# Research Article **Ulam Stability of a Quartic Functional Equation**

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The oldest quartic functional equation was introduced by J. M. Rassias in (1999), and then was employed by other authors. The functional equation f(2x + y) + f(2x - y) = 4f(x + y) + 4f(x - y) + 24f(x) - 6f(y) is called a *quartic functional equation*, all of its solution is said to be a *quartic function*. In the current paper, the Hyers-Ulam stability and the superstability for quartic functional equations are established by using the fixed-point alternative theorem.

## **1. Introduction**

We say a functional equation  $\mathcal{F}$  is *stable* if any function f satisfying the equation  $\mathcal{F}$  approximately is near to true solution of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Moreover, a functional equation  $\mathcal{F}$  is *superstable* if any function f satisfying the equation  $\mathcal{F}$  approximately is a true solution of  $\mathcal{F}$  (see [1] for another notion of the superstability which may be called *superstability modulo the bounded functions*).

The stability problem for functional equations originated from a question by Ulam [2] in 1940, concerning the stability of group homomorphisms: let  $(G_1, \cdot)$  be a group, and let  $(G_2, *)$  be a metric group with the metric  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Given e > 0, does there exist  $\delta > 0$  such that, if a mapping  $h : G_1 \to G_2$  satisfies the inequality  $d(h(s \cdot t), h(s) * h(t)) < \delta$  for all  $s, t \in G_1$ , then there exists a homomorphism  $H : G_1 \to G_2$  with d(h(s), H(s)) < e for all  $s \in G_1$ ? In other words, under what condition a functional equation is stable? In the following year, Hyers [3] gave a partial affirmative answer to the question of Ulam for Banach spaces. In 1978, the generalized Hyers' theorem was independently rediscovered by Th. M. Rassias [4] by obtaining a unique linear mapping under certain continuity assumption.

The functional equations

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

$$f(2x+y) + f(2x-y) = 2f(x+y) + 2f(x-y) + 12f(x)$$
(1.1)

are called *quadratic* and *cubic* functional equations, respectively. During the last decades, several stability problems for functional equations especially the quadratic and cubic and their generalized have been extensively investigated by many mathematicians (for instances, [5–9]).

In [10], Lee et al. considered the following quartic functional equation:

$$f(2x+y) + f(2x-y) = 4f(x+y) + 4f(x-y) + 24f(x) - 6f(y).$$
(1.2)

It is easy to check that for every  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ , the function  $f(x) = ax^4$  is a solution of the above functional equation. They solved (1.2) and in fact showed that a function  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$ whenever  $\mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  are real vector spaces is quadratic if and only if there exists a symmetric biquadratic function  $F : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that f(x) = F(x, x) for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . They also proved the stability of (1.2). Zhou Xu et al. in [11] used the fixed-point alternative (Theorem 2.1 of the current paper) to establish Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of the general mixed additivecubic functional equation, where functions map a linear space into a complete quasifuzzy *p*-normed space. The generalized Hyers-Ulam stability of a general mixed AQCQ-functional in multi-Banach spaces is also proved by using the mentioned theorem in [12].

Recently, Bodaghi et al. in [13, 14] investigated the stability and the superstability of quadratic and cubic functional equations by a fixed-point method and applied this method to prove the stability of (quadratic, cubic) multipliers on Banach algebras.

In this paper we prove the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability and the superstability for quartic functional equation (1.2) by using the alternative fixed point (Theorem 2.1) under certain conditions.

### 2. Main Results

Throughout this paper, assume that  $\mathcal{X}$  is a normed vector space and  $\mathcal{Y}$  is a Banach space. For a given mapping  $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$ , we consider

$$Df(x,y) := f(2x+y) + f(2x-y) - 4f(x+y) - 4f(x-y) - 24f(x) + 6f(y),$$
(2.1)

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ .

To achieve our aim, we need the following known fixed-point theorem which has been proved in [15].

**Theorem 2.1.** Suppose that  $(\Delta, d)$  is a complete generalized metric space, and let  $\mathcal{Q} : \Delta \to \Delta$  be a strictly contractive mapping with Lipschitz constant L < 1, Then for each element  $g \in \Delta$ , either  $d(\mathcal{Q}^n g, \mathcal{Q}^{n+1} g) = \infty$  for all  $n \ge 0$ , or there exists a natural number  $n_0$  such that

- (i)  $d(\mathcal{J}^n g, \mathcal{J}^{n+1}g) < \infty$ , for all  $n \ge n_0$ ,
- (ii) the sequence  $\{\mathcal{Q}^n g\}$  is convergent to a fixed-point  $g^*$  of  $\mathcal{Q}$ ,

(iii)  $g^*$  is the unique fixed point of  $\mathcal{J}$  in the set

$$\Omega = \{g \in \Delta : d(\mathcal{J}^{n_0}g, g) < \infty\};$$
(2.2)

(iv)  $d(g, g^*) \leq (1/(1-L))d(g, \mathcal{J}g)$ , for all  $g \in \Omega$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** Assume that  $\phi : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is a function satisfying

$$\left\| Df(x,y) \right\| \le \phi(x,y),\tag{2.3}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ . Let a mapping  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  satisfy f(0) = 0. If there exists  $K \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\phi(x,y) \le 2^4 K \phi\left(\frac{x}{2}, \frac{y}{2}\right),\tag{2.4}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ , then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \le \frac{1}{32(1-K)}\phi(x,0),$$
 (2.5)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ .

*Proof.* By recurrence method, we can conclude from (2.4) that  $\phi(2^n x, 2^n y)/2^{4n} \leq K^n \phi(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ . Passing to the limit, we get

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\phi(2^n x, 2^n y)}{2^{4n}} = 0,$$
(2.6)

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ . Here, we intend to build the conditions of Theorem 2.1 and so consider the set  $\Delta := \{h : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y} \mid h(0) = 0\}$  and the mapping *d* defined on  $\Delta \times \Delta$  by

$$d(g,h) := \inf\{C \in (0,\infty) : ||g(x) - h(x)|| \le C\phi(x,0) \ \forall x \in \mathcal{K}\}$$
(2.7)

if there exists such constant *C*, and  $d(g,h) = \infty$  otherwise. It is easy to see that d(h,h) = 0 and d(g,h) = d(h,g), for all  $g, h \in \Delta$ . For each  $g, h, p \in \Delta$ , we have

$$\inf\{C \in (0,\infty) : \|g(x) - h(x)\| \le C\phi(x,0) \ \forall x \in \mathcal{K}\}$$
  
$$\le \inf\{C \in (0,\infty) : \|g(x) - p(x)\| \le C\phi(x,0) \ \forall x \in \mathcal{K}\}$$
  
$$+ \inf\{C \in (0,\infty) : \|p(x) - h(x)\| \le C\phi(x,0) \ \forall x \in \mathcal{K}\}.$$

$$(2.8)$$

Hence,  $d(g,h) \le d(g,p) + d(p,h)$ . Now if d(g,h) = 0, then for every fixed  $x_0 \in \mathcal{X}$ , we have  $||g(x_0) - h(x_0)|| \le C\phi(x_0,0)$ , for all C > 0. This implies g = h. Let  $\{h_n\}$  be a *d*-Cauchy sequence in  $\Delta$ , then  $d(h_m, h_n) \to 0$ , and thus  $||h_m(x) - h_n(x)|| \to 0$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . Since  $\mathcal{Y}$  is

complete, then there exists  $h \in \Delta$  such that  $h_n \xrightarrow{d} h$  in  $\Delta$ . Therefore, d is a generalized metric on  $\Delta$ , and the metric space  $(\Delta, d)$  is complete. Now, we define the mapping  $\mathcal{Q} : \Delta \to \Delta$  by

$$\mathcal{J}g(x) = \frac{1}{2^4}g(2x), \quad (x \in \mathcal{K}).$$

$$(2.9)$$

Fix a  $C \in (0, \infty)$  and take  $g, h \in \Delta$  such that d(g, h) < C. The definitions of d and  $\mathcal{J}$  show that

$$\left\|\frac{1}{2^4}g(2x) - \frac{1}{2^4}h(2x)\right\| \le \frac{1}{2^4}C\phi(2x,0),\tag{2.10}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . By using (2.4), we have

$$\left\|\frac{1}{2^4}g(2x) - \frac{1}{2^4}h(2x)\right\| \le CK\phi(x,0),\tag{2.11}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . It follows from the above inequality that  $d(\mathcal{Q}g, \mathcal{Q}h) \leq Kd(g, h)$ , for all  $g, h \in \Delta$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a strictly contractive mapping on  $\Delta$  with a Lipschitz constant K. Putting y = 0 in (2.3) and dividing both sides of the resulting inequality by 32, we have

$$\left\| f(x) - \frac{1}{16} f(2x) \right\| \le \frac{1}{32} \phi(x, 0), \tag{2.12}$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Thus,  $d(f, \mathcal{J}f) \leq 1/32 < \infty$ . Note that by Theorem 2.1,  $d(\mathcal{J}^n g, \mathcal{J}^{n+1}g) < \infty$ , for all  $n \geq 0$ . Thus, we get  $n_0 = 0$  in this theorem, so (iii) and (iv) of Theorem 2.1 are true on the whole  $\Delta$ . However, the sequence  $\{\mathcal{J}^n f\}$  converges to a unique fixed-point  $Q : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  in the set  $\{g \in \Delta; d(f, g) < \infty\}$ , that is,

$$Q(x) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^{4n}},$$
(2.13)

for all  $x \in X$ . By the part (iv) of Theorem 2.1, we have

$$d(f,Q) \le \frac{d(f,\mathcal{J}f)}{1-K} \le \frac{1}{32(1-K)}.$$
 (2.14)

From (2.14), we observe that the inequality (2.5) holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . Substituting x, y by  $2^n x, 2^n y$  in (2.3), respectively, and applying (2.6) and (2.13), we have

$$\|DQ(x,y)\| = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} \|Df(2^n x, 2^n y)\| \le \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} \phi(2^n x, 2^n y) = 0,$$
(2.15)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . Therefore, *Q* is a quartic mapping which is unique by part (iii) of Theorem 2.1.

**Corollary 2.3.** Let  $p, \theta$  be nonnegative real numbers such that p < 4, and let  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  be a mapping (with f(0) = 0 when p = 0) satisfying

$$\|Df(x,y)\| \le \theta(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p),$$
(2.16)

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ , then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \le \frac{\theta}{32 - 2^{p+1}} \|x\|^p,$$
 (2.17)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ .

*Proof.* The result follows from Theorem 2.2 by using  $\phi(x, y) = \theta(||x||^p + ||y||^p)$ .

Now, we establish the superstability of quartic mapping on Banach spaces under some conditions.

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $p, q, \theta$  be nonnegative real numbers such that  $p + q \in (0, 4)$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  satisfies

$$\|Df(x,y)\| \le \theta \|x\|^p \|y\|^q$$
, (2.18)

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ , then f is a quartic mapping on  $\mathcal{K}$ .

*Proof.* Letting  $\phi(x, y) = \theta ||x||^p ||y||^q$  in Theorem 2.2, we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\phi(2^n x, 2^n y)}{2^{4n}} = 0,$$
(2.19)

which shows (2.6) holds for  $\phi$ . Putting x = y = 0 in (2.18), we get f(0) = 0. Furthermore, if we put y = 0 in (2.18), then we have  $f(2x) = 2^4 f(x)$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . It is easy to see that by induction, we have  $f(2^n x) = 2^{4n} f(x)$ , and so  $f(x) = f(2^n x)/2^{4n}$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now, it follows from Theorem 2.2 that f is a quartic mapping.

Let  $\theta$  and p be positive real numbers. Suppose that a mapping  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  satisfies

$$\left\| Df(x,y) \right\| \le \theta \left\| y \right\|^p, \tag{2.20}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ , then by considering  $\phi(x, y) = \theta ||y||^p$  in Theorem 2.2, the mapping f is again a quartic mapping on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

The following result is proved in [16, Theorem 1].

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a linear space, and let  $\mathcal{Y}$  be a Banach space. Let  $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  be a mapping for which there exists a function  $\varphi : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \to [0, \infty)$  such that

$$\widetilde{\varphi}(x,y) \coloneqq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 2^{-4k} \varphi\left(2^k x, 2^k y\right) < \infty,$$

$$\|Df(x,y)\| \le \delta + \varphi(x,y)$$
(2.21)

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ , where  $\delta \geq 0$ , then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that

$$\left\| f(x) - Q(x) + \frac{1}{5}f(0) \right\| \le \frac{1}{30}\delta + \frac{1}{32}\tilde{\varphi}(x,0)$$
(2.22)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ .

One should note that in the above theorem, f(0) is not necessarily zero, but in the following result, we assume that f(0) = 0 and also consider the case  $\delta = 0$ . By these hypotheses and by applying Theorem 2.1, we obtain the specific result which is a way to prove the superstability of a quartic functional equation.

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  be a mapping with f(0) = 0, and let  $\psi : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{K} \to [0, \infty)$  be a function satisfying

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} 2^{4n} \psi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) = 0, \tag{2.23}$$

$$\left\| Df(x,y) \right\| \le \psi(x,y),\tag{2.24}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ . If there exists  $L \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$\psi(x,0) \le 2^{-4} L \psi(2x,0), \tag{2.25}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ , then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \le \frac{L}{32(1-L)}\psi(x,0),$$
 (2.26)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ .

*Proof.* We take the set  $\Omega := \{g : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y} \mid g(0) = 0\}$  and consider the generalized metric on  $\Omega$ ,

$$d(g_1, g_2) := \inf\{C \in (0, \infty) : ||g_1(x) - g_2(x)|| \le C\psi(x, 0) \ \forall x \in \mathcal{K}\},$$
(2.27)

if there exists such a constant *C*, and  $d(g_1, g_2) = \infty$  otherwise. It follows from the proof of Theorem 2.2 that the metric space  $(\Omega, d)$  is complete (see the proof of Theorem 2.2).

We will show that the mapping  $\mathcal{J} : \Omega \to \Omega$  defined by  $\mathcal{J}g(x) = 2^4 g(x/2)(x \in \mathcal{K})$  is strictly contractive. Fix a  $C \in (0, \infty)$  and take  $g_1, g_2 \in \Omega$  such that  $d(g_1, g_2) < C$ , then we have

$$\left\|2^{4}g_{1}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)-2^{4}g_{2}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\right\| \leq 2^{4}C\psi\left(\frac{x}{2},0\right),$$
(2.28)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . By using (2.25), we obtain

$$\left\|2^{4}g_{1}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - 2^{4}g_{2}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\right\| \le CL\psi(x,0),$$
(2.29)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$ . It follows from the last inequality that  $d(\mathcal{J}g_1, \mathcal{J}g_2) \leq Ld(g_1, g_2)$ , for all  $g_1, g_2 \in \Omega$ . Hence,  $\mathcal{J}$  is a strictly contractive mapping on  $\Omega$  with a Lipschitz constant *L*. By putting y = 0, replacing *x* by x/2 in (2.24) and using (2.25), and then dividing both sides of the resulting inequality by 2, we have

$$\left\|2^{4}f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) - f(x)\right\| \le \frac{1}{2}\psi\left(\frac{x}{2}, 0\right) \le 2^{-5}L\psi(x, 0),$$
(2.30)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . Hence,  $d(f, \mathcal{J}f) \leq 2^{-5}L < \infty$ . By applying the fixed-point alternative Theorem 2.1, there exists a unique mapping  $Q : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  in the set  $\Omega_1 = \{g \in \Omega; d(f,g) < \infty\}$  such that

$$Q(x) = \lim_{n \to \infty} 2^{4n} f\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right),\tag{2.31}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . Again Theorem 2.1 shows that

$$d(f,Q) \le \frac{d(f,\mathcal{J}f)}{1-L} \le \frac{2^{-5}L}{1-L}.$$
 (2.32)

Hence, inequality (2.32) implies (2.26). Replacing x, y by  $2^n x, 2^n y$  in (2.24), respectively, and using (2.23) and (2.31), we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \|DQ(x,y)\| &= \lim_{n \to \infty} 2^{4n} \left\| Df\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) \right\| \\ &\leq \lim_{n \to \infty} 2^{4n} \psi\left(\frac{x}{2^n}, \frac{y}{2^n}\right) = 0, \end{aligned}$$
(2.33)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ . Therefore, *Q* is a quartic mapping.

**Corollary 2.7.** Let p and  $\lambda$  be nonnegative real numbers such that p > 4. Suppose that  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  is a mapping satisfying

$$\|Df(x,y)\| \le \lambda (\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p),$$
(2.34)

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ , then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - Q(x)\| \le \frac{\lambda}{2(2^p - 2^4)} \|x\|^p$$
 (2.35)

for all  $x \in \mathcal{K}$ .

*Proof.* It is enough to let  $\psi(x, y) = \lambda(||x||^p + ||y||^p)$  in Theorem 2.6.

**Corollary 2.8.** Let  $p, q, \lambda$  be nonnegative real numbers such that  $p + q \in (4, \infty)$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$  satisfies

$$\left\| Df(x,y) \right\| \le \lambda \|x\|^p \|y\|^q \tag{2.36}$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$ . Then f is a quartic mapping on  $\mathcal{K}$ .

*Proof.* Putting  $\psi(x, y) = \theta ||x||^p ||y||^q$  in Theorem 2.6, we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\psi(2^n x, 2^n y)}{2^{4n}} = 0,$$
(2.37)

and thus, (2.6) holds. If we put x = y = 0 in (2.36), then we get f(0) = 0. Again, letting y = 0 in (2.36), we conclude that  $f(x) = 2^4 f(x/2)$ , and thus,  $f(x) = 2^{4n} f(x/2^n)$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now, we can obtain the desired result by Theorem 2.6.

From Corollaries 2.4 and 2.8 we deduce the following result.

**Corollary 2.9.** Let p,q, and  $\lambda$  be nonnegative real numbers such that p + q > 0 and  $p + q \neq 4$ . Suppose that a mapping  $f : \mathcal{K} \to \mathcal{Y}$  satisfies (2.36), for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{K}$  then f is a quartic mapping on  $\mathcal{K}$ .

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