma 1 is proved.

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Lemma 2. For x > 0 and $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let $v_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_{i-1}^k x^{k-i+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right)$ and $v_{j+1}(x) = \frac{1}{x} v'_j(x)$ for $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$v_j(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-j+1} b_i^j x^{k-i-j+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j-1}{2}\pi\right)$$
(19)

is valid for $j \in \mathbb{N}$, where $b_i^1 = a_i^k$, $b_0^j = 1$ and

$$b_i^j = b_i^{j-1} - (k - i - j + 3)b_{i-1}^{j-1}, \qquad 0 < i \le k - j + 1, \quad j > 1.$$
(20)

Proof. When j = 1, formula (19) is valid clearly.

By induction, suppose that formula (19) holds for some j > 1. Since k - j + 1 > k - (j + 1) + 1, it deduced from (20) that $b_{k-j+1}^{j+1} = b_{k-j+1}^j - b_{k-j}^j = 0$. Thus,

$$\begin{split} v_{j+1}(x) &= \frac{1}{x} \Biggl\{ \sum_{i=0}^{k-j} b_i^j \Biggl[(k-i-j+1)x^{k-i-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j-1}{2}\pi\right) \\ &+ x^{k-i-j+1} \cos\left(x + \frac{k+i+j-1}{2}\pi\right) \Biggr] + b_{k-j+1}^j \cos(x+k\pi) \Biggr\} \\ &= b_0^j x^{k-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+j}{2}\pi\right) \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^{k-j-1} \Bigl[b_{i+1}^j - (k-i-j+1)b_i^j \Bigr] x^{k-i-j+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j+1}{2}\pi\right) \\ &= b_0^j x^{k-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+j}{2}\pi\right) + \sum_{i=0}^{k-j-1} b_{i+1}^{j+1} x^{k-i-j+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j+1}{2}\pi\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{k-j} b_i^{j+1} x^{k-i-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j}{2}\pi\right). \end{split}$$

By mathematical induction, formula (19) is proved.

Lemma 3 ([3]). Let f and g be continuous on [a, b] and differentiable in (a, b) such that $g'(x) \neq 0$ in (a, b). If $\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ is increasing (or decreasing) in (a, b), then the functions $\frac{f(x)-f(b)}{g(x)-g(b)}$ and $\frac{f(x)-f(a)}{g(x)-g(a)}$ are also increasing (or decreasing) in (a, b).

Lemma 4. Let $0 < x < \theta < \pi$ and t > 2, then inequality

$$\frac{1}{t} \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{\theta^{1+t}} - \frac{\cos \theta}{\theta^{t}} \right) \left(\theta^{t} - x^{t} \right) \le \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \le \left(\frac{1}{\theta^{t}} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta^{1+t}} \right) \left(\theta^{t} - x^{t} \right)$$
(21)

holds with the equalities if and only if $x = \theta$, where the constants

$$\frac{1}{t}\left(\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta^{1+t}} - \frac{\cos\theta}{\theta^t}\right) \quad and \quad \left(\frac{1}{\theta^t} - \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta^{1+t}}\right)$$

are the best possible.

Proof. Let $f(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta}$, $g(x) = \theta^t - x^t$, $f_1(x) = x \cos x - \sin x$ and $g_1(x) = -tx^{1+t}$. Then

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{g(x) - g(0)}, \qquad \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \frac{f_1(x) - f_1(0)}{g_1(x) - g_1(0)}, \qquad \frac{f'_1(x)}{g'_1(x)} = \frac{\sin x}{t(1+t)x^t}$$

Since $\frac{\sin x}{x^t}$ is decreasing in $(0,\pi]$, then $\frac{f'_1(x)}{g'_1(x)}$ is decreasing, and then, in virtue of Lemma 3, the function $\frac{f'(x)}{q'(x)}$ is decreasing, further $\frac{f(x)}{q(x)}$ is decreasing in $(0, \pi]$, thus,

$$\frac{1}{t} \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{\theta^{1+t}} - \frac{\cos \theta}{\theta^t} \right) = \lim_{x \to \theta^-} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \le \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \le \lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{1}{\theta^t} \left(1 - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \right)$$

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3. Proofs of theorems

Proof of Theorem 1. If n = 1, inequality (10) becomes (21) in Lemma 4. For $n \geq 2$, let t = r + 1,

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \mu_k (\theta^{r+1} - x^{r+1})^k, \quad \psi(x) = (\theta^{r+1} - x^{r+1})^n,$$
$$\varphi_1(x) = \frac{\varphi(x)}{x^r}, \quad \varphi_{i+1}(x) = \frac{\varphi'_i(x)}{x^r}, \quad \psi_1(x) = \frac{\psi'(x)}{x^r}, \quad \psi_{i+1}(x) = \frac{\psi'_i(x)}{x^r},$$

where $2 \leq i \leq n$. Then for $1 \leq k \leq n-2$,

$$\varphi_k(x) = u_k(x) - [-(r+1)]^k k! \mu_k - \sum_{i=1}^{n-k-1} \frac{(i+k)!}{i!} \mu_{i+k} (\theta^{1+r} - x^{1+r})^i,$$

$$\varphi_{n-1}(x) = u_{n-1}(x) - (n-1)! [-(r+1)]^{n-1} \mu_{n-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_n(x) = u_n(x).$$

where $u_k(x)$ for $1 \le k \le n$ is defined by (18).

In view of (18), it is deduced that $[-(1+r)]^k k! \mu_k = u_k(\theta)$ for $1 \le k \le n-1$, hence $\varphi_i(\theta) = 0$ for $1 \le i \le n-1$. A simple calculation gives $\psi_i(x) = [-(1+r)]^i \prod_{\ell=0}^{i-1} (n-\ell)(\theta^{r+1} - x^{r+1})^{n-i}$ for $1 \le i \le n$, consequently $\psi_i(\theta) = 0$ for $1 \le i \le n-1$. As a result, for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$,

Let $h_1(x) = x^{nr+n+1}$ and $h_{i+1}(x) = \frac{1}{x}h'_i(x)$ for $1 \le i \le n$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then it is easy to see that $h_{i+1}(x) = \prod_{\ell=1}^{i} (nr+n-2\ell+3)x^{nr+n-2i+1}$ for $1 \le i \le n$. Utilization of Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 leads to

$$\frac{\varphi_{n-1}'(x)}{\psi_{n-1}'(x)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} a_{i-1}^n x^{n-i+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{n+i-1}{2}\pi\right)}{n![-(1+r)]^n x^{rn+n+1}} = \frac{v_1(x)}{n![-(1+r)]^n h_1(x)}$$

and, since $v_i(0) = h_i(0) = 0$ for $1 \le i \le n + 1$,

$$\frac{v_1(x)}{h_1(x)} = \frac{v_1(x) - v_1(0)}{h_1(x) - h_1(0)}, \qquad \frac{v_j'(x)}{h_j'(x)} = \frac{v_{j+1}(x) - v_{j+1}(0)}{h_{j+1}(x) - h_{j+1}(0)},$$
$$\frac{v_n'(x)}{h_n'(x)} = \frac{v_{n+1}(x) - v_{n+1}(0)}{h_{n+1}(x) - h_{n+1}(0)} = \frac{(-1)^n \sin x}{\prod_{\ell=1}^i (nr + n - 2\ell + 3)x^{nr - n + 1}}$$

for $1 \leq j \leq n-1$. Since $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ and $x^{-n(r-1)}$ is decreasing on $(0,\pi)$, then the function $\frac{\sin x}{x^{nr-n+1}}$ is decreasing and $\frac{(-1)^n v'_n(x)}{h'_n(x)}$ is decreasing. Accordingly, from Lemma 3, it follows that the functions $\frac{(-1)^n v'_1(x)}{h'_1(x)}$ and $\frac{(-1)^n v'_{i-1}(x)}{h'_{i-1}(x)}$ for $2 \leq i \leq n$ are decreasing. Thus, the functions $\frac{(-1)^n v'_1(x)}{h'_1(x)}$ and $\frac{(-1)^n v_1(x)}{h_1(x)}$ are decreasing, and then $\frac{\varphi'_{n-1}(x)}{\psi'_{n-1}(x)}$ is decreasing in $(0,\pi)$. Utilizing Lemma 3 again reveals that the functions $\frac{\varphi'_{i-1}(x)}{\psi'_{j}(x)}$ and $\frac{\varphi'_{j-1}(x)}{\psi'_{j-1}(x)}$ for $2 \leq j \leq n-1$ are decreasing, which implies the deceasingly monotonicity of $\frac{\varphi(x)}{\psi(x)}$ in $(0,\pi)$. By L'Hôspital's rule, it is easy to deduce that $\lim_{x\to\theta-}\frac{\varphi(x)}{\psi(x)} = \lim_{x\to\theta-}\frac{\varphi'(x)}{\psi'(x)} = \lim_{x\to\theta-}\frac{\varphi'(x)}{\psi'_{i}(x)} = \lim_{n \to 0-}\frac{\varphi(x)}{\psi'_{i}(x)} \leq \omega_n$ and the constants μ_k and ω_k are the best possible.

By the mathematical induction, inequality (10) is proved.

Proof of Theorem 2. It was proved in [29] and [30, (2.13)] that

$$\sin^{2}(\lambda\pi) \leq \cos^{2}(\lambda A_{i}) + \cos^{2}(\lambda A_{j}) - 2\cos(\lambda A_{i})\cos(\lambda A_{j})\cos(\lambda\pi)$$
$$\triangleq H_{ij} \leq 4\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right). \quad (22)$$

Summing up (22) for $1 \le i < j \le n$ yields

$$\binom{n}{2}\sin^2(\lambda\pi) \le \sum_{1\le i< j\le n} H_{ij} = H(n,\lambda) \le 4\binom{n}{2}\sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right).$$
(23)

By virtue of inequality (10) in Theorem 1,

$$4\sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right) \le \lambda^2 \pi^2 \left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{-kt} \omega_k \left(2^t \theta^t - \lambda^t \pi^t\right)^k\right]^2,\tag{24}$$

$$\sin^{2}(\lambda\pi) = 4\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right)\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right)$$

$$\geq \lambda^{2}\pi^{2}\left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^{m} 2^{-kt}\mu_{k}\left(2^{t}\theta^{t} - \lambda^{t}\pi^{t}\right)^{k}\right]^{2}\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right).$$
(25)

Substituting (24) and (25) into (23) leads to (14). The proof of Theorem 2 is complete. $\hfill \Box$

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(F. Qi) RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL INEQUALITY THEORY, HENAN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, JIAOZUO CITY, HENAN PROVINCE, 454010, CHINA

E-mail address: qifeng618@gmail.com, qifeng618@hotmail.com, qifeng618@msn.com, qifeng618@qq.com, qifeng@hpu.edu.cn, fengqi618@member.ams.org

URL: http://rgmia.vu.edu.au/qi.html

(D.-W. Niu) School of Mathematics and Informatics, Henan Polytechnic University, Jiaozuo City, Henan Province, 454010, China

E-mail address: nnddww@163.com, nnddww@hotmail.com, nnddww@gmail.com, nnddww@tom.com

(J. Cao) School of Mathematics and Informatics, Henan Polytechnic University, Jiaozuo City, Henan Province, 454010, China

E-mail address: 21caojian@163.com, goodfriendforeve@163.com

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