



FUNDAMENTAL RESULTS ON DETERMINING MATRICES FOR A CLASS OF TRIPLE-DELAY LINEAR CONTROL SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

This research article obtained restricted functional forms of determining matrices for a class of triple-delay linear control systems for certain pertinent parameters, thus bridging the knowledge gap in this area of acute research need. The proofs were achieved by the exploitation of key facts about permutations, combinations of summation notations, change of variables techniques and the compositions of sigma and max functions.

Keywords: Delay, Determining, Functional, Leading, Permutation, System, Triple

1. INTRODUCTION

Controllability is a very important concept that is applied in aerospace engineering, optimal control theory, systems theory, quantum systems, power systems, industrial and

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chemical process controls etc. This concept was first introduced by Kalman in 1963 (Zmood, 1971) and a survey of controllability of dynamical systems was done by Klamka (2013). In addition, there have been intense research activities on qualitative approach to controllability of linear and nonlinear systems. Xianlong (2013) researched on approximate controllability of semi linear neutral retarded systems and Jackreece (2014) worked on the controllability of neutral integro-differential equations.

However, one is not aware of any other results that comprehensively interrogated the controllability of linear autonomous control systems of single-delay neutral and double-delay types via the structures of the determining matrices except (Ukwu, 2014a; 2016a). The determination of the computational complexity and electronic implementations of determining matrices for double-delay linear autonomous control systems and single-delay linear autonomous neutral control systems by Ukwu (2016b) are novel contributions in this area.

In the study of Euclidean controllability of linear autonomous control systems, determining matrices are preferred veritable tools as they are the least computationally intensive, when compared to indices of control systems matrices or controllability Grammians.

Unfortunately there is no known published work that has attempted the extension of the great feats of (Ukwu, 2014a; 2016a) to delay control systems with triple time-delays in the state variables. This could be attributed to the severe difficulty in identifying recognizable mathematical patterns needed for any conjecture on functional forms of determining matrices and subsequent inductive proof. It is against this backdrop that this study makes a positive contribution to knowledge by correctly establishing relevant results on functional forms of determining matrices for the afore-mentioned triple-delay systems for certain pertinent parameters.

2. THEORETICAL UNDERPINNING

Let r_a, r_b, r_c be nonnegative integers and let $P_{a(r_a), b(r_b), c(r_c)}$ denote the set of all permutations of

$\underbrace{a, a, \dots, a}_{r_a \text{ times}} \underbrace{b, b, \dots, b}_{r_b \text{ times}} \underbrace{c, c, \dots, c}_{r_c \text{ times}}$: the permutations of the objects a, b, c , in which i appears r_i times, $i \in \{a, b, c\}$.

In particular, the following summarized results due to Ukwu (2014b) on functional forms of determining matrices are quite relevant:

Consider the class of double-delay linear autonomous control systems of the form:

$$\dot{x}(t) = A_0 x(t) + A_1 x(t-h) + A_2 x(t-2h) + Bu(t); t \geq 0 \quad (1)$$

$$x(t) = \phi(t), t \in [-2h, 0], h > 0 \quad (2)$$

where A_0, A_1, A_2 are $n \times n$ constant matrices with real entries, B is an $n \times m$ constant matrices with real entries.

2.1 Determining Equations: Uniqueness and Existence

Let $Q_k(s)$ be an $n \times n$ matrix function defined by

$$Q_k(s) = A_0 Q_{k-1}(s) + A_1 Q_{k-1}(s-h) + A_2 Q_{k-1}(s-2h) \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, s > 0,$$

with initial conditions :

$$Q_0(0) = I_n; Q_0(s) = 0; s \neq 0.$$

These initial conditions guarantee the unique solvability of the matrix function $Q_k(s)$ (Gabasov & Kirillova, 1976; Chidume, 2007).

2.2 Computable Expression of Determining Matrices (Ukwu, 2016b)

For $0 \leq j \leq k \neq 0$, j, k integers,

$$Q_k(jh) = \sum_{r=0}^{\left[\frac{j}{2}\right]} A_{v_1}, \dots, A_{v_k} \quad \text{For } j \geq k \geq 1, j, k \text{ integers}$$

$$(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{0(r+k-j), 1(j-2r), 2(r)}$$

$$Q_k(jh) = \begin{cases} \sum_{r=0}^{\left[\frac{2k-j}{2}\right]} \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{0(r), 1(2k-j-2r), 2(r+j-k)}} A_{v_1}, \dots, A_{v_k} & 1 \leq j \leq 2k \\ 0, & j \geq 2k+1 \end{cases}$$

The proofs were established with the techniques of mathematical induction hypothesis, summation facts, greatest integer functions and change of variables.

Consider the class of single-delay linear neutral autonomous control systems of the form:

$$\frac{d}{dt}[x(t) - A_{-1}x(t-h)] = A_0x(t) + A_1x(t-h) + Bu(t); t \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

$$x(t) = \phi(t), t \in [-h, 0], h > 0 \quad (4)$$

where A_{-1}, A_0, A_1 are $n \times n$ constant matrices with real entries, B is an $n \times m$ constant matrix with real entries. The initial function ϕ is in $C([-h, 0], \mathbf{R}^n)$, the space of continuous functions from $[-h, 0]$ into the real n -dimension Euclidean space, \mathbf{R}^n with norm defined by $\|\phi\| = \sup_{t \in [-h, 0]} |\phi(t)|$, (the sup norm). The control u is in the space $L_\infty([0, t_1], \mathbf{R}^n)$, the space of essentially bounded measurable functions taking $[0, t_1]$ into \mathbf{R}^n with norm $\|\phi\| = \text{ess sup}_{t \in [0, t_1]} |u(t)|$.

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2.2.1 Determining Equations: Uniqueness and Existence

Let $Q_k(s)$ be an $n \times n$ matrix function defined by

$$Q_k(s) = A_{-1}Q_k(s-h) + A_0Q_{k-1}(s) + A_1Q_{k-1}(s-h) \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, s > 0,$$

with initial conditions :

$$Q_0(0) = I_n; \quad Q_k(s) = 0, \text{ for } \min\{k, s\} < 0.$$

These initial conditions guarantee the unique solvability of the matrix function $Q_k(s)$ (Gabasov & Kirillova, 1976; Ukwu, 2016b).

2.3 Expressions and Structures of the Determining Matrices for Single-Delay Linear Neutral Autonomous Control Systems (Ukwu, 2016b)

If j, k are positive integers, then

$$Q_k(jh) = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{j-k}) \in P_{-1(j), 0(k)}} A_{v_1} \dots A_{v_k} \\ + \left[\sum_{(v_1 \dots v_j) \in P_{-1(j-k), 1(k)}} A_{v_1} \dots A_{v_j} + \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{j+r}) \in P_{-1(r+j-k), 0(r), 1(k-r)}} A_{v_1} \dots A_{v_{j+r}} \right] \text{sgn}(\max\{0, j+1-k\}) \\ + \left[\sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{0(k-j), 1(j)}} A_{v_1} \dots A_{v_k} + \sum_{r=1}^{j-1} \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{k+r}) \in P_{-1(r), 0(r+k-j), 1(j-r)}} A_{v_1} \dots A_{v_{k+r}} \right] \text{sgn}(\max\{0, k-j\})$$

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1 Identification of Work-Based Triple-Delay Linear Autonomous Control Systems

Consider the triple-delay linear autonomous control system.

$$\dot{x}(t) = A_0x(t) + A_1x(t-h) + A_2x(t-2h) + A_3x(t-3h) + Bu(t); t \geq 0 \quad (5)$$

$$x(t) = \phi(t), t \in [-3h, 0], h > 0 \quad (6)$$

where A_0, A_1, A_2 and A_3 are $n \times n$ constant matrices with real entries, B is an $n \times m$ constants matrix with real entries. The initial function ϕ is in $C([-3h, 0], \mathbf{R}^n)$, the space of continuous functions from $[-3h, 0]$ into the real n -dimensional Euclidean space, \mathbf{R}^n with norm defined by $\|\phi\| = \sup_{t \in [-3h, 0]} \{|\phi(t)|\}$, (the sup norm). The control u is in the space $L_\infty([0, t_1], \mathbf{R}^n)$, the space of essentially bounded measurable functions taking $[0, t_1]$ into \mathbf{R}^n with norm $\|\phi\| = \text{ess sup}_{t \in [0, t_1]} \|u(t)\|$.

Any control $u \in L_\infty([0, t_1], \mathbf{R}^n)$, will be referred to as an admissible control.

See Chidume (2007) for further discussion on L_p (or L^p), $p \in \{1, 2, \dots, \infty\}$.

3.1.1 Determining Equations: Uniqueness and Existence

Let $Q_k(s)$ be an $n \times n$ matrix function defined by

$$Q_k(s) = A_0 Q_{k-1}(s) + A_1 Q_{k-1}(s-h) + A_2 Q_{k-1}(s-2h) + A_3 Q_{k-1}(s-3h) \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, s > 0,$$

with initial conditions :

$$Q_0(0) = I_n; Q_0(s) = 0; s \neq 0.$$

These initial conditions guarantee the unique solvability of the matrix function $Q_k(s)$

The next section furnishes the functional form of the determining matrices of the system (5) on the j -interval $[3k-3, \infty)$.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Preliminary Result on Determining Matrices $Q_k(s), s \in \mathbf{R}$

- (i) $Q_k(s) = 0$ if $s < 0$
- (ii) $Q_k(0) = A_0^k$
- (iii) $Q_k(s) = 0$ if $s \neq rh$ for any integer r
- (iv) $Q_k(h) = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{0(k-1), 1(1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j}; k \geq 1$
- (v) $Q_1(jh) = A_j \operatorname{sgn}(\max\{4 - j, 0\})$

Proof

(i) Let $s < 0$.

$$k = 1 \Rightarrow Q_1(s) = A_0 Q_0(s) + A_1 Q_0(s - h) + A_2 Q_0(s - 2h) + A_3 Q_0(s - 3h) = A_0 0 + A_1 0 + A_2 0 + A_3 0 = 0$$

So the assertion is true for $k = 1$.

Assume that $Q_k(s) = 0$ for $s < 0$ and for $k \in \{2, \dots, p\}$ for some integer $p \geq 2$. Then

$$Q_{p+1}(s) = A_0 Q_p(s) + A_1 Q_p(s - h) + A_2 Q_p(s - 2h) + A_3 Q_p(s - 3h) = A_0 0 + A_1 0 + A_2 0 + A_3 0 = 0$$

by the induction hypothesis, since $s < 0 \Rightarrow s - h < 0, s - 2h < 0, s - 3h < 0$. Therefore

$$Q_k(s) = 0 \quad \forall s < 0, \text{ as desired.}$$

$$(ii) \quad Q_1(0) = A_0 Q_0(0) + A_1 Q_0(-h) + A_2 Q_0(-2h) + A_3 Q_0(-3h) = 0$$

So (ii) is true for $k = 1$. Assume that

$$Q_k(0) = A_0^k \text{ for } k \in \{2, \dots, p\} \text{ for some integer } p \geq 2. \text{ Then}$$

$$Q_{p+1}(0) = A_0 Q_p(0) + A_1 Q_p(-h) + A_2 Q_p(-2h) + A_3 Q_p(-3h) = A_0 A_0^p = A_0^{p+1},$$

by (i) and the induction hypothesis. Therefore (ii) is proved.

(iii) Let $k = 1$ and $s \neq rh$ for any integer r ; then

$$Q_1(s) = A_0 Q_0(s) + A_1 Q_0(s-h) + A_2 Q_0(s-2h) + A_3 Q_0(s-3h) = 0, \text{ since } s \notin \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

Assume that $Q_k(s) = 0$ for $k \in \{2, \dots, p\}$, for some integer p . Then

$$Q_{p+1}(s) = A_0 Q_p(s) + A_1 Q_p(s-h) + A_2 Q_p(s-2h) + A_3 Q_p(s-3h) = 0, \text{ (by the induction hypothesis)}$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_k(s) = 0 \quad \forall s \neq rh, \text{ for any integer } r.$$

$$(iv) \quad Q_1(h) = A_0 Q_0(h) + A_1 Q_0(0) + A_2 Q_0(-h) + A_3 Q_0(-2h) = A_1 = \sum_{v_1 \in P_0} \prod_{(t-1), 1(1), 2(0)}^1 A_{v_j}$$

Similarly,

$$Q_2(h) = A_0 Q_1(h) + A_1 Q_1(0) + A_2 Q_1(-h) + A_3 Q_1(-2h) = A_0 A_1 + A_1 A_0 + A_2 0 + A_3 0 = A_0 A_1 + A_1 A_0$$

$$= \sum_{v_1, v_2 \in P_0(1), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} \Rightarrow \text{the lemma is true for } k = 2$$

Assume (iv) is true for $k \in \{3, \dots, p\}$, for some integer $p \geq 3$. Then

$$Q_{p+1}(h) = A_0 Q_p(h) + A_1 Q_p(0) + A_2 Q_p(-h) + A_3 Q_p(-2h).$$

$$Q_p(h) = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_0(p-1), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} \text{ by the induction hypothesis}$$

$$Q_p(0) = A_0^p, Q_p(-h) = 0 = Q_p(-2h) \text{ by (ii) and (i) respectively.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Therefore, } Q_{p+1}(h) &= A_0 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{p+1}) \in P_0(p-1), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} + A_1 A_0^p = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{p+1}) \in P_0(p+1), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \text{ with leading } A_0 \\ &\quad + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{p+1}) \in P_0(p), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \text{ with leading } A_1 \\ &= \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{p+1}) \in P_0(p), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_{p+1}) \in P_0(p+1), 1(1)} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \end{aligned}$$

So (iv) is true for $k = p + 1$, hence true for $k \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$

$$(v) \quad Q_1(0) = A_0, Q_1(h) = A_1 \text{ and } Q_1(2h) = A_2 \text{ by (ii) and (i) and the definition of } Q_0.$$

Also, $Q_1(3h) = A_0Q_0(3h) + A_1Q_0(2h) + A_2Q_0(h) + A_3Q_0(0) = A_3$

Let $j = p \geq 4$, p integer p ; then

$$Q_1(ph) = A_0Q_0[ph] + A_1Q_0([p-1]h) + A_2Q_0([p-2]h) + A_3Q_0([p-3]h)$$

$$\Rightarrow Q_1(ph) = A_0 \cdot 0 + A_1 \cdot 0 + A_2 \cdot 0 + A_3 \cdot 0 = 0 \text{ by the definition of } Q_0$$

4.2 Theorem on the Functional Form of $Q_k(jh)$, for $j \geq 3k-3$

$$Q_k(jh) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j \geq 3k+1 \quad \text{(i)} \\ A_3^k & \text{if } j = 3k \quad \text{(ii)} \\ \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{2(1), 3(k-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} = \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} A_3^r A_2 A_3^{k-1-r} & \text{if } j = 3k-1 \quad \text{(iii)} \\ \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{1(3k-1-j), 3(j+1-2k)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{2(3k-j), 3(j-2k)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} & \text{if } j = 3k-2 \quad \text{(iv)} \\ \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{1(1), 2(1), 3(k-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{0(1), 3(k-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{2(3), 3(k-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j}, & j = 3k-3 \quad \text{(v)} \end{cases}$$

Note :For $j = 3k-3$, (v) can be also be expressed as:

$$Q_k(jh) = \sum_{r_0=0}^1 \sum_{r_1=0}^{r_0+1} \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_k) \in P_{0(r_0), 1(r_1), 2(3-3r_0-2r_1), 3(k-3+2r_0+r_1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j}$$

Proof

$$(i) Q_k([3k+1]h) = A_0Q_{k-1}([3k+1]h) + A_1Q_{k-1}([3kh]) + A_2Q_{k-1}([3k-1]h) + A_3Q_{k-1}([3k-2]h)$$

$$k=1 \Rightarrow Q_1(4h) = A_0Q_0(4h) + A_1Q_0(3h) + A_2Q_0(2h) + A_3Q_0(h) = 0$$

$$= A_0 \cdot 0 + A_1 \cdot 0 + A_2 \cdot 0 + A_3 \cdot 0 = 0$$

Therefore $Q_1(4h) = 0$, by (v) of theorem 4.1

$$k=2 \Rightarrow Q_2(7h) = A_0Q_1(7h) + A_1Q_1(6h) + A_2Q_1(5h) + A_3Q_1(4h) = 0, \text{ (by (v) of the theorem 4.1).}$$

So (i) is true for $k=2$. Assume (i) is true for $k \in \{3, \dots, p\}$, for some integer $p \geq 3$. Then,

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$$\begin{aligned} Q_{p+1}((3[p+1]+1)h) &= A_0 Q_p((3[p+1]+1)h) + A_1 Q_p([3p+3]h) + A_2 Q_p([3p+2]h) + A_3 Q_p([3p+1]h) \\ &= A_0 Q_p((3[p+4])h) + A_1 Q_p([3p+3]h) + A_2 Q_p([3p+2]h) + A_3 Q_p([3p+1]h) \end{aligned}$$

Note that $3n+4 > 3n+1$; $3n+3 > 3n+1$ and $3n+2 > 3n+1$. Therefore, by the induction hypothesis

$$Q_{p+1}((3[p+1]+1)h) = A_0 0 + A_1 0 + A_2 0 + A_3 0 = 0. \text{ So is (i) valid for } k = p+1, \text{ hence valid for all } k.$$

Therefore $Q_k(jh) = 0$ for all $j \geq 3k+1$ proving (i)

(ii) Consider $Q_k(3kh)$, for $k = 1$; this yields: $Q_1(3h) = A_3$ by (v) of the theorem 4.1.

So (ii) is true for $k = 1$.

Assume that (ii) is true for $k \in \{2, \dots, p\}$, for some integer p . Then,

$$Q_{p+1}(3[p+1]h) = A_0 Q_p(3[p+1]h) + A_1 Q_p([3p+2]h) + A_2 Q_p([3p+1]h) + A_3 Q_p(3ph)$$

Note that $Q_p(3ph) = A_3^p$ by (i) of the theorem 4.1.

$$\text{Also } Q_p(3[p+1]h) = 0 = Q_p([3p+2]h) = Q_p([3p+1]h) \text{ by (i) of the theorem 4.2.}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } Q_{p+1}(3[p+1]h) = A_3 A_3^p = A_3^{p+1}.$$

Hence $Q_k(3kh) = A_3^k$ for every $k \in \{1, \dots, p\}$, for some integer k proving (ii).

$$(iii) Q_k([3k-1]h) = A_0 Q_{k-1}([3k-1]h) + A_1 Q_{k-1}([3k-2]h) + A_2 Q_{k-1}([3k-3]h) + A_3 Q_{k-1}([3k-4]h)$$

$$k = 1 \Rightarrow Q_1(2h) = A_0 Q_0(2h) + A_1 Q_0(h) + A_2 Q_0(0) + A_3 Q_0(-h) = A_2$$

Assume that (iii) is true for $k \in \{2, \dots, p\}$, for some integer p .

$$\text{Then, } Q_{p+1}([3(p+1)-1]h) = Q_{p+1}([3p+2]h)$$

$$= A_0 Q_p([3p+2]h) + A_1 Q_p([3p+1]h) + A_2 Q_p([3ph]) + A_3 Q_p([3p-1]h)$$

Note that $Q_p([3p+2]h) = 0 = Q_p([3p+1]h)$ by (i) and $Q_p(3ph) = A_3^p$ by (ii).

$$\text{By the induction hypothesis, } Q_p([3p-1]h) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 1(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j}$$

But $A_2 = Q_1(2h)$ by (v) of the theorem 4.1.

Now,

$$\sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{2(1), 1(k-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} = \sum_{v_2 \in P_{2(1)}} A_2 = A_2 \quad \text{for } k = 1. \text{ So (iii) is true for } k = 1.$$

Therefore, $Q_{p+1}([3(p+1)-1]h) = A_2 A_3^p + A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 1(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = A_2 A_3^p + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 1(p+1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}$
 with leading A_3 in each permutation of A_{v_j} , $j \in \{1, \dots, p+1\}$. Since A_2 appears only once in each

permutation it can only lead once in $A_2 A_3^p$ and will take the positions $2, \dots, p+1$ in other

permutations. Therefore, $Q_{p+1}([3(p+1)-1]h) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(1), 1(p+1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}$, proving the left-hand side

of (iii), that is, $Q_k([3k-1]h) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{2(1), 1(k-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j}$. To prove the right-hand side of (iii), notice

that $\sum_{r=0}^{k-1} A_3^r A_2 A_3^{k-1-r}$ is the sum of the permutations of A_2 and A_3 .

When $r = 0$, the permutation equals $\sum_{r=0}^{k-1} A_2 A_3^{k-1}$, indicating A_2 leads; similarly, when $r = 0$ the permutation equals

$\sum_{r=1}^{k-1} A_3 A_2 A_3^{k-2}$ indicating A_2 takes the second position; continuing in this fashion, we deduce that for $r = k-1$,

the right hand side of (iii) equals $\sum_{r=k-1}^{k-1} A_3^{k-1} A_2$, implying that A_2 trails. Note that A_2 occurs once in each permutation,

while A_3 occurs $k-1$ times. This completes the proof of (iii).

$$(iv) \quad \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{1(1), 3(k-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{2(2), 3(k-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j}$$

Let us consider the expression $Q_k([3k-2]h)$, for $k = 1$; this yields $Q_1(h) = A_1$ by (v) of theorem

4.1. Following the mathematical convention of setting infeasible sums to zero, we deduce that

for $k = 1$ and $j = 3k-2$ (iv) yields

$$\sum_{v_1 \in P_{1(1), 3(0)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} + \sum_{v_2, v_3 \in P_{2(2), 3(-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} = \sum_{v_1 \in P_{1(1), 3(0)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} + 0 = A_1$$

Similarly, $k = 2 \Rightarrow j = 3(2) - 2 = 4$

$\Rightarrow Q_k([3k-1]h) = Q_2(4h) = A_1A_3 + A_2^2 + A_3A_1$, the right hand side of (iv) yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{(v_1, v_3) \in P_{1(1), 3(2-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_2, v_3) \in P_{2(2), 3(2-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, v_3) \in P_{1(1), 3(1)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} + \sum_{v_2 \in P_{2(2)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} \\ & = A_1A_3 + A_2^2 + A_3A_1 \end{aligned}$$

So (iv) is true for $k = 2$. The rest of the proof is by mathematical induction on k .

Assume the validity of (iv) for $k \in \{3, \dots, p\}$, for some integer $p \geq 3$. Then

$Q_{p+1}([3(p+1)-2]h) = Q_{p+1}([3p+1]h)$. But

$$Q_{p+1}([3p+1]h) = A_0Q_p([3p+1]h) + A_1Q_p(3ph) + A_2Q_p([3p-1]h) + A_3Q_p([3p-2]h)$$

Now $Q_p([3p+1]h) = 0$ by (i); $Q_p(3ph) = A_3^p$, by (ii);

$$Q_p([3p-1]h) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in P_{2(1), 3(k-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^k A_{v_j} = \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} A_3^r A_2 A_3^{k-1-r} \text{ by (iii)}$$

$$Q_p([3p-2]h) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} \text{ (by the induction hypothesis).}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & Q_{p+1}([3p+1]h) \\ & = A_0 0 + A_1 A_3^p + A_2 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} + A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} + A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} \\ & A_1 A_3^p = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \text{ (with leading } A_1); \\ & A_3^p A_1 = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \text{ (with leading } A_3) \end{aligned}$$

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$$A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}, \quad (\text{with leading } A_3) ,$$

$$A_2 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} .$$

$$\text{Therefore, } A_1 A_3^p + A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} + A_3 = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} ,$$

$$\text{implying that } Q_{p+1}([3(p+1)-2]h) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(2), 3(p+1)-2}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}$$

(v) For $k=1$ and $j=3k-3$ the left hand side of the expression (v) gives $Q_1(0) = A_0$;

$$\text{the right hand side equals } \sum_{v_1 \in P_{1(1), 2(1), 3(1-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} + \sum_{v_1 \in P_{0(1), 3(1-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} + \sum_{v_1 \in P_{2(3), 3(1-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} .$$

Notice that $\sum_{v_1 \in P_{1(1), 2(1), 3(-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j}$ and $\sum_{v_1 \in P_{2(3), 3(-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j}$ are infeasible sums, and are therefore equal to

0. Hence, the right hand side of (v) yields $\sum_{v_1 \in P_{0(1)}} \prod_{j=1}^1 A_{v_j} = A_0$. So (v) is true for $k=1$.

Similarly, for $k=2$ the right hand side $Q_k([3k-3]h)$ yields

$$Q_2(3h) = A_0 A_3 + A_1 A_2 + A_2 A_1 + A_3 A_0 \text{ (from the determining equation for } Q_k(s) \text{)} .$$

The right hand side of (v) with $k=2 \Rightarrow j=3(2)-3=3$ gives

$$\sum_{(v_1, v_2) \in P_{1(1), 2(1), 3(2-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_0, v_3) \in P_{0(1), 3(2-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_2, v_3) \in P_{2(3), 3(2-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j}$$

the last sum $\sum_{(v_2, v_3) \in P_{2(3), 3(2-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j}$ is an infeasible sum

Accordingly the right hand side of $Q_2(3h)$ gives

$$\sum_{(v_1, v_2) \in P_{1(1), 2(1)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} + \sum_{(v_0, v_3) \in P_{0(1), 3(1)}} \prod_{j=1}^2 A_{v_j} = A_0 A_3 + A_1 A_2 + A_2 A_1 + A_3 A_0,$$

which is consistent with the expression for $Q_2(3h)$. So (v) is valid for $k = 2$.

Assume the validity of (v) for $k \in \{3, \dots, p\}$, for some integer $p \geq 3$.

Then, $Q_{p+1}([3(p+1)-3]h) = Q_{p+1}(3ph)$. And $Q_{p+1}(3ph)$
 $= A_0 Q_p(3ph) + A_1 Q_p([3p-1]h) + A_2 Q_p([3p-2]h) + A_3 Q_p([3p-3]h).$

$$Q_{p+1}(3ph) = A_3^p, \text{ by (ii) of the theorem; } Q_p([3p-1]h) = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j = \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} A_3^r A_2 A_3^{p-1-r} \text{ by (iii)}$$

of the theorem.

$$Q_p([3p-2]h) = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j \text{ by (iv) of the theorem}$$

$$Q_p([3p-3]h) = \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{1(1), 2(1), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{0(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j + \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{2(3), 3(p-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j$$

(by the induction hypothesis).

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{p+1}(3ph) &= A_0 A_3^p + A_1 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j + A_2 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j \\ &\quad + A_2 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j + A_3 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{1(1), 2(1), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j \\ &\quad + A_3 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{0(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j + A_3 \sum_{(v_1 \dots v_p) \in P_{2(3), 3(p-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_j \end{aligned}$$

Now, $A_0 A_3^p = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{0(1), 3(p)}}$ $\prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}$ (with trailing A_3), similarly

$$A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{0(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{0(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \quad (\text{with leading } A_3).$$

Therefore, $A_0 A_3^p + A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{0(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{0(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}$.

Also $A_2 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(3), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j}$ (with leading A_2),

$$A_3 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(3), 3(p-3)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(3), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j},$$

$$A_1 \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_p) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^p A_{v_j} = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_{v_j} \quad (\text{with leading } A_1).$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{p+1}(3ph) = & \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{0(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j \\ & + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 2(2), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$Q_{p+1}(3ph) = \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{0(1), 3(p)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j, \quad (\text{with leading } A_2)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
& + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(2), 3(p-2)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j, && \text{(with leading } A_3) \\
& + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{2(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j, && \text{(with leading } A_1) \\
& + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j, && \text{(with leading } A_2) \\
& + \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_{p+1}) \in P_{1(1), 2(2), 3(p-1)}} \prod_{j=1}^{p+1} A_j, && \text{(with leading } A_3) \quad (4.1)
\end{aligned}$$

5. SUMMARY

This research article has successfully carried out two tasks. First, it investigated and established functional expressions and structure of determining matrices $Q_k(s)$, $s \in \mathbf{R}$, of triple-delay systems for $s = jh$, $\min\{j, k\} = 1$, j, k integers and for $s \in \{rh\} \cup \mathbf{R}$, $r \notin \{\dots, -2, -1, 1, 2, \dots\}$. The article proceeded to obtain the functional expressions and structure of the determining matrices $Q_k(jh)$ on the j -interval $[3k-3, \infty)$. The formulation and proof of the expressions for the determining matrices of the system of interest were achieved by the exploitation of key facts about permutations, the interrogation of the feasibility dispositions of $Q_k(jh)$ and the application of the principle of mathematical induction. The work has added to the body of knowledge and has provided much needed impetus for further work on determining matrices of system (5). A sequel to this article will investigate more general results.

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