

Research Article

Almost Automorphic Functions on the Quantum Time Scale and Applications

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We first propose two types of concepts of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale. Secondly, we study some basic properties of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale. Then, we introduce a transformation between functions defined on the quantum time scale and functions defined on the set of generalized integer numbers; by using this transformation we give equivalent definitions of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale; following the idea of the transformation, we also give a concept of almost automorphic functions on more general time scales that can unify the concepts of almost automorphic functions on almost periodic time scales and on the quantum time scale. Finally, as an application of our results, we establish the existence of almost automorphic solutions of linear and semilinear dynamic equations on the quantum time scale.

1. Introduction

Because the theory of quantum calculus has important applications in quantum theory (see Kac and Cheung [1]), it has received much attention. For example, since Bohner and Chiochan [2] introduced the concept of the periodicity for functions defined on the quantum time scale, quite a few authors have devoted themselves to the study of the periodicity for dynamic equations on the quantum time scale [3–6].

However, in reality, the almost periodic phenomenon is more common and complicated than the periodic one. In addition, the almost automorphy, which was introduced in the literature by Bochner in 1955 [7, 8], is a generalization of the almost periodicity and plays an important role in understanding the almost periodicity. Therefore, to study the almost automorphy of dynamic equations on the quantum time scale is more interesting and more challenging.

Recently, on almost periodic time scales or called the invariant time scales under translations, papers [9, 10] introduced the concept of weighted pseudo almost automorphic functions and the concept of almost automorphic functions, respectively. Several other works, for instance, papers [11–18] also studied the almost automorphy on almost periodic time scales. The almost periodic time scale is a kind of additive time scales, while the quantum time scale is not an additive

time scale; it is a kind of multiplicative time scales. Therefore, the concept of almost automorphic functions on almost periodic time scales is not suitable for dealing with almost automorphic problems on the quantum time scale and all of the results obtained in [9–18] can not be directly applied to the quantum time scale's case.

Motivated by the above, our main purpose of this paper is to propose two types of definitions of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale, study some of their basic properties, and establish the existence of almost automorphic solutions of nonautonomous linear dynamic equations on the quantum time scale.

The organization of this paper is as follows: In Section 2, we introduce some notations and definitions of time scale calculus. In Section 3, we propose the concepts of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale and investigate some of their basic properties. In Section 4, we introduce a transformation and give an equivalent definition of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale. Moreover, following the idea of the transformation, we also give a concept of almost automorphic functions on more general time scales that can unify the concepts of almost automorphic functions on almost periodic time scales and on the quantum time scale. In Section 5, as an application of the results, we

study the existence of almost automorphic solutions for semi-linear dynamic equations on the quantum time scale. We draw a conclusion in Section 6.

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we shall recall some basic definitions of time scale calculus.

A time scale \mathbb{T} is an arbitrary nonempty closed subset of the real numbers; the forward and backward jump operators $\sigma, \rho : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ and the forward graininess $\mu : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ are defined, respectively, by

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(t) &:= \inf \{s \in \mathbb{T} : s > t\}, \\ \rho(t) &:= \sup \{s \in \mathbb{T} : s < t\}, \\ \mu(t) &= \sigma(t) - t.\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

A point t is said to be left-dense if $t > \inf \mathbb{T}$ and $\rho(t) = t$, right-dense if $t < \sup \mathbb{T}$ and $\sigma(t) = t$, left-scattered if $\rho(t) < t$, and right-scattered if $\sigma(t) > t$. If \mathbb{T} has a left-scattered maximum m , then $\mathbb{T}^\kappa = \mathbb{T} \setminus m$; otherwise $\mathbb{T}^\kappa = \mathbb{T}$. If \mathbb{T} has a right-scattered minimum m , then $\mathbb{T}_\kappa = \mathbb{T} \setminus m$; otherwise $\mathbb{T}^\kappa = \mathbb{T}$.

Let \mathbb{X} be a (real or complex) Banach space. A function $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is right-dense continuous or rd-continuous provided it is continuous at right-dense points in \mathbb{T} and its left-sided limits exist (finite) at left-dense points in \mathbb{T} . If f is continuous at each right-dense point and each left-dense point, then f is said to be a continuous function on \mathbb{T} .

For $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ and $t \in \mathbb{T}^\kappa$, f is called delta differentiable at $t \in \mathbb{T}$ if there exists $c \in \mathbb{X}$ such that, for any given $\varepsilon \geq 0$, there is an open neighborhood U of t satisfying

$$\| [f(\sigma(t)) - f(s)] - c[\sigma(t) - s] \| \leq \varepsilon |\sigma(t) - s| \quad (2)$$

for all $s \in U$. In this case, c is called the delta derivative of f at $t \in \mathbb{T}$ and is denoted by $c = f^\Delta(t)$. For $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}$, we have $f^\Delta = f'$, the usual derivative, for $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{Z}$ we have the backward difference operator, $f^\Delta(t) = \Delta f(t) := f(t+1) - f(t)$, and for $\mathbb{T} = \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ ($q > 1$), the quantum time scale, we have the q -derivative:

$$f^\Delta(t) := D_q f(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(qt) - f(t)}{(q-1)t}, & t \neq 0, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(qt) - f(t)}{(q-1)t}, & t = 0. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Remark 1. Note that

$$D_q f(0) = \frac{df(0)}{dt} \quad (4)$$

if f is continuously differentiable.

A function $p : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called regressive provided $1 + \mu(t)p(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in \mathbb{T}^\kappa$. An $n \times n$ -matrix-valued function A on a time scale \mathbb{T} is called regressive provided $I + \mu(t)A(t)$ is invertible for all $t \in \mathbb{T}^\kappa$.

Definition 2 (see [19]). A time scale \mathbb{T} is called an almost periodic time scale or an invariant time scale under translations if

$$\Pi = \{\tau \in \mathbb{R} : t \pm \tau \in \mathbb{T}, \forall t \in \mathbb{T}\} \neq \{0\}. \quad (5)$$

For more details about the theory of time scale calculus and the theory of quantum calculus, the reader may want to consult [1, 20–22].

3. Almost Automorphic Functions on the Quantum Time Scale

In this section, we propose two types of concepts of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale and study some of their basic properties. Our first type of concepts of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale is as follows.

Definition 3. Let \mathbb{X} be a (real or complex) Banach space and $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ a (strongly) continuous function. We say that f is almost automorphic if, for every sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ such that

$$g(t) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}) \quad (6)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n}) = f(t) \quad (7)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

Remark 4. Since $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ has only one right-dense point 0 and all of the other points of it are isolated points, so $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is a (strongly) continuous function if and only if $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} f(t) = f(0)$.

Theorem 5. If f , f_1 , and f_2 are almost automorphic functions $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$, then the following are true:

- (i) $f_1 + f_2$ is almost automorphic.
- (ii) cf is almost automorphic for every scalar c .
- (iii) $f_a(t) \equiv f(tq^a)$ is almost automorphic for each fixed $a \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- (iv) $\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \|f(t)\| < \infty$; that is, f is a bounded function.
- (v) The range $R_f = \{f(t) \mid t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}\}$ of f is relatively compact in \mathbb{X} .

Proof. The proofs of (i), (ii), and (iii) are obvious.

The proof of (iv): If (iv) is not true, then $\sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|f(t)\| = \infty$. Hence, there exists a sequence $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f(q^{s'_n})\| = \infty. \quad (8)$$

Since f is almost automorphic, one can extract a subsequence $\{s_n\} \subset \{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(q^{s_n}) = \xi \quad (9)$$

exists; that is, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f(q^{s_n})\| = \|\xi\| < \infty$, which is a contradiction. The proof of (iv) is completed.

The proof of (v): For any sequence $\{f(q^{s'_n})\}$ in R_f , where $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, because f is almost automorphic, one can extract a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ of $\{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(q^{s_n}) = g(1). \quad (10)$$

Thus, R_f is relatively compact in \mathbb{X} . The proof is complete. \square

Remark 6. It is easy to see that

$$\sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|g(t)\| \leq \sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|f(t)\|, \quad (11)$$

and $R_g \subseteq \overline{R_f}$, where g is the function that appears in Definition 3.

Theorem 7. *If $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is almost automorphic, define a function $f^* : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ by $f^*(t) \equiv f(t^{-1})$, if $f^*(0) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f^*(q^n)$ exists. Then $f^* : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is almost automorphic.*

Proof. For any given sequence $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ of $\{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}) = g(t) \quad (12)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n}) = f(t) \quad (13)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

Define a function $g^*(t) \equiv g(t^{-1})$, $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$, and set $\sigma_n = -s_n$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$; we get

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f^*(tq^{\sigma_n}) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(t^{-1}q^{-\sigma_n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(t^{-1}q^{s_n}) \\ &= g(t^{-1}) = g^*(t), \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g^*(tq^{-\sigma_n}) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(t^{-1}q^{\sigma_n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(t^{-1}q^{-s_n}) \\ &= f(t^{-1}) = f^*(t) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

pointwise on $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. Since $f^*(0) = \lim_{n \rightarrow -\infty} f^*(q^n)$ exists, $f^* : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is well defined and continuous. Thus, $f^*(t)$ is almost automorphic. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 8. *Let \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} be two Banach spaces and $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ an almost automorphic function. If $\phi : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$ is a continuous function, then the composite function $\phi(f) : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$ is almost automorphic.*

Proof. Since f is almost automorphic, for any sequence $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, we can extract a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ of $\{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}) = g(t) \quad (15)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n}) = f(t) \quad (16)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

Since $\phi(f) : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$ is continuous, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(f(tq^{s_n})) = \phi\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n})\right) = \phi(g(t)) \quad (17)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(g(tq^{-s_n})) = \phi\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n})\right) = \phi(f(t)) \quad (18)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

That is, the composite function $\phi(f) : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$ is almost automorphic. The proof is complete. \square

Corollary 9. *If A is a bounded linear operator in \mathbb{X} and $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is an almost automorphic function, then $A(f)(t)$ is also almost automorphic.*

Proof. The proof is obvious. \square

Theorem 10. *Let f be almost automorphic. If $f(q^n) = 0$ for all $n > n_0$ for some integer number n_0 , then $f(t) \equiv 0$ for all $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.*

Proof. It suffices to prove that $f(t) = 0$ for $t \leq q^{n_0}$. Since f is almost automorphic, for the sequence of natural numbers $\mathbb{N} = \{n\}$, one can extract a subsequence $\{n_k\} \subset \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{n_k}) = g(t), \quad \text{for each } t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \setminus \{0\}, \quad (19)$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-n_k}) = f(t), \quad \text{for each } t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \setminus \{0\}. \quad (20)$$

It is clear that, for any $t \leq q^{n_0}$, we can find $\{n_{kj}\} \subset \{n_k\}$ with $tq^{n_{kj}} > q^{n_0}$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots$. Thus, $f(tq^{n_{kj}}) = 0$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots$. By (19), $g(t) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{n_{kj}}) = 0$ for $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \setminus \{0\}$. Hence, according to formula (20), we obtain $f(t) = 0$ for $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \setminus \{0\}$. Since f is continuous at $t = 0$, $0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow -\infty} f(q^n) = f(0)$. Therefore, $f(t) = 0$ for $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 11. *Let $\{f_n\}$ be a sequence of almost automorphic functions such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(t) = f(t)$ uniformly in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. Then f is almost automorphic.*

Proof. For any given sequence $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, by the diagonal procedure one can extract a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ of $\{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_i(tq^{s_n}) = g_i(t) \quad (21)$$

for each $i = 1, 2, \dots$ and each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

We claim that the sequence of function $\{g_i(t)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. In fact, for any $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} g_i(t) - g_j(t) &= g_i(t) - f_i(tq^{s_n}) + f_i(tq^{s_n}) - f_j(tq^{s_n}) \\ &\quad + f_j(tq^{s_n}) - g_j(t), \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|g_i(t) - g_j(t)\| &\leq \|g_i(t) - f_i(tq^{s_n})\| \\ &\quad + \|f_i(tq^{s_n}) - f_j(tq^{s_n})\| \\ &\quad + \|f_j(tq^{s_n}) - g_j(t)\|. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

For each $\varepsilon > 0$, from the uniform convergence of $\{f_n\}$, there exists a positive integer $N(\varepsilon)$ such that, for all $i, j > N$,

$$\|f_i(tq^{s_n}) - f_j(tq^{s_n})\| < \varepsilon, \quad (24)$$

for all $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and all $n = 1, 2, \dots$

It follows from (21) and the completeness of the space \mathbb{X} that the sequence $\{g_i(t)\}$ converges pointwise on $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ to a function, say to function $g(t)$.

Now, we will prove

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}) &= g(t), \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n}) &= f(t) \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

pointwise on $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

Indeed, for each $i = 1, 2, \dots$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(tq^{s_n}) - g(t)\| &\leq \|f(tq^{s_n}) - f_i(tq^{s_n})\| \\ &\quad + \|f_i(tq^{s_n}) - g_i(t)\| \\ &\quad + \|g_i(t) - g(t)\|. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

For any $\varepsilon > 0$, we can find some positive integer $N_0(t, \varepsilon)$ such that

$$\|f(tq^{s_n}) - f_{N_0}(tq^{s_n})\| < \varepsilon \quad (27)$$

for every $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$, and $\|g_{N_0}(t) - g(t)\| < \varepsilon$ for every $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. Hence, by formula (26), we get

$$\|f(tq^{s_n}) - g(t)\| < 2\varepsilon + \|f_{N_0}(tq^{s_n}) - g_{N_0}(t)\| \quad (28)$$

for every $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$

In view of (21), for every $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$, there is some positive integer $M = M(t, N_0)$ such that

$$\|f_{N_0}(tq^{s_n}) - g_{N_0}(t)\| < \varepsilon \quad (29)$$

for every $n > M$. From this and (28), we obtain

$$\|f(tq^{s_n}) - g(t)\| < 3\varepsilon \quad (30)$$

for $n \geq N_0(t, \varepsilon)$.

Similarly, we can prove that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{s_n}) = f(t) \quad \text{for each } t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}. \quad (31)$$

The proof is complete. \square

Remark 12. If we denote by $AA(\mathbb{X})$ the set of all almost automorphic functions $f: \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$, then by Theorem 5, we see that $AA(\mathbb{X})$ is a vector space, and according to Theorem 11, this vector space equipped with the norm

$$\|f\|_{AA(\mathbb{X})} = \sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|f(t)\| \quad (32)$$

is a Banach space.

Definition 13. A continuous function $f: \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is said to be almost automorphic in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, if, for each sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}, x) = g(t, x) \quad (33)$$

exists for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n}, x) = f(t, x) \quad (34)$$

exists for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

Theorem 14. If $f_1, f_2: \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ are almost automorphic functions in t for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, then the following functions are also almost automorphic in t for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$:

- (i) $f_1 + f_2$
- (ii) cf_1 : c is an arbitrary scalar.

Proof. The proof is obvious. We omit it here. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 15. If $f(t, x)$ are almost automorphic in t for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, then

$$\sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|f(t, x)\| = M_x < \infty \quad (35)$$

for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

Proof. Suppose the opposite. Assume, to the contrary, that

$$\sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|f(t, x_0)\| = \infty \quad (36)$$

for some $x_0 \in \mathbb{X}$. Thus, there exists a sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f(q^{s'_n}, x_0)\| = \infty. \quad (37)$$

Since $f(t, x_0)$ is almost automorphic in t , one can extract a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ from $\{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\sup_{t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}} \|f(q^{s_n}, x_0)\| = g(1, x_0), \quad (38)$$

which is a contradiction. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 16. *If f is almost automorphic in t for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, then the function g in Definition 13 satisfies*

$$\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \|g(t, x)\| = N_x < \infty \quad (39)$$

for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

Proof. The proof is obvious. We omit it here. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 17. *If f is almost automorphic in t for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$ and if f satisfies the Lipschitzian condition in x uniformly in t , that is, there exists a positive constant $L > 0$ such that, for each pair $x, y \in \mathbb{X}$,*

$$\|f(t, x) - f(t, y)\| < L \|x - y\| \quad (40)$$

uniformly in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$, then g satisfies the same Lipschitz condition in x uniformly in t .

Proof. Because for each sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}, x) = g(t, x) \quad (41)$$

exists for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, for any $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and any given $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|g(t, x) - f(tq^{s_n}, x)\| &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, \\ \|g(t, y) - f(tq^{s_n}, y)\| &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

for n sufficiently large.

Hence, for n sufficiently large we find

$$\begin{aligned} \|g(t, x) - g(t, y)\| &= \|g(t, x) - f(tq^{s_n}, x) \\ &+ f(tq^{s_n}, x) - f(tq^{s_n}, y) + f(tq^{s_n}, y) - g(t, y)\| \\ &< \varepsilon + L \|x - y\|. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+$, we get

$$\|g(t, x) - g(t, y)\| \leq L \|x - y\| \quad (44)$$

for each $x, y \in \mathbb{X}$. The proof is complete. \square

Theorem 18. *Let $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ be almost automorphic in t for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$ and assume that f satisfies a Lipschitz condition in x uniformly in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. Let $\varphi : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ be almost automorphic. Then the function $F : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ defined by $F(t) = f(t, \varphi(t))$ is almost automorphic.*

Proof. It is easy to see that, for any given sequence $\{s'_n\}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\} \subset \{s'_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(tq^{s_n}, x) = g(t, x) \quad (45)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and $x \in \mathbb{X}$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(tq^{s_n}) = \phi(t) \quad (46)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(tq^{-s_n}, x) = f(t, x) \quad (47)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and $x \in \mathbb{X}$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(tq^{-s_n}) = \varphi(t) \quad (48)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

Consider the function $G : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ defined by $G(t) = g(t, \phi(t))$, $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. We will show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(tq^{s_n}) = G(t)$, for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(tq^{-s_n}) = F(t)$, for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

In fact, noting that

$$\begin{aligned} \|F(tq^{s_n}) - G(t)\| &= \|f(tq^{s_n}, \varphi(tq^{s_n})) - f(tq^{s_n}, \phi(t)) \\ &+ f(tq^{s_n}, \phi(t)) - g(t, \phi(t))\| \leq L \|\varphi(tq^{s_n}) \\ &- \phi(t)\| + \|f(tq^{s_n}, \phi(t)) - g(t, \phi(t))\|, \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

by (45) and formula (46), we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(tq^{s_n}) = G(t), \quad \text{for each } t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}. \quad (50)$$

Similarly we can prove that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(tq^{-s_n}) = F(t)$ for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. This completes the proof. \square

Before ending this section, we give the second type of concepts of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale as follows.

Definition 19. Let \mathbb{X} be a (real or complex) Banach space and $f : \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ a (strongly) continuous function. We say that f is almost automorphic if, for every sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ such that

$$g(t) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q^{s_n} f(tq^{s_n}) \quad (51)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q^{-s_n} g(tq^{-s_n}) = f(t) \quad (52)$$

for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

Definition 20. A continuous function $f : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is said to be almost automorphic in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, if, for each sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q^{s_n} f(tq^{s_n}, x) = g(t, x) \quad (53)$$

exists for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q^{-s_n} g(tq^{-s_n}, x) = f(t, x) \quad (54)$$

exists for each $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

Remark 21. It is easy to check that all the results of this section hold for almost automorphic functions defined by Definitions 3 and 13 which are also valid for almost automorphic functions defined by Definitions 19 and 20.

4. An Equivalent Definition of Almost Automorphic Functions on the Quantum Time Scale

In this section, we will give an equivalent definition of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$. To this end, we introduce a notation $-\infty_q$ and stipulate $q^{-\infty_q} = 0$, $t \pm (-\infty_q) = t$, and $t > -\infty_q$ for all $t \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let $f \in C(\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}, \mathbb{X})$; we define a function $\tilde{f} : \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ by

$$\tilde{f}(t) = \begin{cases} f(q^t), & t \in \mathbb{Z}, \\ f(0), & t = -\infty_q; \end{cases} \quad (55)$$

that is,

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} \tilde{f}(\log_q t), & t \in q^{\mathbb{Z}}, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} f(t), & t = 0. \end{cases} \quad (56)$$

Since $f(t)$ is right continuous at $t = 0$, it is clear that the above definition is well defined.

Moreover, for $f \in C(\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \times \mathbb{X}, \mathbb{X})$, we define a function $\tilde{f} : \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\} \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ by

$$\tilde{f}(t, x) = \begin{cases} f(q^t, x), & (t, x) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{X}, \\ f(0, x), & t = -\infty_q, x \in \mathbb{X}; \end{cases} \quad (57)$$

that is,

$$f(t, x) = \begin{cases} \tilde{f}(\log_q t, x), & (t, x) \in q^{\mathbb{Z}} \times \mathbb{X}, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} f(t, x), & t = 0, x \in \mathbb{X}. \end{cases} \quad (58)$$

Since $f(t, x)$ is continuous at $(0, x)$, it is clear that the above definition is well defined.

Definition 22. A function $f : \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is called almost automorphic if for every sequence $(s'_n) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ there exists a subsequence $(s_n) \subset (s'_n)$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(t + s_n) = g(t) \quad (59)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(t - s_n) = f(t) \quad (60)$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$.

Definition 23. A function $F : (\mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}) \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is called almost automorphic if for every sequence $(s'_n) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ there exists a subsequence $(s_n) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(t + s_n, x) = G(t, x) \quad (61)$$

is well defined for each $t \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(t - s_n, x) = F(t, x) \quad (62)$$

for each $t \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$ and $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

Remark 24. We can view $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$ as a kind of generalized integer number set. Obviously, the automorphic functions defined by Definitions 22 and 23 (which are defined on $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$ or $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\} \times \mathbb{X}$) share the same properties as the ordinary automorphic functions defined on \mathbb{Z} or $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{X}$.

Definition 25. A function $f \in C(\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}, \mathbb{X})$ is called almost automorphic if and only if the function $\tilde{f}(t)$ defined by (55) is almost automorphic.

Definition 26. A function $f \in C(\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}} \times \mathbb{X}, \mathbb{X})$ is called almost automorphic in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$ if and only if the function $\tilde{f}(t, x)$ defined by (57) is almost automorphic in $t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$ for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$.

Obviously, Definitions 25 and 26 are equivalent to Definitions 3 and 13, respectively. Moreover, by Remark 24, all of the properties of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale can be directly obtained from the corresponding properties of the ordinary almost automorphic functions defined on \mathbb{Z} or $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{X}$.

Before ending this section, following the idea of the transformation of this section, we can propose a concept of almost automorphy on a more general time scale.

Definition 27. Let \mathbb{T} be a time scale and $\tilde{\mathbb{T}}$ be an almost periodic time scale defined by Definition 2. A continuous function $f : \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{X}$ is said to be almost automorphic in $t \in \mathbb{T}$ for each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, if there exists a one-to-one transformation $\zeta : \tilde{\mathbb{T}} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ such that $\zeta(\tilde{\mathbb{T}}) = \mathbb{T}$ and, for each sequence of integer numbers $\{s'_n\} \subset \tilde{\mathbb{T}}$, there exists a subsequence $\{s_n\}$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(\zeta(t + s_n), x) = g(\zeta(t), x) \quad (63)$$

exists for each $t \in \tilde{\mathbb{T}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(\zeta(t - s_n), x) = f(\zeta(t), x) \quad (64)$$

exists for each $t \in \tilde{\mathbb{T}}$ and each $x \in \mathbb{X}$, where $\tilde{\mathbb{T}} = \{\tau \in \mathbb{R} : t \pm \tau \in \tilde{\mathbb{T}}, \forall t \in \tilde{\mathbb{T}}\}$.

Remark 28. Obviously, in Definition 27, if \mathbb{T} is an almost periodic time scale defined by Definition 2, by taking $\zeta = I$, the identity mapping, then Definition 27 coincides with Definition 3.2 in [9] and Definition 3.20 in [10], respectively, which are the definitions of almost automorphic functions on almost periodic time scales. If $T = \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$, by taking the transformation ζ defined by (57), then Definition 27 agrees with Definition 13. Therefore, Definition 27 can unify the cases of almost periodic time scales and the quantum time scale.

5. Automorphic Solutions for Semilinear Dynamic Equations on the Quantum Time Scale

In this section, we will study the existence of automorphic solutions of semilinear dynamic equations on the quantum time scale. Throughout this section, we use the letter \mathbb{T} to stand for either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} .

Consider the semilinear dynamic equation on the quantum time scale:

$$D_q x(t) = B(t)x(t) + g(t, x(t), x(tq^{-\sigma(t)})), \quad (65)$$

$$t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}},$$

where $\sigma : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow [0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ is a scalar delay function and satisfies $t - \sigma(t) \in \mathbb{T}$ for all $t \in \mathbb{T}$, $B(t)$ is a regressive, rd-continuous $n \times n$ matrix valued function, and $g \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{E}^{2n}, \mathbb{E}^n)$. Under transformation (57), (65) is transformed to

$$\Delta \tilde{x}(n) = A(n)\tilde{x}(n) + f(n, \tilde{x}(n), \tilde{x}(n - \tau(n))), \quad (66)$$

$$n \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\},$$

and vice visa, where $A(n) = (q - 1)q^n \tilde{B}(n)$, $f(n) = (q - 1)q^n \tilde{g}(n, \tilde{x}(n), \tilde{x}(n - \bar{\sigma}(n)))$, $\tau(n) = \bar{\sigma}(n)$.

Clearly, $x(t)$ is a solution of (65) if and only if $\tilde{x}(n)$ is a solution of (66).

Definition 29 (see [14]). Let $A(t)$ be an $n \times n$ rd-continuous matrix value function on \mathbb{T} ; the linear system

$$x^\Delta(t) = A(t)x(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{T} \quad (67)$$

is said to admit an exponential dichotomy on \mathbb{T} if there exist positive constants K_1, K_2 and α_1, α_2 and an invertible projection P commuting with $X(t)$, where $X(t)$ is principal fundamental matrix solution of (67) satisfying

$$\|X(t)PX^{-1}(s)\| \leq K_1 e_{\ominus\alpha_1}(t, s), \quad (68)$$

$$s, t \in \mathbb{T}, t \geq s,$$

$$\|X(t)(I - P)X^{-1}(s)\| \leq K_2 e_{\ominus\alpha_2}(s, t),$$

$$s, t \in \mathbb{T}, t \leq s.$$

Theorem 30 (see [14]). *Let \mathbb{T} be an almost periodic time scale. Supposing that linear homogeneous system (67) admits an exponential dichotomy with the positive constants K_1, K_2 and α_1, α_2 and invertible projection \mathcal{P} commuting with $X(t)$, where $X(t)$ is principal fundamental matrix solution of (67), then the nonhomogeneous system*

$$x^\Delta(t) = A(t)x(t) + f(t), \quad (69)$$

has a solution $x(t)$ of the form

$$x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t X(t)\mathcal{P}X^{-1}(\sigma(s))f(s)\Delta s \quad (70)$$

$$- \int_t^{\infty} X(t)(1 - \mathcal{P})X^{-1}(\sigma(s))f(s)\Delta s.$$

Moreover, we have

$$\|x\| \leq \left(\frac{K_1 + \alpha_1}{\alpha_1} + \frac{K_2}{\alpha_2} \right) \|f\|. \quad (71)$$

Consider the following semilinear dynamic equation on almost periodic time scale \mathbb{T} :

$$x^\Delta(t) = A(t)x(t) + f(t, x(t), x(t - \tau(t))), \quad (72)$$

where $\tau : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow [0, \infty)_{\mathbb{T}}$ is a scalar delay function and satisfies $t - \tau(t) \in \mathbb{T}$ for all $t \in \mathbb{T}$, $A(t)$ is a regressive, rd-continuous $n \times n$ matrix valued function, and $f \in C_{rd}(\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{E}^{2n}, \mathbb{E}^n)$. The corresponding linear homogeneous system of (72) is

$$x^\Delta(t) = A(t)x(t). \quad (73)$$

We make the following assumptions:

(A₁) Functions $\tau(t)$, $A(t)$, and $f(t, u, v)$ are almost automorphic in t .

(A₂) There exists a constant $L_1, L_2 > 0$ such that

$$\|f(t, u_1, v_2) - f(t, u_2, v_2)\| \quad (74)$$

$$\leq L_1 \|u_1 - u_2\| + L_2 \|v_1 - v_2\|$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{T}$ and for any vector valued functions u and v defined on \mathbb{T} .

(A₃) Linear homogeneous system (73) admits an exponential dichotomy with the positive constants K_1, K_2 and α_1, α_2 and invertible projection P commuting with $X(t)$, where $X(t)$ is principal fundamental matrix solution of (73).

Now, define the mapping Ψ by

$$(\Psi x)(t) := \int_{-\infty}^t X(t)\mathcal{P}X^{-1}(\sigma(s)) \quad (75)$$

$$\cdot f(s, x(s), x(s - \tau(s)))\Delta s - \int_t^{\infty} X(t)(1 - \mathcal{P})$$

$$\cdot X^{-1}(\sigma(s))f(s, x(s), x(s - \tau(s)))\Delta s.$$

The following result can be proven similar to Lemma 6 in [11]; hence we omit it.

Lemma 31. *Suppose (A₁)–(A₃) hold. Then the mapping Ψ maps $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{A}(\mathbb{E}^n)$ into $\mathbb{A}\mathbb{A}(\mathbb{E}^n)$.*

Theorem 32. *Suppose (A₁)–(A₃) hold. Assume further that*

$$(A_4) \quad ((K_1 + \alpha_1)/\alpha_1 + K_2/\alpha_2)(L_1 + L_2) < 1.$$

Then (72) has a unique almost automorphic solution.

Proof. For any $x, y \in \mathbb{A}(\mathbb{E}^n)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\Psi x - \Psi y\| &= \sup_{t \in \mathbb{T}} \left| \int_{-\infty}^t X(t) \mathcal{P} X^{-1}(\sigma(s)) \right. \\
&\quad \cdot [f(s, x(s), x(s - \tau(s))) \\
&\quad - f(s, y(s), y(s - \tau(s)))] \Delta s - \int_t^{\infty} X(t) (I - \mathcal{P}) \\
&\quad \cdot X^{-1}(\sigma(s)) [f(s, x(s), x(s - \tau(s))) \\
&\quad - f(s, y(s), y(s - \tau(s)))] \Delta s \Big| \leq \sup_{t \in \mathbb{T}} \left| \int_{-\infty}^t K_1 e_{\ominus \alpha_1} \right. \\
&\quad \cdot (t, \sigma(s)) (L_1 + L_2) \|x - y\| \Delta s - \int_t^{\infty} K_2 e_{\ominus \alpha_2} \\
&\quad \cdot (\sigma(s), t) (L_1 + L_2) \|x - y\| \Delta s \Big| \leq \left(\frac{K_1 + \alpha_1}{\alpha_1} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{K_2}{\alpha_2} \right) (L_1 + L_2) \|x - y\|.
\end{aligned} \tag{76}$$

Hence, Φ is a contraction. Therefore, Φ has a unique fixed point in $\mathbb{A}(\mathbb{E}^n)$, so (72) has a unique almost automorphic solution. \square

In Theorem 32, if we take $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$, then we have the following.

Theorem 33. *Suppose (A_1) – (A_4) hold. Then (66) has a unique almost automorphic solution, and so (65) has a unique almost automorphic solution.*

Consider a linear quantum difference equation

$$D_q x(t) = A(t) x(t) + f(t), \quad t \in \overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}, \tag{77}$$

where A is an $n \times n$ matrix valued function and f is an n -dimensional vector valued function. Under transformation (55), (77) transforms to

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta \tilde{x}(n) &= (q-1) q^n \tilde{A}(n) \tilde{x}(n) + (q-1) q^n \tilde{f}(n), \\
n &\in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\},
\end{aligned} \tag{78}$$

and vice versa.

Consider the following nonautonomous linear difference equation:

$$x(k+1) = A(k) x(k) + f(k), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}, \tag{79}$$

where $A(k)$ are given nonsingular $n \times n$ matrices with elements $a_{ij}(k)$, $1 \leq i, j \leq n$, $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^n$ is a given $n \times 1$ vector function, and $x(k)$ is an unknown $n \times 1$ vector with components $x_i(k)$, $1 \leq i \leq n$. Its associated homogeneous equation is given by

$$x(k+1) = A(k) x(k), \quad k \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}. \tag{80}$$

Similar to Definition 2.11 in [23], we give the following definition.

Definition 34. Let $U(k)$ be the principal fundamental matrix of difference system (80). System (80) is said to possess an exponential dichotomy if there exist a projection P , which commutes with $U(k)$, and positive constants η, ν, α, β such that, for all $k, l \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|U(k) P U^{-1}(l)\| &\leq \eta e^{-\alpha(k-l)}, \quad k \geq l, \\
\|U(k) (I - P) U^{-1}(l)\| &\leq \nu e^{-\beta(l-k)}, \quad l \geq k.
\end{aligned} \tag{81}$$

Similar to the proof of Theorem 3.1 in [12], one can easily show the following.

Theorem 35. *Suppose $A(k)$ is discrete almost automorphic and a nonsingular matrix and the set $\{A^{-1}(k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}}$ is bounded. Also, suppose the function $f : \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^n$ is a discrete almost automorphic function and (80) admits an exponential dichotomy with positive constants ν, η, β , and α . Then, system (79) has an almost automorphic solution on $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}$.*

Corollary 36. *Suppose $B(n) := (q-1)q^n \tilde{A}(n) + I$ is discrete almost automorphic and a nonsingular matrix and the set $\{B^{-1}(n)\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\}}$ is bounded. Also, suppose the function $g := (q-1)q^n \tilde{f}(n) : \mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty_q\} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^n$ is a discrete almost automorphic function and equation*

$$\Delta y(n) = B(n) y(n) + g(n) \tag{82}$$

admits an exponential dichotomy with positive constants ν, η, β , and α . Then, system (77) has an almost automorphic solution on $\overline{q^{\mathbb{Z}}}$.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed two types of concepts of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale and studied some of their basic properties. Moreover, based on the transformation between functions defined on the quantum time scale and functions defined on the set of generalized integer numbers, we gave equivalent definitions of almost automorphic functions on the quantum time scale. As an application of our results, we established the existence of almost automorphic solutions for semilinear dynamic equations on the quantum time scale. By using the methods and results of this paper, for example, one can study the almost automorphy of neural networks on the quantum time scale and population dynamical models on the quantum time scale and so on. Furthermore, by using the transformation and the set of generalized integer numbers introduced in Section 3 of this paper, or similar to Definition 27, one can propose concepts of almost periodic functions, pseudo almost periodic functions, weighted pseudo almost automorphic functions, almost periodic set-valued functions, almost periodic functions in the sense of Stepanov on the quantum time scale, and so on.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there are no conflicts of interest.

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