In [103] Hua improved a result of Buchstab on the rate of convergence of the solution of a certain differential difference equation with retarded argument and prescribed initial behavior. The elegant account contains a very useful lemma (Lemma 5): Suppose F(u) is a positive function satisfying the functional inequality

$$F(u) \leqslant \frac{1}{u} \int_{u-1}^{u} F(t) dt, \quad u \geqslant u_0.$$

Then

$$F(u) \leq \exp\left\{-u\left(\log u + \log\log u - 1 + \frac{\log\log u}{\log u} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log u}\right)\right)\right\}.$$

Differential difference equations of a similar kind have featured in many arithmetical investigations of late, and Hua's lemma has proved very helpful. (See also Hua's survey [B4], pp. 70-71.)

Hua and Wang wrote several papers ([131], [138], [147], [148]) on replacing statistical Monte Carlo methods in numerical analysis by effective deterministic procedures based on number theoretic ideas; their work, and other contributions chiefly from the Chinese & Russian schools, are described in their book [B9]. Their methods rest on the construction of special integral bases of algebraic number fields, the construction of simultaneous rational approximations to these by means of a given set of independent units or by linear recurrences, and on discrepancy measures. Numerical information for dimensions 2 to 18 is given in an appendix.



### ACTA ARITHMETICA LI (1988)

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