Korean J. Math. **27** (2019), No. 1, pp. 81–92
https://doi.org/10.11568/kjm.2019.27.1.81

THE STABILITY OF GENERALIZED RECIPROCAL-NEGATIVE FERMAT'S EQUATIONS IN QUASI-β-NORMED SPACES

DongSeung Kang and Hoewoon Kim*

Abstract. We introduce a reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation generalized with constants coefficients and investigate its stability in a quasi-β-normed space.

1. Introduction

In many mathematical fields we would be interested in dealing with the following question suggested first in 1940 by Ulam [32]: *Let G_1 be a group and let G_2 be a metric group with the metric $d(\cdot,\cdot)$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, does there exist a $\delta > 0$ such that if a function $h : G_1 \to G_2$ satisfies the inequality $d(h(xy), h(x)h(y)) < \delta$ for all $x, y \in G_1$ then there is a homomorphism $H : G_1 \to G_2$ with $d(h(x), H(x)) < \varepsilon$ for all $x \in G_1$?* In other words, we consider the conditions under which a mathematical object satisfying certain properties approximately should be close to the one satisfying the properties exactly. In 1941, Hyers [8] consider the case of linear or additive functional equation in a complete metric space, Banach space, and gave the affirmative but partial solution to Ulam's question above. This Hyers' stability result was first generalized in the

Received September 12, 2018. Revised December 26, 2018. Accepted December 31, 2018.
2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 39B52, 39B82.
Key words and phrases: Stability, Functional equations, Reciprocal-negative Fermat's Equation, Quasi-β-normed spaces.
∗ Corresponding author.

stability involving a sum of powers of norms by T. Aoki [1], not only constants later. In 1978, Th.M. Rassias [21] provided another generalization of Hyers Theorem which allows the Cauchy difference to be unbounded. For the following sections where we show our results of stability let us define a quasi-β-normed spaces.

Let β be a real number with $0 < \beta \leq 1$ and $\mathbb{K}$ be either $\mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{C}$. We will consider the definition and some preliminary results of a quasi-β-norm on a linear space.

Definition 1.1. Let X be a linear space over a field $\mathbb{K}$. A *quasi-β-norm* $||\cdot||$ is a real-valued function on X satisfying the followings:
(1) $||x|| \geq 0$ for all $x \in X$ and $||x|| = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$.
(2) $||\lambda x|| = |\lambda|^\beta \cdot ||x||$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{K}$ and all $x \in X$.
(3) There is a constant $K \geq 1$ such that $||x+y|| \leq K(||x|| + ||y||)$ for all $x, y \in X$.

The pair $(X, ||\cdot||)$ is called a *quasi-β-normed space* if $||\cdot||$ is a quasi-β-norm on X. The smallest possible K is called the *modulus of concavity* of $||\cdot||$. A *quasi-Banach space* is a complete quasi-β-normed space.

A quasi-β-norm $||\cdot||$ is called a (β, p)-norm $(0 < p \leq 1)$ if $||x+y||^p \leq ||x||^p + ||y||^p$, for all $x, y \in X$. In this case, a quasi-β-Banach space is called a (β, p)-Banach space; see [3] and [29].

In number theory, Fermat's Last Theorem states that no three positive integers a, b, and c satisfy the equation $c^n = a^n + b^n$ for any integer value of $n \geq 2$. Taking the reciprocal of each term in the Fermat's equation we arrive at the equation $\frac{1}{c^n} = \frac{1}{a^n} + \frac{1}{b^n}$ that is called the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation. Solving the reciprocal equation $\frac{1}{c^n} = \frac{a^n+b^n}{a^n\, b^n}$, for c^n, we have

$$c^n = \frac{a^n\, b^n}{a^n + b^n}$$

for any integer value of $n \geq 2$. In particular, in the case of $n = 1$ the above equation should be the harmonic mean of a and b from the well-known three Pythagorean means; arithmetic mean, geometric mean, and harmonic mean in geometry.

In 2010, Ravi and Kumar [28] investigated a generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of the reciprocal functional equation $f(x+y) = \dfrac{f(x)f(y)}{f(x)+f(y)}$. Also see [11] for a fixed point approach. With the motivation of the Pythagorean means Narasimman, Ravi, and Pinelas [20] in 2015 introduced the Pythagorean mean functional equation $f(\sqrt{x^2+y^2}) =$

$\dfrac{f(x)f(y)}{f(x)+f(y)}$ for all positive numbers x and y and studied the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of the equation providing counter-examples for singular cases. Recently Kang and Kim in [18] introduced the generalized Pythagorean mean functional equation

$$f\left(\sqrt[n]{x^n+y^n}\right)=\frac{f(x)f(y)}{f(x)+f(y)} \tag{1}$$

for a positive integer n and investigated the stabilities of the functional equation in a quasi-β-normed space.

In this paper, we consider the following weighted reciprocal-negative Fermat's functional equation:

$$f\left(\sqrt[n]{ax^n+by^n}\right)=\frac{f(x)f(y)}{bf(x)+af(y)} \tag{2}$$

for fixed positive integers n and for all $x,y\in X$ with weights a and b. We are able to see definitely that the generalized Pythagorean mean functional equation (1) given by Kang and Kim above is the special case when $a=b=1$. Due to the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation, we still call the mapping f the reciprocal-negative Fermat's function. In Section 2 we establish the general solution of the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2) in the simplest case and give the differential solution to the equation (2). In Section 3 we prove the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2) in a quasi-β-normed space.

2. General Solution of the Reciprocal-negative Fermat's functional equation

In this section we establish both the general and differential solution of the weighted reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2) following the work by Ger [10] and Kang [18]

Theorem 2.1 (General Solution). *Let $n\in\mathbb{N}$ be an odd integer (or even integer). The only nonzero solution $f:\mathbb{R}\setminus\{0\}\longrightarrow\mathbb{R}$ (or $f:(0,\infty)\longrightarrow\mathbb{R}$) with a finite limit of the quotient $\dfrac{f(x)}{1/x^n}$ at zero, of the equation (2) is of the form $\dfrac{c}{x^n}$ for a non-zero constant $c\in\mathbb{R}$.*

Proof. Letting $y = x$ in (2) we just have $f(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x) = \left(\frac{1}{a+b}\right) f(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ (or $x \in (0,\infty)$)).

Let us define $g(x) = \frac{f(x)}{1/x}$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ (or $x \in (0,\infty)$). Then the limit

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{g(x)}{\frac{1}{x^{n-1}}} = c$$

exists for some nonzero $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and using the definition of $f(x)$ we obtain

$$g\left(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt[n]{(a+b)^{n-1}}} g(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ (or $x \in (0,\infty)$). By the mathematical induction for every positive integer k, we also have

$$g\left(\frac{x}{(\sqrt[n]{a+b})^k}\right) = (\sqrt[n]{(a+b)^{n-1}})^k g(x) \tag{3}$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ (or $x \in (0,\infty)$). Therefore we conclude from the equality (3) that

$$\frac{g(x)}{\frac{1}{x^{n-1}}} = \frac{(\sqrt[n]{(a+b)^{n-1}})^k g(x)}{(\sqrt[n]{(a+b)^{n-1}})^k \frac{1}{x^{n-1}}} = \frac{g\left(\frac{x}{(\sqrt[n]{(a+b)})^k}\right)}{\left(\frac{(\sqrt[n]{(a+b)})^k}{x}\right)^{n-1}} \longrightarrow c \tag{4}$$

as $n \to \infty$. By the definition of $g(x)$ we get the general solution

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x} g(x) = \frac{1}{x}\left(\frac{c}{x^{n-1}}\right) = \frac{c}{x^n}$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ (or $x \in (0,\infty)$), which completes the proof. □

Now we consider the differentiable solution of the reciprocal-negative Fermat's functional equation (2) as we suggested. For simplicity we will assume the case of an odd integer $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (we can prove the even case similarly).

THEOREM 2.2 (Differential Solution). *Let $f : (0,\infty) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuously differentiable function with the derivative $f'(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in (0,\infty)$. Then f is a solution to the reciprocal-negative Fermat's* *equation (2) if and only if there exists a nonzero constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(x) = \dfrac{c}{x^n}$ for all $x \in (0, \infty)$.*

Proof. A simple computation of differentiation of the equation (2) with respect to x on both sides gives

$$f'(\sqrt[n]{ax^n + by^n})\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt[n]{ax^n + by^n}}\right)^{n-1} = \frac{f'(x)(f(y))^2}{(bf(x) + af(y))^2} \tag{5}$$

for all $x, y \in (0, \infty)$. Substituting $y = x$ in the equation (2) and the equation (5) above, respectively, we have

$$f(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x) = \left(\frac{1}{a+b}\right) f(x) \tag{6}$$

and

$$f'(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x) = \frac{1}{(a+b)^{\frac{n+1}{n}}} f'(x) \tag{7}$$

for all $x \in (0, \infty)$. Letting $y = \sqrt[n]{\frac{b+1}{b}}x$ in (5) again and applying (6) and (7) we can have

$$f'(\sqrt[n]{a+b+1}x) = \frac{1}{(a+b+1)^{\frac{n+1}{n}}} f'(x) \tag{8}$$

for all $x \in (0, \infty)$. Both equations (7) and (8) gives

$$f'((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^l(\sqrt[n]{a+b+1})^m x) = \frac{1}{((a+b)^{\frac{n+1}{n}})^l((a+b+1)^{\frac{n+1}{n}})^m} f'(x) \tag{9}$$

for all integers l and m. It can be easily proved that the set $\{((a+b)^{\frac{n+1}{n}})^l((a+b+1)^{\frac{n+1}{n}})^m : l, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is dense in $(0, \infty)$ for fixed constants a and b. Since we assume that the function f' is continuous we derive the following first order ordinary differential equation

$$f'(\lambda) = f'(1)\frac{1}{\lambda^{n+1}} \tag{10}$$

for $\lambda \in (0, \infty)$. Therefore, the solution of the equation should be $f(x) = \dfrac{c}{x^n} + d$ for some constants c and d for $x \in (0, \infty)$. It is also obvious that the constant d should be zero since $f(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x) = \left(\dfrac{1}{a+b}\right) f(x)$ and it completes the proof.

□

3. Stability of a Reciprocal-negative Fermat's functional equation

We assume that in this entire section X is a linear space and Y a quasi-β-Banach space with a quasi-β-norm $||\cdot||_Y$. Let also K be the modulus of concavity of $||\cdot||_Y$. In this section we will investigate the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability problem for the functional equation (2) as we suggested. For a given mapping $f : X \to Y$ and a fixed positive integer n, we denote

$$D_n f(x,y) := f\Big(\sqrt[n]{ax^n + by^n}\Big) - \frac{f(x)f(y)}{bf(x) + af(y)}$$

for all $x, y \in X$ and $\mathbb{R}^+ := [0,\infty)$, i.e., the set of all nonnegative real numbers where the constants a and b are nonzero real numbers.

THEOREM 3.1. *Assume that there exists a function $\phi : X \times X \to \mathbb{R}^+$ for which a function $f : X \to Y$ satisfies*

$$||D_n f(x,y)||_Y \le \phi(x,y) \tag{11}$$

and also suppose that the series $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}((a+b)^\beta K)^j \phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j y)$ converges for all x, $y \in X$. Then there will be a unique reciprocal-negative Fermat's function $R : X \to Y$ which satisfies the equation (2) and the following inequality

$$||f(x) - R(x)||_Y \le \sum_{j=0}^{\infty}((a+b)^\beta K)^{j+1} \phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x)\,, \tag{12}$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. On letting $x = y$ in the equation (11), we have

$$||D_n f(x,x)||_Y = ||\frac{f(x)}{a+b} - f(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x)||_Y \le \phi(x,\, x)$$

or,

$$||f(x) - (a+b)f(\sqrt[n]{a+b}x)||_Y \le (a+b)^\beta \phi(x,\, x) \tag{13}$$

for all $x \in X$. Letting m be a fixed positive integer we note that putting $x = (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x$ and multiplying by $(a+b)^{m\beta}$ in the inequality (13), we can obtain

$$||(a+b)^m f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) - (a+b)^{m+1} f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{m+1} x)||_Y \leq (a+b)^{(m+1)\beta}\phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x,\, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) \tag{14}$$

for all $x \in X$. By the mathematical induction, we conclude the following inequality:

$$||f(x) - (a+b)^m f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x)||_Y \leq \sum_{j=0}^{m-1}((a+b)^\beta K)^{j+1}\phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x,\, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x) \tag{15}$$

for any positive integer m and for all $x \in X$. In addition, for all positive integers s and t with $s > t$, we have

$$||(a+b)^t f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^t x) - (a+b)^s f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^s x)||_Y \leq \sum_{j=t}^{s-1}((a+b)^\beta K)^{j+1}\phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x,\, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x) \tag{16}$$

for all $x \in X$. Since we assume that $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}((a+b)^\beta K)^j \phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j x, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^j y)$ converges, the right-hand side of the inequality (16) tends to 0 as $t \to \infty$. Thus we just say that $\{(a+b)^m f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in the quasi-β-Banach space Y . Thus we are able to let

$$R(x) = \lim_{m\to\infty}(a+b)^m f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x)$$

for each $x \in X$. Now, we will show that $R(x)$ is the solution to the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2). For a positive integer m letting $x = (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x$ and $y = (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m y$ and multiplying by $(a+b)^{m\beta}$ in the inequality (11), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & (a+b)^{m\beta}||D_n f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x,\, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m y)||_Y \\ = \;& (a+b)^{m\beta}||f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m \sqrt[n]{ax^n+by^n}) - \frac{f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) f((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m y)}{bf((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) + af((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m y)}||_Y \\ \leq \;& ((a+b)^\beta K)^m \phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x,\, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m y) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x\,, y \in X$. Letting m tend to the infinity, $m \to \infty$, $R(x)$ satisfies (2) for all $x,\, y \in X$, that is, $R(x)$ is the reciprocal-negative Fermat's function as the solution to it. Also, the inequality (15) implies the inequality (12).

Now, we finally have to show the uniqueness of the reciprocal-negative

Fermat's function $R(x)$. In order to do that we assume that there exists $r : X \to Y$ satisfying (2) and (12). Then we can estimate

$$\begin{aligned} ||R(x) - r(x)||_Y &= (a+b)^{m\beta}||R((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) - r((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x)||_Y \\ &\le K(a+b)^{m\beta}\Big(||R((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) - f(\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x)||_Y \\ &\quad +||r((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x) - f(\sqrt[n]{a+b})^m x)||_Y\Big) \\ &\le 2K^{1-m}\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}((a+b)^{\beta}K)^{j+m+1}\phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{j+m}x, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{j+m}x) \end{aligned}$$

for all $x \in X$. By letting $m \to \infty$, we just have the uniqueness of the reciprocal-negative Fermat's function $R(x)$ that completes the proof. □

Now let us present a counterpart of Theorem 3.1 by correcting the approximate $f(x)$ in (11) by scaling-down:

THEOREM 3.2. *Suppose that there exists a mapping $\phi : X \times X \to \mathbb{R}^+$ for which a mapping $f : X \to Y$ satisfies*

$$||D_n f(x,y)||_Y \le \phi(x,y) \tag{17}$$

and the series $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}\left(\dfrac{K}{(a+b)^{\beta}}\right)^j \phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{-j}x, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{-j}y)$ converges for all $x,\ y \in X$. Then there exists a unique reciprocal-negative Fermat's function $R : X \to Y$ which satisfies the equation (2) and the inequality

(18)

$$||f(x) - R(x)||_Y \le \sum_{j=1}^{\infty}\left(\frac{1}{a+b}\right)^{j-1} K^j \phi((\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{-j}x, (\sqrt[n]{a+b})^{-j}x)\,,$$

for all $x \in X$.

Proof. The proof can easily obtained by starting with the replacement $x = y = \dfrac{x}{\sqrt[n]{a+b}}$ in (17) as we did in Theorem 3.1. □

Now we have the following Hyers-Ulam-Rassias type stability of the functional equation (2).

COROLLARY 3.3. *Let X be a quasi-β normed space with a norm $||\cdot||$ and take a constant $p > \left(\dfrac{n}{\beta}\right)\left(\dfrac{\ln K}{\ln(a+b)} - n\right)$. Suppose that*

$f : X \to Y$ satisfies

$$||D_n f(x,y)||_Y \leq c(||x||^p + ||y||^p) \tag{19}$$

for all $x, y \in X$ with a nonnegative constant c. Then there exists a unique function $R : X \to Y$ such that

$$||f(x) - R(x)||_Y \leq \left(\frac{2c(a+b)^{(\beta p/n)+\beta} K}{(a+b)^{(\beta p/n)+\beta} - K} \right) ||x||^p \tag{20}$$

for each $x \in X$.

Proof. Just replacing $\phi(x,y) = c(||x||^p + ||y||^p)$ in Theorem 3.2 completes the proof. □

Remark 3.4. By the property of stability of the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2) from Theorem 3.1 and 3.2 we also get the corresponding result to Corollary 3.3 as a consequence of Theorem 3.1, i.e.,

$$||f(x) - R(x)||_Y \leq \left(\frac{2c(a+b)^{-(\beta p/n)-\beta} K}{(a+b)^{-(\beta p/n)-\beta} - K} \right) ||x||^p \tag{21}$$

for $p > \left(\frac{n}{\beta}\right)\left(\frac{-\ln K}{\ln 2} - n\right)$.

Remark 3.5. In physics a weighted parallel circuit with two resistors would be an application of the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2). The following law is well-know from physics: The inverse of total resistance r of the circuit is sum of the inverses of the individual resistances r_1 and r_2,

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{r_1} + \frac{1}{r_2}$$

or

$$r = \frac{r_1 r_2}{r_1 + r_2}$$

Take $r_1 = \dfrac{b}{x^n}$ and $r_2 = \dfrac{a}{y^n}$ for a weighted parallel circuit with weights a and b for two resistors r_1 and r_2, respectively, leads us to have

$$r = \frac{\frac{b}{x^n}\frac{a}{y^n}}{\frac{b}{x^n} + \frac{a}{y^n}}. \tag{22}$$

It is well-known that the electric conductance is reciprocal to the resistance and we, thus, have the total conductance g of the circuit as $g = \dfrac{x^n}{b} + \dfrac{y^n}{a}$. From the equation (22) we can have

$$\frac{1}{g} = \frac{\frac{b}{x^n}\frac{a}{y^n}}{\frac{b}{x^n} + \frac{a}{y^n}}, \tag{23}$$

that is,

$$1/g = \frac{1}{x^n/b + y^n/a} = \frac{\frac{b}{x^n}\frac{a}{y^n}}{\frac{b}{x^n} + \frac{a}{y^n}}, \tag{24}$$

which is exactly the reciprocal-negative Fermat's equation (2) if $f(x) = \dfrac{c}{x^n}$ for some constant c and the stability of this circuit problem can play an important role in physics as we showed earlier.

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DongSeung Kang
Mathematics Education,
Dankook University,
Yongin 16890, Republic of Korea
E-mail: dskang@dankook.ac.kr

Hoewoon Kim
Department of Mathematics,
Oregon State University,
Corvallis, Oregon 97331, United States
E-mail: kimho@math.oregonstate.edu