

Refined Stability Results of Functional Equation in Four Variables

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we present the general solution of the functional equation

$$\begin{aligned} &rf\left(\frac{x+y+z+w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x+y-z-w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x-y+z-w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x-y-z+w}{s}\right) \\ &= tf(x) + tf(y) + tf(z) + tf(w) \end{aligned}$$

and improve the Hyers–Ulam stability of the equation.

1. Introduction

In 1940, S.M. Ulam [12] gave a wide ranging talk before the Mathematics Club of the University of Wisconsin in which he discussed a number of unsolved problems. Among these was the following question concerning the stability of homomorphisms: We are given a group G_1 and a metric group G_2 with metric $\varphi(\cdot, \cdot)$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, does there exist a $\delta > 0$ such that if $f : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ satisfies $\varphi(f(xy), f(x)f(y)) < \delta$ for all $x, y \in G_1$, then a homomorphism $h : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$ exists with $\varphi(f(x), h(x)) < \varepsilon$ for all $x \in G_1$?

Let X and Y be Banach spaces with norms $\|\cdot\|$ and $\|\cdot\|$, respectively. D.H. Hyers [6] showed that if $\varepsilon > 0$ and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x+y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \varepsilon$$

for all $x, y \in X$, then there exists a unique additive mapping $T : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \varepsilon$$

for all $x \in X$.

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In 1950 T. Aoki [1] and in 1951 D.G. Bourgin [2] provided a generalized the Hyers theorem for additive mapping and in 1978 Th.M. Rassias [10] generalized the Hyers theorem for liner mapping by allowing the Cauchy difference to be unbounded. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping such that $f(tx)$ is continuous in $t \in \mathbb{R}$ for each fixed $x \in X$. Assume that there exist constants $\varepsilon \geq 0$ and $p \in [0, 1)$ such that

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

for all $x, y \in X$. Then Th.M. Rassias proved that there exists a unique \mathbb{R} -linear mapping $T : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - T(x)\| \leq \frac{2\varepsilon}{2-2^p} \|x\|^p$$

for all $x \in X$. And then, the result of Th.M. Rassias theorem has been generalized by P. Găvruta [5] by allowing the Cauchy difference to be a generalized control function.

A square norm on an inner product space satisfies the important parallelogram equality

$$\|x+y\|^2 + \|x-y\|^2 = 2\|x\|^2 + 2\|y\|^2.$$

The functional equation

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

which may be originated from this parallelogram equality, is called a quadratic functional equation. In particular, every solution of the quadratic functional equation is said to be a quadratic function. A Hyers–Ulam stability problem for the quadratic functional equation was proved by F. Skof [11] for mappings $f : X \rightarrow Y$, where X is a normed space and Y is a Banach space. P.W. Cholewa [3] noticed that the theorem of Skof is still true if the relevant domain X is replaced by an Abelian group. In S. Czerwik [4] proved the Hyers–Ulam stability of the quadratic functional equation. In the last decade, S. Lee and K. Jun [7] and S. Lee and C. Park [8] have proved the Hyers–Ulam stability of quadratic type functional equation with three variables.

Recently, C. Park [9] has investigated the Hyers–Ulam stability of the following functional equation.

$$(1.1) \quad rf\left(\frac{x+y+z+w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x+y-z-w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x-y+z-w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x-y-z+w}{s}\right) = tf(x) + tf(y) + tf(z) + tf(w)$$

for all $x, y, z, w \in X$ under the assumption of an even mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ with $f(0) = 0$. Throughout this paper, we now assume that r, s, t are nonzero real numbers, and that X and Y are a normed linear space with norm $\|\cdot\|$ and a Banach space with norm $\|\cdot\|$, respectively. In this paper, we establish the general solution of the functional equation (1.1) and then improve the Hyers–Ulam stability

of the functional equation without the even condition and $f(0) = 0$ for a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$.

2. Stability of the Functional Equation in Four Variables

First of all, we solve the general solution of the equation (1.1).

Lemma 2.1. If a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$ satisfies the equation (1.1) for all $x, y, z, w \in X$, then $f - f(0)$ is quadratic, and $f(0) = 0$ if $r \neq t$.

Proof. First, we prove the case $r \neq t$.

Letting $x = y = z = w := 0$ in (1.1), one has $f(0) = 0$. Putting $y = z = w := 0$ in (1.1), we have

$$(2.1) \quad 4rf\left(\frac{x}{s}\right) = tf(x)$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (2.1) and (1.1), we get

$$(2.2) \quad f(x+y+z+w) + (x+y-z-w) + f(x-y+z-w) + f(x-y-z+w) \\ = 4f(x) + 4f(y) + 4f(z) + 4f(w)$$

for all $x, y, z, w \in X$. We note that $f(y) = f(-y)$ by putting $x = z = w := 0$ in the last equation. Putting $z = w := 0$ in (2.2), we deduce

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

for all $x, y \in X$. So f is quadratic.

Next, we prove the case $r = t$. In this case, we see the functional equation

$$f\left(\frac{x+y+z+w}{s}\right) + f\left(\frac{x+y-z-w}{s}\right) + f\left(\frac{x-y+z-w}{s}\right) + f\left(\frac{x-y-z+w}{s}\right) \\ = f(x) + f(y) + f(z) + f(w)$$

for all $x, y, z, w \in X$. Hence, putting $f(x) - f(0) := Q(x)$, $x \in X$, one can easily observe the relation

$$(2.3) \quad Q\left(\frac{x+y+z+w}{s}\right) + Q\left(\frac{x+y-z-w}{s}\right) + Q\left(\frac{x-y+z-w}{s}\right) \\ + Q\left(\frac{x-y-z+w}{s}\right) = Q(x) + Q(y) + Q(z) + Q(w), \quad Q(0) = 0.$$

Putting $y = z = w := 0$ in (2.3), we have $4Q\left(\frac{x}{s}\right) = Q(x)$, and so

$$(2.4) \quad Q(x+y+z+w) + Q(x+y-z-w) + Q(x-y+z-w) \\ + Q(x-y-z+w) = 4(Q(x) + Q(y) + Q(z) + Q(w))$$

for all $x, y, z, w \in X$. We observe that $Q(y) = Q(-y)$ by setting $x = z = w := 0$ in (2.4). Thus, by letting $z = w := 0$ in (2.4), one arrives at

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

for all $x, y \in X$. So Q is quadratic. \square

We now prove the Hyers–Ulam stability of the functional equation without the even condition and $f(0) = 0$ for a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Given a mapping $f : X \rightarrow Y$, we set for notational convenience

$$\begin{aligned} Df(x, y, z, w) &= rf\left(\frac{x + y + z + w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x + y - z - w}{s}\right) + rf\left(\frac{x - y + z - w}{s}\right) \\ &\quad + rf\left(\frac{x - y - z + w}{s}\right) - [tf(x) + tf(y) + tf(z) + tf(w)] \end{aligned}$$

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

Theorem 2.2. *Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping for which there is a function $\varphi : X^4 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that*

$$(2.5) \quad \Phi(x, y, z, w) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4^j} \varphi(2^j x, 2^j y, 2^j z, 2^j w) < \infty,$$

$$(2.6) \quad \|Df(x, y, z, w)\| \leq \varphi(x, y, z, w)$$

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

$$(2.7) \quad \left\| f(x) + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right) f(0) - Q(x) \right\| \leq \frac{1}{4|t|} [\Phi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\Phi(x, x, 0, 0)]$$

for all $x \in X$, where $4|r - t|\|f(0)\| \leq \varphi(0, 0, 0, 0)$.

Proof. Putting $y = z = w := 0$ in (2.6), we get

$$\left\| 4rf\left(\frac{x}{s}\right) - tf(x) - 3tf(0) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, 0, 0, 0)$$

and then replacing x by $2x$, we have

$$(2.8) \quad \left\| 4rf\left(\frac{2x}{s}\right) - tf(2x) - 3tf(0) \right\| \leq \varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$. Putting $y := x$ and $z = w := 0$ in (2.6), we have

$$(2.9) \quad \left\| 2rf\left(\frac{2x}{s}\right) + 2rf(0) - 2tf(x) - 2tf(0) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, x, 0, 0)$$

for all $x \in X$. By (2.8) and (2.9), we have

$$\|tf(2x) - 4tf(x) + (4r - t)f(0)\| \leq \varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(x, x, 0, 0)$$

and so

$$\|f(2x) - 4f(x) + \frac{(4r - t)}{t}f(0)\| \leq \frac{1}{|t|}[\varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(x, x, 0, 0)]$$

for all $x \in X$. Let $F(x) = f(x) + \frac{1}{3}(1 - \frac{4r}{t})f(0)$, $x \in X$. Then we lead to the crucial inequality due to the last functional inequality

$$(2.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \|F(2x) - 4F(x)\| &\leq \frac{1}{|t|}[\varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(x, x, 0, 0)], \\ \|F(x) - \frac{F(2x)}{4}\| &\leq \frac{1}{4|t|}[\varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(x, x, 0, 0)] \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence

$$(2.11) \quad \begin{aligned} \left\| \frac{F(2^n x)}{4^n} - \frac{F(2^{n+1} x)}{4^{n+1}} \right\| &= \frac{1}{4^n} \left\| F(2^n x) - \frac{F(2 \cdot 2^n x)}{4} \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4^{n+1}|t|} [\varphi(2^{n+1} x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(2^n x, 2^n x, 0, 0)] \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$ and all nonnegative integers n . Thus, it follows from (2.11) that

$$(2.12) \quad \left\| \frac{F(2^m x)}{4^m} - \frac{F(2^n x)}{4^n} \right\| \leq \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \frac{1}{4^{k+1}|t|} [\varphi(2^{k+1} x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(2^k x, 2^k x, 0, 0)]$$

for all $x \in X$ and all nonnegative integers m and n with $m < n$. This shows that the sequence $\{\frac{F(2^n x)}{4^n}\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$ by the convergence of Φ . Since Y is complete, the sequence $\{\frac{F(2^n x)}{4^n}\}$ converges in Y for all $x \in X$. So one can define a mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

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

for all $x \in X$. Obviously, $Q(0) = 0$. It follows from (2.6) and the definition of Q that

$$\begin{aligned} \|DQ(x, y, z, w)\| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^n} \|Df(2^n x, 2^n y, 2^n z, 2^n w)\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^n} \varphi(2^n x, 2^n y, 2^n z, 2^n w) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z, w \in X$. By Lemma 2.1, the mapping Q is quadratic. Putting $m = 0$ and letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.12), we get the desired approximation (2.7).

Now, let $Q' : X \rightarrow Y$ be another quadratic mapping satisfying (2.7). Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|Q(x) - Q'(x)\| &= \frac{1}{4^n} \|Q(2^n x) - Q'(2^n x)\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4^n} \left(\|Q(2^n x) - f(2^n x) - \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right) f(0)\| \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \|f(2^n x) + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right) f(0) - Q'(2^n x)\| \right) \\ &\leq \frac{2}{4^{n+1}|t|} [\Phi(2^{n+1}x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\Phi(2^n x, 2^n x, 0, 0)], \end{aligned}$$

which tends to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for all $x \in X$. So we can conclude that $Q(x) = Q'(x)$ for all $x \in X$. This proves the uniqueness of Q . \square

Corollary 2.3. Let θ and p ($0 < p < 2$) be positive real numbers. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping such that

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

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

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

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Defining $\varphi(x, y, z, w) := \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|z\|^p + \|w\|^p)$ and applying Theorem 2.2, we get the desired result. \square

Remark 2.4. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping for which there is a function $\varphi : X^4 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ satisfying (2.5) and (2.6). Then by putting $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) - f(0)$, $x \in X$, we have from the functional inequality (2.6)

$$\|D\tilde{f}(x, y, z, w)\| \leq \varphi(x, y, z, w) + 4|r - t|\|f(0)\|,$$

which yields

$$(2.13) \quad \left\| 4r\tilde{f}\left(\frac{2x}{s}\right) - t\tilde{f}(2x) \right\| \leq \varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 4|r - t|\|f(0)\|,$$

$$(2.14) \quad \left\| 2r\tilde{f}\left(\frac{2x}{s}\right) - 2t\tilde{f}(x) \right\| \leq \varphi(x, x, 0, 0) + 4|r - t|\|f(0)\|$$

for all $x \in X$. By (2.13) and (2.14), one has

$$(2.15) \quad \|\tilde{f}(2x) - 4\tilde{f}(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{|t|} [\varphi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(x, x, 0, 0) + 12|r - t|\|f(0)\|]$$

for all $x \in X$. Thus, by applying the same argument as that of Theorem 2.2, one can prove that there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - f(0) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{4|t|}[\Phi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\Phi(x, x, 0, 0)] + \frac{4|r-t|\|f(0)\|}{|t|}$$

for all $x \in X$, where $4|r-t|\|f(0)\| \leq \varphi(0, 0, 0, 0)$.

Next, we consider another stability problem which is an alternative stability result of Theorem 2.2.

Theorem 2.5. *Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping for which there is a function $\varphi : X^4 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that*

$$(2.16) \quad \Psi(x, y, z, w) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} 4^j \varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, \frac{y}{2^j}, \frac{z}{2^j}, \frac{w}{2^j}\right) < \infty,$$

$$(2.17) \quad \|Df(x, y, z, w)\| \leq \varphi(x, y, z, w)$$

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

$$(2.18) \quad \left\|f(x) + \frac{1}{3}\left(1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right)f(0) - Q(x)\right\| \leq \frac{1}{|t|}[\Psi(x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\Psi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}, 0, 0\right)]$$

for all $x \in X$, where $4|r-t|\|f(0)\| \leq \varphi(0, 0, 0, 0)$.

Proof. First, we note that $f(0) = 0 = \varphi(0, 0, 0, 0)$ by the convergence of $\Psi(0, 0, 0, 0)$ if $r \neq t$. Replacing x by $\frac{x}{2}$ in (2.10), we get

$$(2.19) \quad \|F(x) - 4F\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\| \leq \frac{1}{|t|}[\varphi(x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}, 0, 0\right)]$$

for all $x \in X$. Using (2.19), we have

$$(2.20) \quad \begin{aligned} \|4^n F\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - 4^{n+1} F\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right)\| &= 4^n \|F\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) - 4F\left(\frac{x}{2 \cdot 2^n}\right)\| \\ &\leq \frac{4^n}{|t|} \left[\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, 0, 0, 0\right) + 2\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}, \frac{x}{2^{n+1}}, 0, 0\right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers n . By (2.20), we have

$$(2.21) \quad \|4^m F\left(\frac{x}{2^m}\right) - 4^n F\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)\| \leq \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} \frac{4^k}{|t|} \left[\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^k}, 0, 0, 0\right) + 2\varphi\left(\frac{x}{2^{k+1}}, \frac{x}{2^{k+1}}, 0, 0\right) \right]$$

for all $x \in X$ and all positive integers m and n with $m < n$. This shows that the sequence $\{4^n F(\frac{x}{2^n})\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for all $x \in X$. Since Y is complete, the

sequence $\{4^n F(\frac{x}{2^n})\}$ converges in Y for all $x \in X$. So one can define a mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ by

$$Q(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n F(\frac{x}{2^n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \left(f(\frac{x}{2^n}) + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right) f(0) \right)$$

for all $x \in X$. We remark that $Q(0) = 0$ by the definition of Q if $r = t$, and also $Q(0) = 0$ because of $f(0) = 0 = \varphi(0, 0, 0, 0)$ by the convergence of $\Psi(0, 0, 0, 0)$ if $r \neq t$. Thus, $Q(0) = 0$ for any nonzero real numbers r, t . Also, we get from (2.17)

$$\begin{aligned} \|DQ(x, y, z, w)\| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \|DF(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}, \frac{z}{2^n}, \frac{w}{2^n})\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \left[\|Df(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}, \frac{z}{2^n}, \frac{w}{2^n})\| + \frac{4|r-t|}{3} \left|1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right| \|f(0)\| \right] \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 4^n \varphi(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}, \frac{z}{2^n}, \frac{w}{2^n}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z, w \in X$. By Lemma 2.1, Q is quadratic. Putting $m = 0$ and letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.21), we get the estimation (2.18).

The proof of the uniqueness of Q is similar to that of Theorem 2.2. \square

Corollary 2.6. Let θ and p ($p > 2$) be positive real numbers. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping such that

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

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

$$(2.22) \quad \|f(x) + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{4r}{t}\right) f(0) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{\theta}{|t|} \left(\frac{2^p + 4}{2^p - 4}\right) \|x\|^p$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. Defining $\varphi(x, y, z, w) := \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|z\|^p + \|w\|^p)$ and applying Theorem 2.5 we get the desired result. \square

Remark 2.7. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping for which there is a function $\varphi : X^4 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ satisfying (2.16) and (2.17). Then by putting $\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) - f(0)$, $x \in X$, we have from (2.17)

$$\|D\tilde{f}(x, y, z, w)\| \leq \varphi(x, y, z, w) + 4|r-t|\|f(0)\|.$$

First, we note that $f(0) = 0 = \varphi(0, 0, 0, 0)$ by the convergence of $\Psi(0, 0, 0, 0)$ if $r \neq t$, and so the term $4|r-t|\|f(0)\| = 0$ for any nonzero real numbers r, t . Thus, we get from (2.15)

$$\|\tilde{f}(x) - 4\tilde{f}(\frac{x}{2})\| \leq \frac{1}{|t|} [\varphi(x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\varphi(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{x}{2}, 0, 0)]$$

for all $x \in X$. Hence, by applying the same argument as that of Theorem 2.5, one can prove that there exists a unique quadratic mapping $Q : X \rightarrow Y$ such that

$$\|f(x) - f(0) - Q(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{4|t|} [\Psi(2x, 0, 0, 0) + 2\Psi(x, x, 0, 0)]$$

for all $x \in X$.

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