

TR/1/84

January 1984

ASYMPTOTIC BEHAVIOUR OF THE SOLUTION
OF A FUNCTIONAL-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION.

by

C. E. TRIPP

ASYMPTOTIC BEHAVIOUR OF THE SOLUTION OF A
FUNCTIONAL-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION.

By C. E. Tripp

Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Brunei University.

Abstract

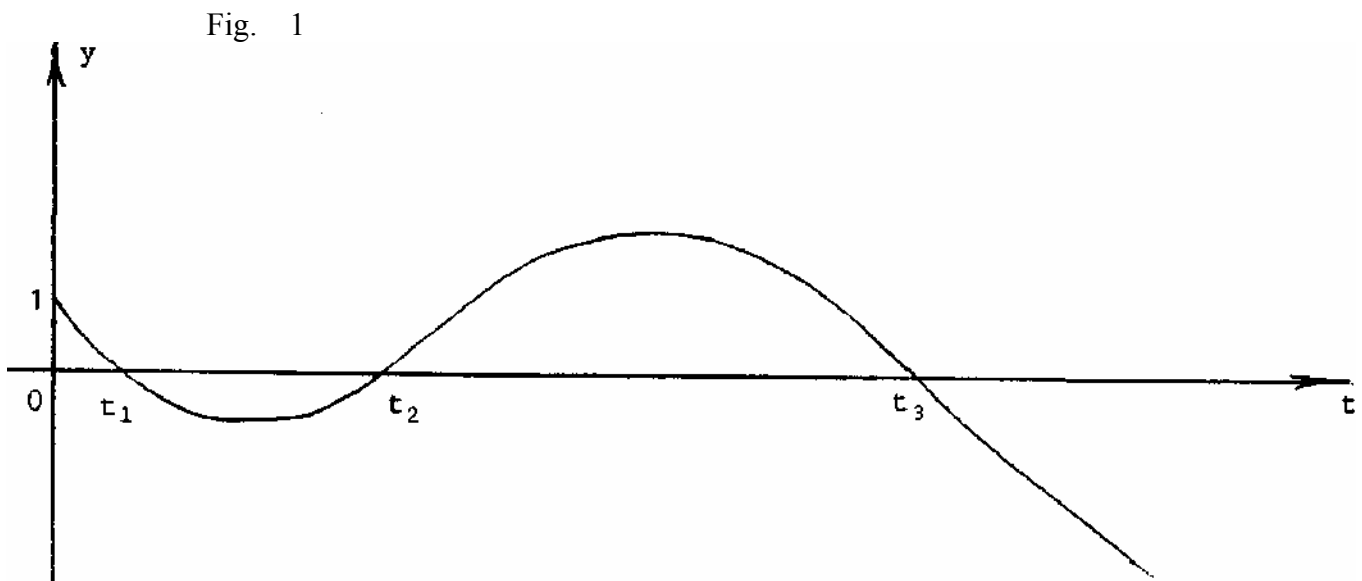
The asymptotic behaviour as $t \rightarrow \infty$ of the solution of the functional-differential equation $y'(t) = -y(t/k)$, with $y(0) = 1$ and $k > 1$, is derived from an integral representation by the method of steepest descents. It is shown that the solution oscillates (that is, has arbitrarily large zeros), that the amplitude of the oscillations grows faster than any polynomial but slower than any exponential, and that the ratios of successive zeros of the solution decrease to the limiting value k .

Introduction

Feldstein and Grafton⁽¹⁾ investigated the solution of the functional-differential equation

$$y'(t) = -y(t/k) \quad , \quad y(0) = 1 \quad (1)$$

for $k > 1$ numerically for various values of k . The solution appeared to oscillate with increasing amplitude about the zero value as t increases, and they calculated the first few zeros. From these values they conjectured that the ratios of successive zeros tends to the value k . Later, in 1971, Fox et al⁽²⁾ obtained a formula giving the rate of growth of solutions of equation (1) by a trial and error method, Feldstein and Grafton's conjecture will be proved and the exact asymptotic formula for the rate of growth of solutions will be obtained. A sketch of what the solution of equation (1) looks like is shown in figure 1.



Solution of $y'(t) = -y(t/k), y(0) = 1, k > 1$

An integral representation of the solution

The functional-differential equation (1) has the series solution

$$y(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-t)^n / n! k^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)} \quad (2)$$

absolutely convergent for all values of t and for $k \geq 1$). This may be easily verified by substituting the series into the equation. From the theory of Fourier transforms we have the result

$$\exp(-as^2) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi\alpha}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\exp(-ius - u^2/4\alpha)) du \quad (3)$$

valid for $\alpha > 0$ and all real values of s . Putting $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \ell \ln k$, $s = n$ and $u = iz$, we find

$$\frac{1}{k^{\frac{1}{2}n^2}} = \frac{1}{i\sqrt{(2\pi\ell\ln k)}} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \exp(nz + z^2 / \ell \ln k^2) dz \quad (4)$$

valid for $k > 1$ and all real values of n . Using this representation of $1/k^{\frac{1}{2}n^2}$ in the series solution (2) we have

$$y = \frac{1}{i\sqrt{(2\pi\ell\ln k)}} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \exp(z^2 / \ell \ln k^2) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-tk^{\frac{1}{2}}e^z)^n}{n!} dz \quad (5)$$

where interchange of the order of summation and integration is justified since the resulting sum is absolutely convergent for all values of z .

The series sums to $\exp(-t\sqrt{k}e^z)$, so

$$y = \frac{1}{i\sqrt{2\pi\ell\ln k}} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \exp(-t\sqrt{k}e^z + z^2 / \ell \ln k^2) dz \quad (6)$$

We may obtain the asymptotic behaviour of $y(t)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ from this integral representation, using the method of steepest descents.

The method of steepest descents

We must examine the behaviour of the modulus of the integrand in (6) in the complex z -plane. This is equivalent to examining the real part of the exponent, so to this end we set

$$H(z) = -t\sqrt{k}e^z + z^2 / \ell \ln k^2 \quad (7)$$

We aim at deforming the contour $-i\infty \rightarrow i\infty$ in the complex z -plane until it follows paths of steepest descent on the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface from points where it reaches a local maximum. Since $H(z)$ is an analytic function of z , $\text{Re}H(z)$ is a harmonic function over the complex z -plane and so cannot have local maxima (or minima). So the places where $\text{Re}H(z)$ reaches a local maximum on steepest paths must be saddle-points on the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface. As t increases, these local maxima on the steepest descent paths will become sharper and sharper, so that for large t the behaviour of the integral will be dominated by contributions to the integral from increasingly small neighbourhoods of the highest of these saddle-points.

So first we need to locate these saddle-points. Next we must determine how the path of integration can be deformed so as to pass through some or all of these saddle-points along steepest descent paths from them. This involves examining the global properties of the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface. Lastly, having established the relevant saddle-points, we evaluate the contribution from each of them to the integral. This involves the local behaviour of the integrand at the saddle-points.

Saddle-points on the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface

Saddle-points occur where $H'(z) = 0$, that is for values of z such that

$$-t k e^z + z / \ell n k = 0 .$$

We write this equation, for convenience, in the form

$$z e^{-z} = e^\lambda , \quad (8)$$

where

$$\lambda = \ell n(t\sqrt{k} \ell n k) . \quad (9)$$

Equation (8) has an infinity of complex solutions for z , which we estimate asymptotically for $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ($t \rightarrow \infty$) using the iterative procedure

$$z^{(k+1)} = -\lambda + \ell n z^{(k)} , \quad \text{with } z^{(0)} = -\lambda . \quad (10)$$

Neglecting order $\ell n^3 \lambda / \lambda^3$ terms, we find for one root

$$z^{(1)} \sim -\lambda + \ell n \lambda + i\pi ,$$

$$z^{(2)} \sim -\lambda + \ell n \lambda + i\pi - \frac{\ell n \lambda}{\lambda} - \frac{i\pi}{\lambda} - \frac{\ell n^2 \lambda}{2\lambda^2} - \frac{i\pi \ell n \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{2\lambda^2} ,$$

$$z^{(3)} \sim -\lambda + \ell n \lambda + i\pi - \frac{\ell n \lambda}{\lambda} - \frac{i\pi}{\lambda} - \frac{\ell n^2 \lambda}{2\lambda^2} - \frac{i\pi \ell n \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{\ell n \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{i\pi}{\lambda^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{2\lambda^2} .$$

The terms of the iterate $z^{(4)}$ are the same as those of $z^{(3)}$ up to this order, so we have for one root (which we label z_0^+), as $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$:

$$z_0^+ = -\lambda + \ell n \lambda - \frac{\ell n \lambda}{\lambda} - \frac{\ell n^2 \lambda}{2\lambda^2} + \frac{\ell n \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{2\lambda^2} + i\pi \left(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{\ell n \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \right) + o\left(\frac{\ell n^3 \lambda}{\lambda^3}\right) \quad (11)$$

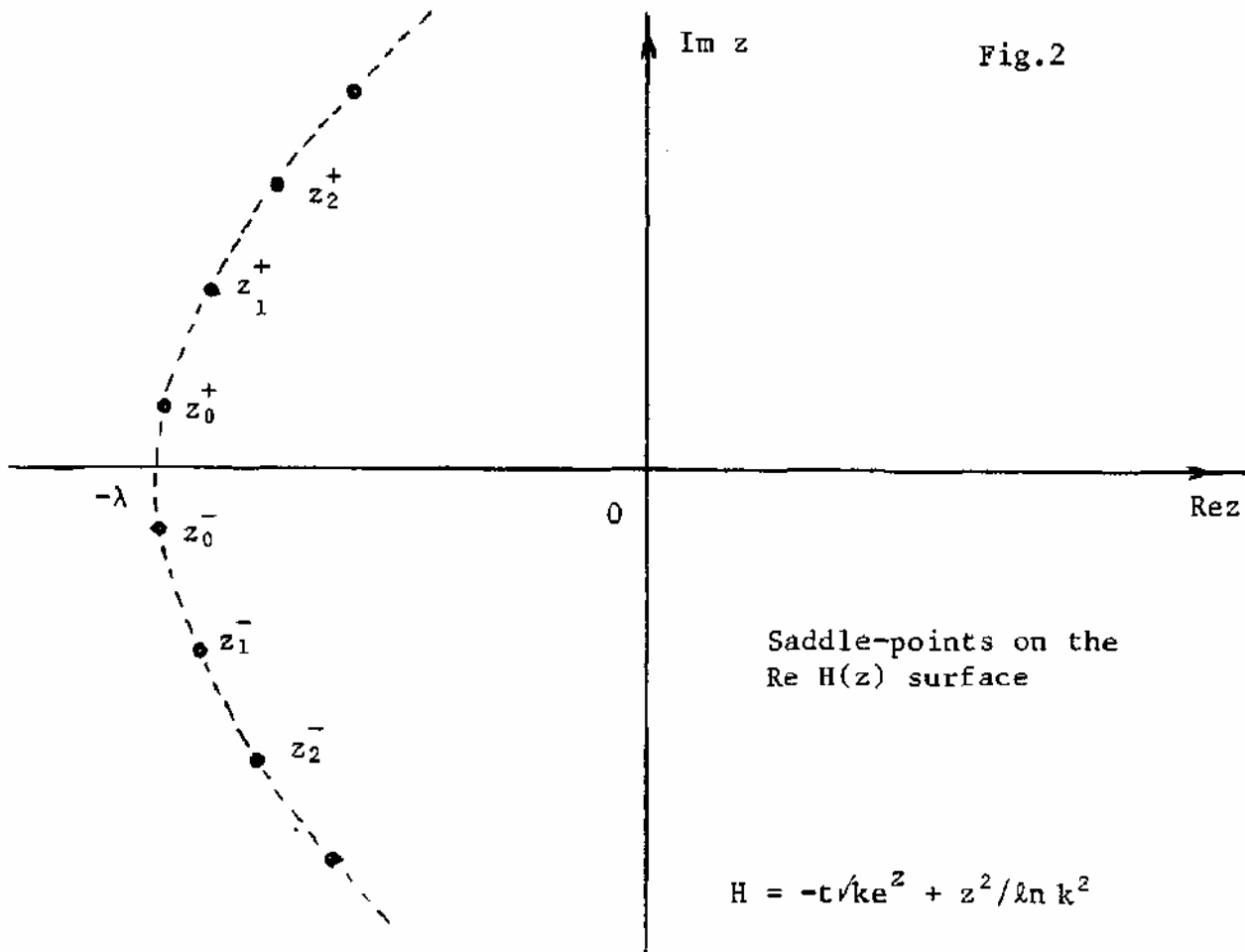
Other roots (which we label z_m^\pm) are determined by using other values of $\ell n(-\lambda)$, namely

$$\ell n \lambda \pm (2m+1)\pi i, \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (12)$$

These other roots may be obtained from (11) by simply replacing π by $\pm(2m+1)\pi$. This means that (at least for $\lambda \gg m$) the roots vary with m approximately as

$$z_m^\pm \sim -A + (2m+1)^2 B \pm i(2m+1)c, \quad (13)$$

where A, B and C are positive and depend essentially on λ alone. Thus the complex roots of equation (8) not too far from the real axis lie (approximately) on a parabola in the complex z -plane, with its vertex near $-\lambda$ on the real axis (see figure 2).



At a saddle-point z_m we have

$$H(z) = -t\sqrt{ke} z_m + z_m^2 / \ln k^2 = z_m (2 - z_m) / \ln k^2 ,$$

since $-t\sqrt{ke} z = z / \ln k^2$ for $z = z_m$. Using this expression, we obtain for the values of $H(z)$ at the conjugate pair of saddle-points z_m^+, z_m^- :

$$\begin{aligned} \ln k^2 H(z) &= \lambda^2 - 2\lambda \ln \lambda + 2\lambda - 2 \ln \lambda + \ln^2 \lambda - (2m+1)^2 \pi^2 \\ &\pm (2m+1)\pi i(-\lambda + \ln \lambda - 1) + o(1) , \quad \lambda \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

where $\lambda = \ln(t\sqrt{k \ln k})$. Thus conjugate pairs of saddle-points are at equal heights on the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface, since only even powers of $\pm(2m+1)$ will occur in the real part. Also, the pair nearest the real axis (the pair for which $m = 0$) are the highest. However, the pairs further from the real axis (for which $|m|$ is larger) are only "numerically" lower (by the amount $-(2m+1)^2 \pi^2$ approximately), that is, by an amount which is essentially independent of λ .

Global behaviour on the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface

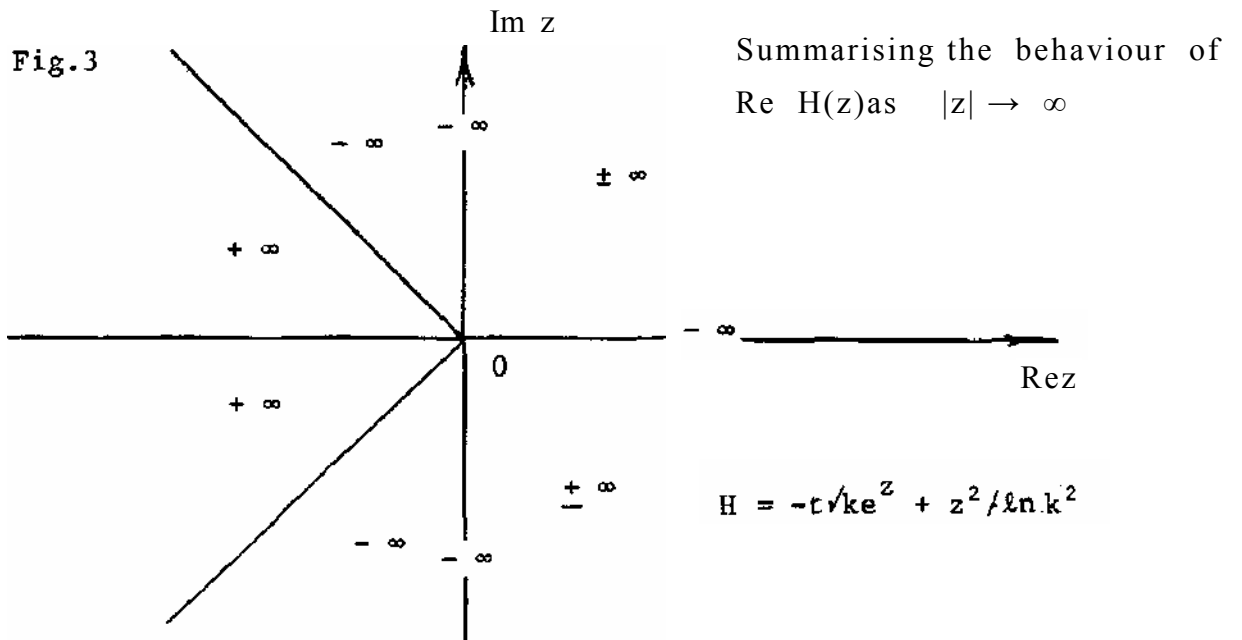
Recall that
$$H(z) = -t\sqrt{ke} z^2 + z^2 / \ln k^2 \tag{7}$$

Firstly, we observe that $H(z)$ is an entire function, that is, it has no singularities in the finite z -plane. This means that all steepest paths from saddle-points and all level contours on the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface must end at infinity. The steepest descent paths must go off to infinity in directions for which $\text{Re}H(z) \rightarrow -\infty$ as $|z| \rightarrow \infty$, so first we establish these directions from the behaviour of $\text{Re}H(re^{i\theta})$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ for different values of θ . With $z = re^{i\theta}$ we have

$$\text{Re}H(re^{i\theta}) = -t\sqrt{ke} r^{\cos \theta} \cos(r \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{2} r^2 \cos 2\theta / \ln k \tag{15}$$

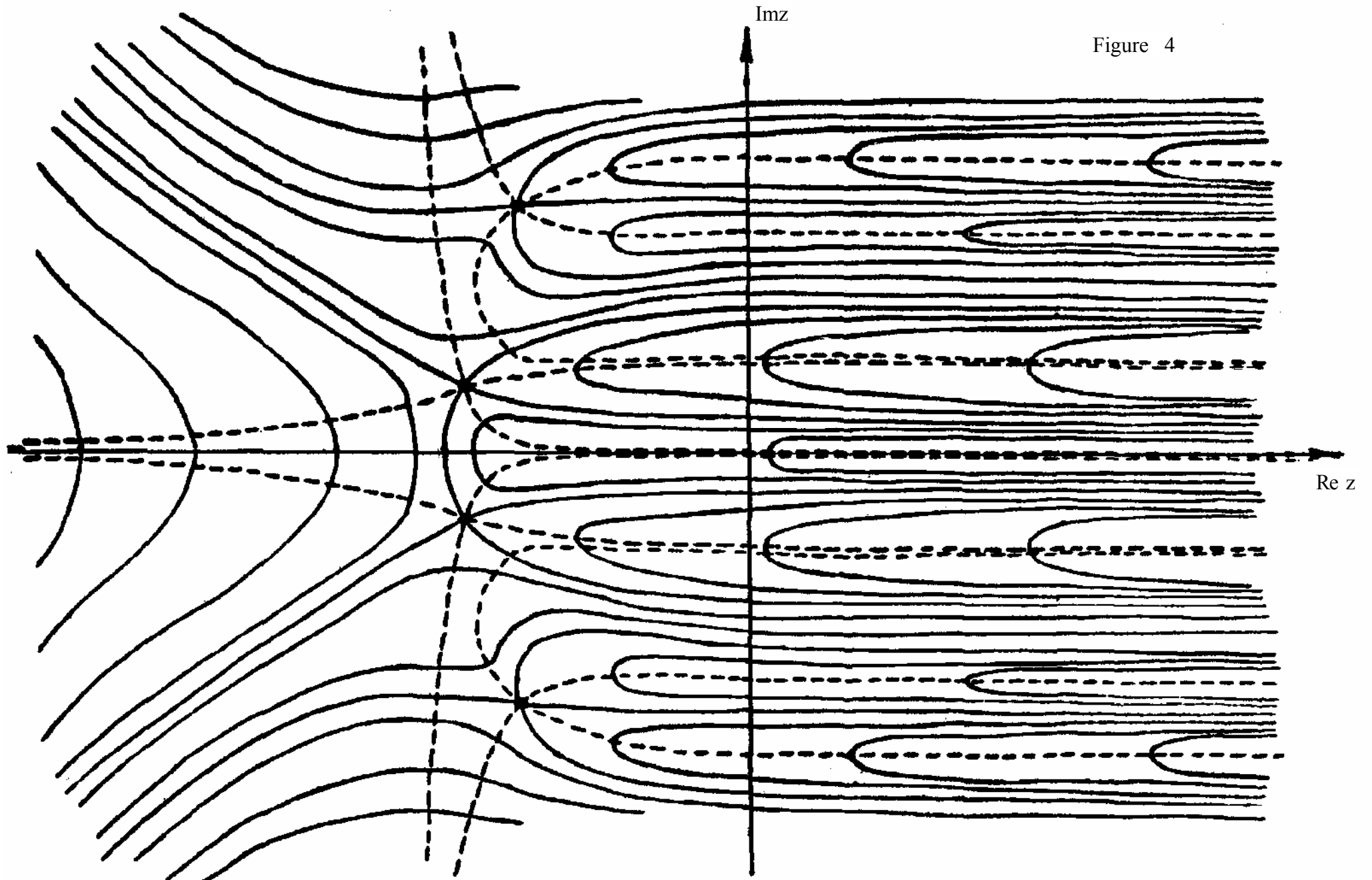
(i) For $\cos \theta \leq 0$, $\text{Re}H \sim \frac{1}{2} r^2 \cos 2\theta / \ln k$, so $\text{Re}H \rightarrow -\infty$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ for $\cos 2\theta < 0$ i.e. $\frac{1}{2}\pi < \theta < \frac{3}{2}\pi$ or $\frac{5}{4}\pi < \theta < \frac{7}{4}\pi$, which combined with $\frac{1}{2}\pi \leq \theta \leq \frac{3}{2}\pi$ yields $\frac{1}{2}\pi \leq \theta < \frac{3}{4}\pi$ or $\frac{5}{4}\pi < \theta \leq \frac{3}{2}\pi$.

(ii) For $\cos \theta \geq 0$, $\text{Re}H \sim -t\sqrt{ke} r^{\cos \theta} \cos(r \sin \theta)$, $r \rightarrow \infty$. If θ is fixed $\text{Re}H$ will oscillate with increasing amplitude as $r \rightarrow \infty$. However, if $\theta = \arcsin(C/r)$, where C is a constant such that $-\frac{1}{2}\pi < C < \frac{1}{2}\pi$, then $\text{Re}H \rightarrow \infty$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$. So $\text{Re}H \rightarrow \infty$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ along certain paths asymptotic to the positive real axis. (In between these paths there will be paths along which $\text{Re}H \rightarrow +\infty$). In particular, $\text{Re}H \rightarrow \infty$ along the positive real axis.



The situation is summarised in figure 3. Thus steepest descent paths must go off to infinity in the sectors $\frac{1}{2}\pi \leq \arg z < \frac{1}{2}\pi$, $\frac{5}{4}\pi < \arg z \leq \frac{3}{2}\pi$, or along suitable paths asymptotic to the positive real axis. We are now in a position to sketch a contour map for the $\text{Re}H(z)$ surface, and put in the steepest paths from the saddle-points. This is shown in figure 4. Only four saddle-points are shown. Other complex conjugate pairs of saddle-points may be added in exactly the same way as the outside pair have been incorporated into the contour map.

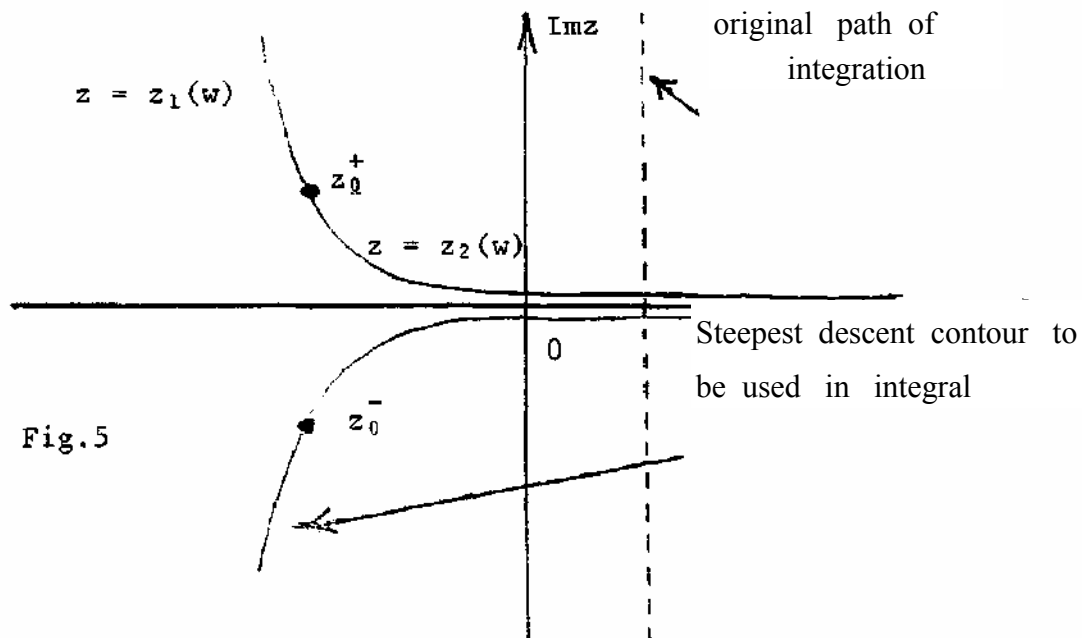
Figure 4



Level contours and steepest paths through saddle points on the $\text{Re}(-t\sqrt{ke^2 + z/\ell nk})$ surface

Deformation of the original path of integration

Since the integrand is an entire function of z , we have no singularities in the finite part of the plane to worry about. We can pull the $-i\infty$ to $i\infty$ contour along to the left until it passes through the two saddle-points nearest the real axis. Next we bend the path so that it goes off to infinity along steepest descent paths in the sectors $\frac{1}{2}\pi \leq \arg z < \frac{3}{4}\pi$ and $\frac{3}{4}\pi < \arg z \leq \frac{3}{2}\pi$ (Probably plumb in the middle of them). Finally, we pull it to the right along the real axis until the upper and lower parts of it go off to infinity along the steepest descent paths from the two saddle-points which are asymptotic to the positive real axis. It is very important to note that we cannot deform the path to go through any other pair of saddle-points along steepest descent paths from them, because we cannot continuously deform the contour to go along the appropriate path asymptotic to the positive real axis, since it is separated from its conjugate twin by indefinitely high ridges. This is important, because equation (14) shows that the contribution to the integral from other pairs of saddle-points is only "numerically" smaller (rather than asymptotically smaller) than the contribution from the pair nearest the real axis. The fact that it is impossible to deform the contour to pass along steepest paths through other saddle-points means we do not have to try and "add-up" any infinite sum of contributions, or worry about apparent arbitrariness concerning which pair of saddle-points we should be using. The required contour is shown in figure 5.



For large λ (large t) the value of the integral will be dominated by the behaviour of the integrand in the neighbourhood of the saddle-points z_0^\pm .

Contribution to the integral from the neighbourhood of the saddle-points z_0^+, z_0^- .

We make the change of variable

$$w = H(z_0^+) - H(z) \quad (16)$$

in the integral- Along the steepest descent paths from the saddle-point at z_0^+ , $\text{Im}H(z)$ is constant, so $H(z_0^+) - H(z)$ stays real and varies monotonically from zero (at the saddle-point) to $+\infty$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$ along the path in either direction. The two solutions of equation (16) for z as a function of the positive real variable w we denote by $Z_1(w)$ and $Z_2(w)$ (see figure 5).

As $w \rightarrow \infty$ $\arg Z_2 \rightarrow 0$ and $\arg z_1 \rightarrow$ a limit between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$. Both $z_1(w)$ and $Z_2(w)$ will have expansions in powers of w of the form

$$z(w) = z_0^+ + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} a_r w^{\frac{1}{2}r} \quad (17)$$

Denoting the part of the deformed contour in the upper half-plane by C , we have

$$\int_C e^{H(Z)} dz = e^{H(z_0^+)} \int_0^\infty e^{-w} \left\{ \frac{dz_1}{dw} - \frac{dz_2}{dw} \right\} dw \quad (18)$$

From (16), expanding $H(z)$ about the point z_0^+ , we have after cancelling the $H(z_0^+)$ terms and using the fact that $H'(z_0^+) = 0$,

$$w = -\frac{1}{2}(z-z_0^+)^2 H''(z_0^+) - \frac{1}{6}(z-z_0^+)^3 H'''(z_0^+) - \dots \quad (19)$$

Inserting the expansion (17) for z in terms of w we get the identity

$$w = -\frac{1}{2}H''(z_0^+) (a_1 w^{\frac{1}{2}} + a_2 w + \dots)^2 - \frac{1}{6}H'''(z_0^+) (a_1 w^{\frac{1}{2}} + \dots)^3 - \dots$$

Equating the coefficients of w gives

$$1 = -\frac{1}{2}H''(z_0^+)a_1^2$$

so that

$$a_1 = \pm \sqrt{\{-2/H''(z_0^+)\}} \quad (20)$$

To find which sign applies to z_1 and which to Z_2 in the expansion (17), we must examine the argument of the complex quantity $H''(z_0^+)$. Writing

$$H''(z_0^+) = \text{Re}^{i\phi/nk} \quad (21)$$

we find from (11)

$$R = \lambda + 1 + \frac{\ell n^2 \lambda}{2\lambda} + \frac{\pi^2}{2\pi} + 0 \left(\frac{\ell n^3 \lambda}{\lambda^3} \right), \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad (22)$$

$$\phi = \frac{-\pi}{\lambda} - \frac{\pi \ell \ln \lambda}{\lambda^2} + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda^2} + 0 \left(\frac{\ell \ln^3 \lambda}{\lambda^3} \right), \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad (23)$$

Thus, taking only dominant terms,

$$H''(z_0^+) \sim \lambda e^{-i\pi/\lambda} / \ell \ln \lambda, \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

so that

$$a_1 \sim \sqrt{\{2 \ell \ln \lambda / \lambda\}} \exp(\pm \frac{\pi}{2} i - \frac{\pi}{2\lambda} i), \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad (24)$$

Thus for $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ and $w \rightarrow 0$

$$z(w) \sim z_0^+ + \sqrt{\{2 \ell \ln \lambda / \lambda\}} \exp(\pm \frac{\pi}{2} i + \frac{\pi}{2\lambda} i) w^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Thus one steepest descent path leaves z_0^+ at an angle $\frac{\pi}{2}(1 + \lambda^{-1})$ (with reference to the real axis): this must be $z_2(w)$; the other leaves at an angle $-\frac{\pi}{2}(1 - \lambda^{-1})$: this must be $z_1(w)$. So, with a_1 as defined in (20) we must take

$$z_1(w) = z_0^+ + \sqrt{\{-2/H''(z_0^+)\}} w^{\frac{1}{2}} + \dots,$$

$$z_2(w) = z_0^+ - \sqrt{\{-2/H''(z_0^+)\}} w^{\frac{1}{2}} + \dots,$$

Thus,

$$\frac{dz_1}{dw} \frac{dz_2}{dw} = \sqrt{\{-2/H''(z_0^+)\}} w^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \dots$$

so that, from (18), using just the first term of the expansion as above,

$$\int_C e^{H(z)} dz \sim e^{H(z_0^+)} / \left\{ \frac{-2}{H''(z_0^+)} \right\} \int_0^\infty e^{-w} w^{-\frac{1}{2}} dw, \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad (25)$$

The rigorous proof that this does, indeed, produce the first term in an asymptotic expansion for the integral as $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$, relies on a generalisation of the usual "Laplace Method" or "Saddle-point method" which deals only with integrals of the form

$$\int_C e^{\lambda h(z)} dz, \lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

in which $h(z)$ is independent of λ . This generalisation may be found in Evgrafov⁽³⁾. Performing the integration in (25), we arrive at the result

$$\int_C e^{H(z)} dz \sim e^{\sqrt{H(z_0^+)}} \left\{ \frac{-2\pi}{H''(z_0^+)} \right\}, \lambda \rightarrow \infty \quad (26)$$

and we use this to estimate the contribution from the neighbourhood of the saddle-point at z_0^+

The work now just consists in evaluating the expression on the right hand side of (26) to a suitable order. If z is a saddle-point, where $H'(z) = 0$,

we find, using $ze^{-z} = e^{-z} - e^{-z} z$,

$$H = z(z-2)/\ln k^2, \quad H'' = (1-z)/\ln k. \quad (27)$$

Writing $z = \alpha + i\beta$ and using (26) we get for the contribution to the original integral (6) for $y(t)$ from a saddle-point at $\alpha + i\beta$

$$\exp\{(\alpha^2 - 2\alpha - \beta^2)/\ln k^2 - \frac{1}{2}\ln R\} \exp i \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}\varphi - \beta(1-\alpha)/\ln k \right\}, \quad (28)$$

where

$$\ln R = \frac{1}{2} \ln[(1-\alpha)^2 + \beta^2], \quad \varphi = \arctan(\beta/\alpha) \quad (29)$$

The saddle-points z_0^+ will produce complex conjugate contributions, and so, adding (28) and its complex conjugate we get the asymptotic estimate

$$2 \exp\{\alpha^2 - 2\alpha + \beta^2)/\ln k^2 - \frac{1}{2}\ln R\} \cos\left\{\frac{1}{2}\varphi + \beta(1-\alpha)/\ln k\right\}. \quad (30)$$

α and β are the real and imaginary parts of the root z_0^+ given by (11), so using these expressions for α and β in (30) we obtain, after some work, the asymptotic formula

$$y(t) \sim \exp\left\{\ln 2 - \frac{\pi^2}{\ln k^2}\right\} \exp\left\{\frac{(\lambda - \ln \lambda)^2 + 2\lambda - \ln k \ln \lambda}{\ln k^2}\right\} \cos\pi\left\{\frac{\lambda - \ln \lambda}{\ln k}\right\} \quad (31)$$

as $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$, where $o(1)$ terms have been neglected in the exponents. Replacing λ by $\ln(t/k \ln k)$ in (31) gives the required asymptotic formula for $y(t)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$; -

$$y(t) \sim A t^k (\ln t)^h \exp\{(\ln t - \ln \ln t)^2/\ln k^2\} \cos \pi \left\{ (\ln t - \ln \ln t + \ln \ln k)/\ln k + \frac{1}{2} \right\} \quad (32)$$

where

$$h = -1 - \ln \ln k / \ln k,$$

$$k = \frac{1}{2} + (1 + \ln \ln k)/\ln k,$$

$$A = 2 \left\{ \exp \left[(\ln \ln k)^2 - \pi^2 + 2 \ln \ln k \right] / \ln k^2 + \frac{2}{0} \ln k + \frac{1}{2} \ln \ln k + \frac{1}{2} \right\}$$

Once again, $o(1)$ terms have been neglected, since the next term in the main asymptotic expansion would contribute such terms.

The large zeros of the solution

Zeros of $y(t)$ occur for values of t satisfying (asymptotically)

$$\lambda - \ln \lambda = \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln k, \quad (33)$$

where n is a large positive integer and $\lambda = \ln(t/k \ln k)$. To solve this equation we use the iterative procedure

$$\lambda^{(p+1)} = \ln \lambda^{(p)} + \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln k, \quad \text{with } \lambda^{(0)} = 1 \quad (34)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^{(1)} &= n \ell n k + \frac{3}{2 \ell n k}, \\ \lambda^{(2)} &= n \ell n k + \ell n n + \frac{1}{2} \ell n k + \ell n \ell n k + 0(1), \\ \lambda^{(3)} &= n \ell n k + \ell n n + \frac{1}{2} \ell n k + \ell n \ell n k + 0(1)\end{aligned}$$

The terms of the iterates $\lambda^{(2)}$ and $\lambda^{(3)}$ are thus the same up to $o(1)$ terms, so, substituting $\lambda = \ell n(t \sqrt{k} \ell n k)$, we deduce that the large zeros of $y(t)$ are given by

$$t_n \sim nk^n, \quad n \rightarrow \infty \quad (35)$$

The asymptotic behaviour of the ratios of successive zeros is thus given by

$$t_{n+1}/t_n \sim (1 + \frac{1}{n})k, \quad n \rightarrow \infty, \quad (36)$$

confirming Feldstein and Graftons⁽¹⁾ conjecture that $t_{n+1}/t_n \rightarrow k$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Furthermore, we see from formula (36) that the ratios decrease to the value k , consistent with the numerical results in Feldstein and Graftons' paper.

Rate of growth of the solution

The most rapidly varying factor in the asymptotic formula (32) for $y(t)$ is

$$\exp\{\ell n^2 t / \ell n k^2\},$$

so the amplitude of the oscillations grows faster than any polynomial in t , but slower than any exponential, as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Appendix: a check on the asymptotic formula (31).

As a check on the result we evaluate $y'(t)$ and $y(t/k)$ from formula (31), neglecting $o(1)$ terms. Observing that

$$\lambda'(t) = 1/t, \lambda(t/k) = \lambda(t) - \ell n k$$

we find after some calculation,

$$y'(t) \sim \lambda y(t) / t \ell n k,$$

$$y(t/k) \sim -\lambda y(t) / t \ell n k, \quad t \rightarrow \infty$$

consistently with equation (1).

References

- (1) Feldstein and Grafton:
Proc. ACM(1968) Nat.Conf., 67-71,
- (2) Fox, Mayers, Ockendon and Taylor: "On a functional differential equation", J. Inst. Maths. Applies (1971)8 , 271-307.
- (3) Evgrafov: "Asymptotic Estimates and Entire Functions"
Gordon and Breach, Science Publishers, New York, 1961
(translated by Alan Shields. Original Russian version published in 1957).