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Autor: Laczkovich, M.

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This proves that sp(L) is finite. If $e^{\lambda_1 z}, \dots, e^{\lambda_s z}$ are the only exponential functions contained in L, then every exponential polynomial contained in L must be of the form $\sum_{i=1}^{s} p_i(z)\, e^{\lambda_i z}$, where $p_1, \dots, p_s$ are polynomials. Since the set of all polynomials is dense in $C(\mathbf{R})$ and $L \neq C(\mathbf{R})$, it follows that the degrees of $p_1, \dots, p_s$ must be bounded. As the set of exponential polynomials is dense in L, we find that each element of L is an exponential polynomial, which completes the proof of Theorem 2 in the case when $h \equiv 0$.

The general case can be reduced to the previous one in the same way as in the proof of Theorem 1. Again, it is enough to show that f_n is an exponential polynomial. Since $\Delta_b f_n$ satisfies the homogeneous version of (1), it follows that $\Delta_b f_n$ is an exponential polynomial for every b. Therefore, by Carroll's theorem [2], f_n is also an exponential polynomial. □

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M. Laczkovich

Department of Analysis
Eötvös Loránd University
Pázmány Péter sétány 1/C
H-Budapest
Hungary 1117
e-mail: laczk@cs.elte.hu

and

Department of Mathematics
University College London
Gower Street
GB-London WC1E 6BT
England