

DYNAMICAL BEHAVIORS OF A DISCRETE-TIME PREY-PREDATOR MODEL WITH HARVESTING EFFECT ON THE PREDATOR

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Abstract This study investigates the dynamics of a discrete-time prey-predator model with a harvesting effect on the predator. During the analysis of the bifurcations at the interior fixed point, we find that there are some generic bifurcations, including fold, flip, Neimark-Sacker, and strong resonance bifurcations. Using the normal form theory and the center manifold theorem, we can characterize these bifurcations. Furthermore, we determine the non-degeneracy conditions for the computed bifurcations and compute the critical normal form coefficients. Our analysis of the obtained analytical results as well as the revealing of more complex dynamical behaviors that cannot be achieved analytically is carried out using the numerical continuation method by computing several bifurcation curves emanating from the detected bifurcation points.

Keywords Prey-predator model, Harvest effect, bifurcation, numerical normal form, critical normal form coefficient.

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1. Introduction

The dynamics of discrete-time models defined by difference equations often exhibit more complex behaviors compared to continuous-time models. In the field of biological mathematics, discrete-time models are frequently chosen, particularly when studying populations with non-overlapping generations (see [16–18, 20, 25, 26, 33, 42, 43]). One of the fundamental structures in population dynamics are the prey-predator interaction, which was extensively described by pioneers such as Lotka and Volterra [26, 42]. The size of a population can be influenced by various interactions between species, including predatory, cooperative, mutualistic, and commensalism interactions. In recent years, there has been a growing body of research focusing on the impact of harvesting on prey-predator models [1, 8, 15, 27].

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Predicting population size requires the use of both discrete-time and continuous-time models. Discrete-time models have been found to provide more accurate simulations for non-overlapping generations [3, 4, 6, 7, 24, 29, 44]. Consequently, there has been significant attention given to the discretization of predator-prey equations governed by difference equations [14, 45, 46]. Bifurcation theory has been widely employed to investigate dynamical systems [5, 9–11, 13, 19, 21–23, 28, 30–32, 34–37, 41]. Specifically, bifurcation analysis for discrete-time populations has been examined in previous studies [2–4, 14, 24, 29, 45]. Sene [39], in their paper, analyzed a fractional-order chaotic system in the context of the Caputo fractional derivative via bifurcation and Lyapunov exponents. They have represented the phase portraits and observed the influence of the fractional-order on the proposed chaotic system. With the help of Lyapunov exponents, they have characterized the chaotic and hyperchaotic behaviors of the system. Recently Sene [40] presented a new chaotic system under three fractional operators namely Caputo, Atangana-Baleanu, and Caputo-Fabrizio derivatives. The calculated Lyapunov exponents for the fractional-order chaotic systems characterized the behaviors of the dynamics of their considered fractional-order system. The fractional linear multistep method and the Adams-Basford method were employed to obtain the phase portraits of the proposed fractional chaotic model.

In this paper, we consider the effects of harvesting on the predator population within the framework of the Lotka-Volterra approach, as represented by the following model:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dp_1}{d\tau} &= ap_1(1 - p_1) - cp_1p_2, \\ \frac{dp_2}{d\tau} &= bp_1p_2 - ep_2 - Hp_2. \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

Here, p_1 and p_2 represent the prey and predator populations, respectively. It is worth noting that the parameters a , b , c , e , and H are all positive.

Subsequently, we focus on a discrete-time version of the system (1.1) using the forward Euler scheme:

$$\begin{cases} p_1 &\mapsto p_1 + h(ap_1(1 - p_1) - cp_1p_2), \\ p_2 &\mapsto p_2 + h(bp_1p_2 - ep_2 - Hp_2), \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

where the harvesting effect is represented by H .

The main objective of this study is to compute the critical normal form of one-parameter bifurcation as well as two-parameter bifurcation at the fixed points of the model using the inner product approach. We aim to investigate codim-1 bifurcations, such as period-doubling and Neimark-Sacker bifurcations, considering a single free parameter, as well as codim-2 bifurcations, including resonance 1:2, 1:3, and 1:4, by combining two free parameters. In this work, we verify the non-degeneracy of codim-1 and codim-2 bifurcations for (1.2) using normal form coefficients. This approach offers the advantage of avoiding direct computation of the central manifold, conversion of the linear component to the Jordan form, and significantly reduces computational complexity compared to alternative methods. Additional information can be found in [4–6, 11, 30, 31].

2. Fixed points and their stability

In model (1.2), there are three possible fixed points as follows:

1. The origin fixed point $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^0 = (0, 0)$.
2. The boundary fixed point $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^1 = (1, 0)$.
3. The positive fixed point $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = \left(\frac{H+e}{b}, -\frac{a(H-b+e)}{bc}\right)$.

As described in reference [38], each fixed point in system (1.2) is analyzed for its local stability.

3. Bifurcation analysis

This section explores the dynamics of model (1.2) around the positive fixed point due to its biological significance. Here, we study the conditions for the existence of bifurcations as well as the non-degeneracy of those bifurcations. It is necessary to calculate critical coefficients for the normal forms for the model reduced to the corresponding center manifold in order to determine the non-degeneracy conditions for each bifurcation.

3.1. Period-doubling bifurcation

If $b = b_{pd}$ where

$$b_{pd} = \frac{ha(H^2h + 2Heh + e^2h + 2H + 2e)}{Hah^2 + aeh^2 + 4},$$

the linear part of model (1.2) at \mathcal{F}_{pp}^* is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{Hah^2 + aeh^2 - hH - he + 2}{hH + he + 2} & -\frac{c(Hah^2 + aeh^2 + 4)}{a(hH + he + 2)} \\ 2\frac{(ha-2)(H+e)ha}{c(Hah^2 + aeh^2 + 4)} & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Following are the multipliers of \mathcal{L}_1 :

$$\mu_1 = -1, \quad \mu_2 = -\frac{Hah^2 + aeh^2 - 3hH - 3he - 2}{hH + he + 2}.$$

Considering that $\mu_2 \neq \pm 1$, the central manifold corresponding to model (1.2) is a one-dimensional manifold, and model (1.2) is restricted to the central manifold as follows:

$$u \mapsto -u + \alpha_{pd}u^3 + \mathcal{O}(u^4),$$

where

$$\alpha_{pd} = \frac{(2 + (H + e)h)^2 \left(-8 + a(H + e)^3 h^4 - (H + e)^3 h^3 + 6(H + e)^2 h^2 + (4H + 4e)h\right) c^2}{(ha - 2)^2 (-4 + a(H + e)h^2 + (-4H - 4e)h)(H + e)^2}.$$

The non-degeneracy condition of the period-doubling bifurcation is $\alpha_{pd} \neq 0$.

Therefore the following theorem is obtained.

Theorem 3.1. *If $b = b_{pd}$ where*

$$b_{pd} = \frac{ha(H^2h + 2Heh + e^2h + 2H + 2e)}{Hah^2 + aeh^2 + 4},$$

the fixed point \mathcal{F}_{pp}^ of model (1.2) tolerates a generic period-doubling bifurcation.*

3.2. Neimark-Sacker bifurcation

If $b = b_{ns}$ where

$$b_{ns} = \frac{Hh + eh + 1}{h},$$

the linear part of model (1.2) at \mathcal{F}_{pp}^* is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{Hah^2 + aeh^2 - Hh - eh - 1}{Hh + eh + 1} & -\frac{h^2c(H+e)}{Hh + eh + 1} \\ \frac{a}{c} & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Following are the multipliers of \mathcal{L}_1 :

$$\mu_{1,2} = -1/2 \frac{Hah^2 + aeh^2 - 2Hh - 2eh - 2}{Hh + eh + 1} + \frac{i/2\sqrt{\Delta}}{Hh + eh + 1},$$

where

$$\Delta = -h^2a(H^2ah^2 + 2Hah^2 + ae^2h^2 - 4H^2h - 8Heh - 4e^2h - 4H - 4e).$$

Considering that $\Delta > 0$, the central manifold corresponding to model (1.2) is a two-dimensional manifold, and model (1.2) is restricted to the central manifold as follows:

$$\omega \mapsto \mu_1\omega + \delta_{ns}\omega^2\bar{\omega} + \mathcal{O}(|\omega|^4), \quad \omega \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Any time $\sigma_{ns} = \Re(\mu_2\delta_{ns}) \neq 0$, we have the generic Neimark-Sacker bifurcation. Thus we get the following theorem.

Theorem 3.2. *If $b = b_{ns}$ where*

$$b_{ns} = \frac{Hh + eh + 1}{h},$$

the fixed point \mathcal{F}_{pp}^ of model (1.2) tolerates a generic Neimark-Sacker bifurcation.*

3.3. 1:2 resonance bifurcation

If $b = b_{r_2}$ and $H = H_{r_2}$ where

$$b_{r_2} = \frac{a}{ah - 4}, \quad H_{r_2} = -\frac{aeh^2 - 4eh - 4}{h(ah - 4)},$$

the linear part of model (1.2) at \mathcal{F}_{pp}^* is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -3 & -4\frac{c}{a} \\ \frac{a}{c} & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Following are the multipliers of \mathcal{L}_1 :

$$\mu_{1,2} = -1.$$

Considering that $\mu_{1,2} = -1$, the central manifold corresponding to model (1.2) is a two-dimensional manifold, and model (1.2) is restricted to the central manifold as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} -u_1 + u_2 \\ -u_2 + \sigma_{r_2} u_1^3 + \delta_{r_2} u_1^2 u_2 \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(\|u\|^4), \quad u = (u_1, u_2)^T,$$

where

$$\sigma_{r_2} = -1/8 \frac{(a^2 + 16c^2)h^2(a h - 2)(a h - 10)}{(a h - 4)^2},$$

$$\delta_{r_2} = 1/8 \frac{h^2(a^4 h^2 + 32a^2 c^2 h^2 + 4a^3 h - 96a c^2 h - 12a^2 + 256c^2)}{(a h - 4)^2}.$$

The non-degeneracy conditions of the 1:2 resonance bifurcation, in this case, are as follows:

1. $\sigma_{r_2} \neq 0$,
2. $\delta_{r_2} \neq -3\sigma_{r_2}$.

Hence, the next theorem can be stated.

Theorem 3.3. *If $b = b_{r_2}$ and $H = H_{r_2}$ where*

$$b_{r_2} = \frac{a}{a h - 4}, \quad H_{r_2} = -\frac{a e h^2 - 4 e h - 4}{h(a h - 4)},$$

the fixed point \mathcal{F}_{pp}^ of model (1.2) tolerates a 1:2 resonance bifurcation.*

3.4. 1:3 resonance bifurcation

If $b = b_{r_3}$ and $H = H_{r_3}$ where

$$b_{r_3} = \frac{a}{a h - 3}, \quad H_{r_3} = -\frac{a e h^2 - 3 e h - 3}{h(a h - 3)},$$

the linear part of model (1.2) at \mathcal{F}_{pp}^* is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -3\frac{c}{a} \\ \frac{a}{c} & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Following are the multipliers of \mathcal{L}_1 :

$$\mu_{1,2} = -\frac{1}{2} \pm i \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

Considering that $\mu_{1,2} = -\frac{1}{2} \pm i \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$, the central manifold corresponding to model (1.2) is a two-dimensional manifold, and model (1.2) is restricted to the central manifold as follows:

$$u \mapsto \mu_1 u + \beta_{r_3} \bar{u}^2 + \sigma_{r_3} u^2 \bar{u} + \mathcal{O}(|u|^4), \quad u \in \mathbb{C},$$

where

$$\beta_{r_3} = \frac{hc(i\sqrt{3} - 2ah + 3)}{2ah - 6},$$

$$\sigma_{r_3} = 1/2 \frac{c^2 h^2 (i\sqrt{3}a^2 h^2 - 12i\sqrt{3}ah - a^2 h^2 + 15i\sqrt{3} + 15)}{(ah - 3)^2}.$$

The non-degeneracy conditions of the 1:3 resonance bifurcation, in this case, are as follows:

1. $\beta_{r_3} \neq 0$,
2. $\Re\left(\frac{\mu_2 \sigma_{r_3}}{|\beta_{r_3}|^2} - 1\right) \neq 0$.

Therefore, we have proved the next theorem.

Theorem 3.4. *If $b = b_{r_3}$ and $H = H_{r_3}$ where*

$$b_{r_3} = \frac{a}{ah - 3}, \quad H_{r_3} = -\frac{aeh^2 - 3eh - 3}{h(ah - 3)},$$

the fixed point \mathcal{F}_{pp}^ of model (1.2) tolerates a 1:3 resonance bifurcation.*

3.5. 1:4 resonance bifurcation

If $b = b_{r_4}$ and $H = H_{r_4}$ where

$$b_{r_4} = \frac{a}{ah - 2}, \quad H_{r_4} = -\frac{aeh^2 - 2eh - 2}{h(ah - 2)},$$

the linear part of model (1.2) at \mathcal{F}_{pp}^* is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -2\frac{c}{a} \\ \frac{a}{c} & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Following are the multipliers of \mathcal{L}_1 :

$$\mu_{1,2} = \pm i.$$

Considering that $\mu_{1,2} = \pm i$, the central manifold corresponding to model (1.2) is a two-dimensional manifold, and model (1.2) is restricted to the central manifold as follows:

$$u \mapsto \mu_1 u + \sigma_{r_4} u^2 \bar{u} + \delta_{r_4} \bar{u}^3 + \mathcal{O}(|u|^4), \quad u \in \mathbb{C},$$

where

$$\sigma_{r_4} = -3/2 \frac{h^2 c^2 (ia^2 h^2 + 2a^2 h^2 - 6ah + 4 - 2i)}{(ah - 2)^2},$$

$$\delta_{r_4} = 1/2 \frac{h^2 c^2 (2ia^2 h^2 - a^2 h^2 - 4iah + 6ah - 6)}{(ah - 2)^2}.$$

As long as the following conditions are met, the 1:4 resonance bifurcation is generic:

1. $\delta_{r_4} \neq 0$,
2. $A_{r_4} = -\frac{i\sigma_{r_4}}{|\delta_{r_4}|} \neq 0$.

So the next theorem is presented.

Theorem 3.5. *If $b = b_{r_4}$ and $H = H_{r_4}$ where*

$$b_{r_4} = \frac{a}{ah - 2}, \quad H_{r_4} = -\frac{aeh^2 - 2eh - 2}{h(ah - 2)},$$

the fixed point \mathcal{F}_{pp}^ of model (1.2) tolerates a 1:4 resonance bifurcation.*

4. Numerical continuation

To confirm the analytical results, we use MATCONTM, which is a toolbox of MATLAB and works based on the numerical continuation method, for more details see [12, 21, 23]. Here b is considered as free parameter and fixed parameters are as follows:

$$a = 5, \quad c = 1, \quad H = 1, \quad h = 0.9, \quad e = 0.2.$$

A Neimark-Sacker bifurcation occurs for $b = b_{ns} = 2.311111$ at $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = (0.519231, 2.403846)$ with the first Lyapunov coefficient $\sigma_{ns} = -2.344082$. Since $\sigma_{ns} < 0$, we conclude that the Neimark-Sacker bifurcation is supercritical. This phenomenon is shown in Fig 1. A period-doubling bifurcation occurs for $b = b_{pd} = 1.8772011$ at $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = (0.639250, 1.8033752)$ with $\alpha_{pd} = -1.645355$. The period doubles when a curve emanates from a period-doubling bifurcation is shown in Fig 3.

Remark 4.1. Fig. 2 illustrates the maximum Lyapunov exponent for $b \succeq 2.4$, indicating that chaos exists. Positive Lyapunov exponents are generally considered to be a sign of chaos.

On the Neimark-Sacker bifurcation curve presented in Fig 4(a) we detected the following bifurcations:

1. Resonance 1 : 4 bifurcation for $a = a_{r_4} = 2.833333$ and $m = m_{r_4} = 0.9$ at $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = (1.5, 2.133333)$ with $A_{r_4} = -2.117336 + 2.58679 \times 10^{-1}i$. Since $|A_{r_4}| > 1$ two-fold curves of the fourth iterate emanate from the R4 point of model (1.2), see Fig 5.
2. Resonance 1 : 3 bifurcation for $a = a_{r_3} = 3.5$ and $m = m_{r_3} = 4.5$ at $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = (1.5, 8.0)$ with $\Re\left(\frac{\mu_2\sigma_{r_3}}{|\beta_{r_3}|^2} - 1\right) = -1.047619$.
3. Resonance 1 : 2 bifurcation for $a = a_{r_2} = 4.1666667$ and $m = m_{r_2} = 22.5$ at $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = (1.542.66667,)$ with $\sigma_{r_2} = 1.684908 \times 10^{-3}$ and $\delta_{r_2} = -6.908183 \times 10^{-3}$.

On the period-doubling bifurcation curve presented in Fig 4(b) we detected the following bifurcations:

1. Resonance 1 : 2 bifurcation for $a = a_{r_2} = 4.1666667$ and $m = m_{r_2} = 22.5$ at $\mathcal{F}_{pp}^* = (1.542.66667,)$ with $\sigma_{r_2} = 1.684908 \times 10^{-3}$ and $\delta_{r_2} = -6.908183 \times 10^{-3}$.

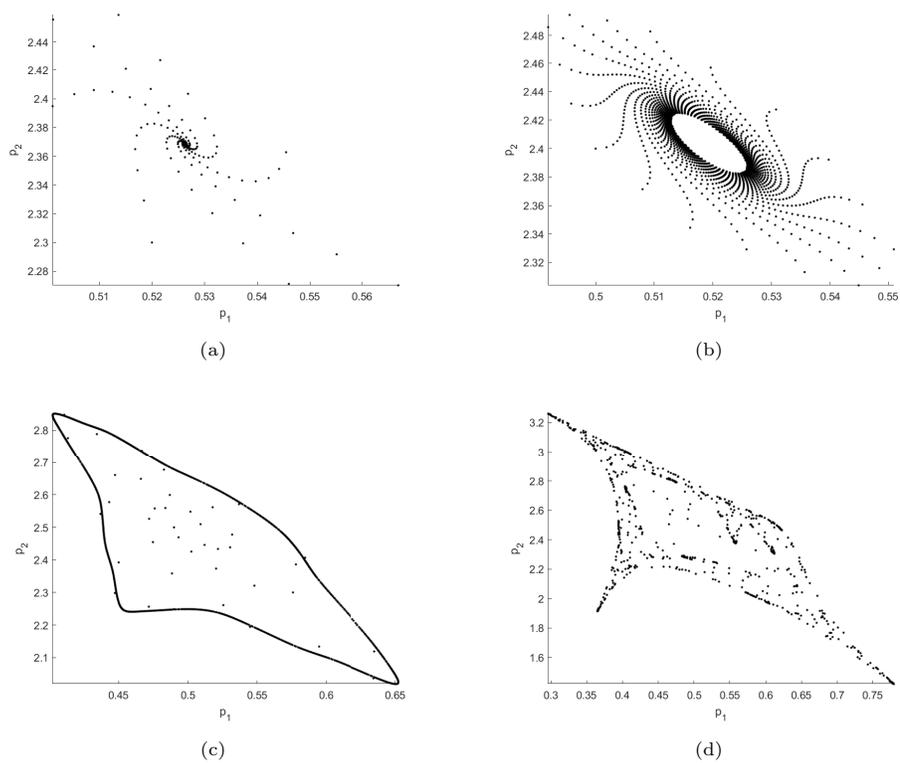


Figure 1. Phase portraits of model (1.2). (a) A stable fixed point for $b = 2.28$. (b) A closed invariant curve for $b = 2.3111111$. (c) The broken invariant closed curve for $b = 2.4$. (d) A chaotic attractor for $b = 2.5$.

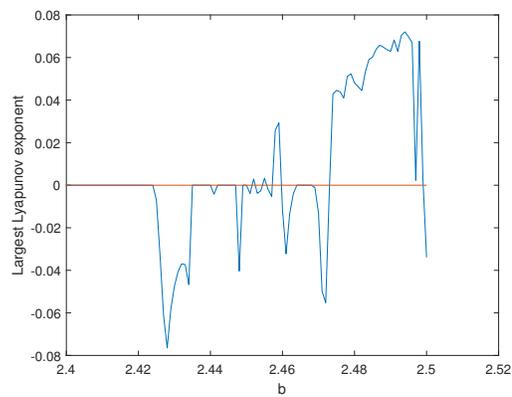


Figure 2. The maximum Lyapunov exponent corresponding to Fig. 1.

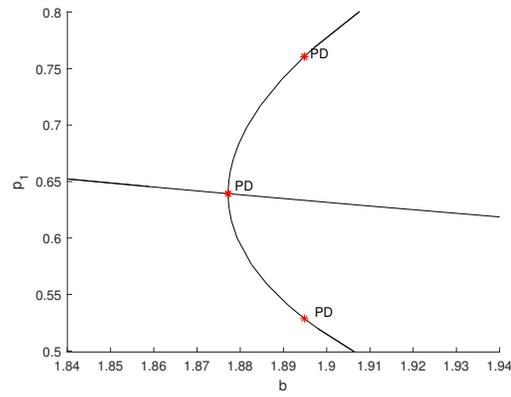


Figure 3. The period-doubling cascad.

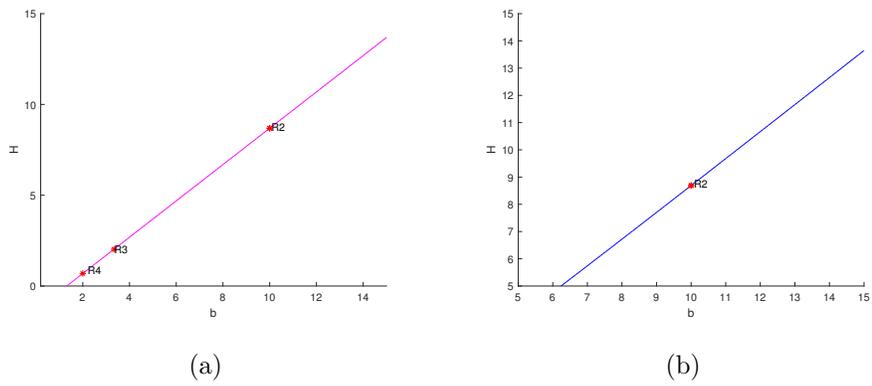


Figure 4. (a) , (b) The NS and PD curves, respectively

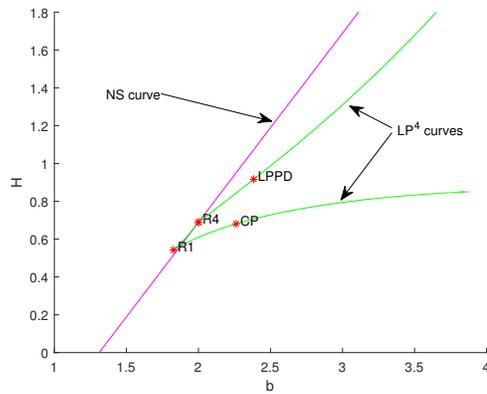


Figure 5. Two-fold curves of the fourth iterate emanate from the R4 point of model (1.2).

5. Discussion and ecological implications

Bifurcations in discrete prey-predator models can have important ecological implications. These models describe the interactions between a population of prey and a population of predators, where the prey population is consumed by the predator population.

The period-doubling bifurcation is a type of bifurcation that can occur in discrete prey-predator models. It is characterized by the doubling of the period of oscillations in the population dynamics, which can have important ecological implications.

In ecological terms, the period-doubling bifurcation can lead to an increase in the amplitude of population cycles, which can result in larger population booms and busts. This can have significant effects on the stability of the ecosystem, as the larger fluctuations in population size can lead to increased competition for resources, predation pressure, and other ecological interactions. In addition, the period-doubling bifurcation can lead to the emergence of chaotic dynamics in the population cycles, which can be difficult to predict and manage. Chaotic dynamics can lead to unpredictable changes in the ecosystem, which can make it difficult to develop effective conservation and management strategies. Overall, the period-doubling bifurcation in discrete prey-predator models highlights the importance of understanding the dynamics of populations and their interactions in ecological systems. By studying these models, we can gain insight into the underlying mechanisms that drive population cycles and other ecological processes, and develop more effective strategies to promote ecosystem stability and resilience.

The Neimark-Sacker bifurcation is a type of bifurcation that can occur in discrete prey-predator models. It is characterized by the emergence of a stable limit cycle in the population dynamics, which can have important ecological implications.

In ecological terms, the Neimark-Sacker bifurcation can lead to the emergence of regular oscillations in the population cycles. These regular oscillations can have significant effects on the stability of the ecosystem, as they can lead to predictable changes in population dynamics. This can make it easier to develop effective conservation and management strategies, as managers can anticipate when population sizes will rise and fall. The Neimark-Sacker bifurcation can also lead to the emergence of complex patterns in population dynamics. This can have significant effects on the stability of the ecosystem, as the complex patterns can make it more difficult to predict changes in population sizes. This can make it more challenging to develop effective conservation and management strategies. Overall, the Neimark-Sacker bifurcation in discrete prey-predator models highlights the importance of understanding the dynamics of populations and their interactions in ecological systems. By studying these models, we can gain insight into the underlying mechanisms that drive population cycles and other ecological processes, and develop more effective strategies to promote ecosystem stability and resilience.

The Strong resonance bifurcation is a type of bifurcation that can occur in discrete prey-predator models. It is characterized by the emergence of periodic or chaotic population dynamics, which can have important ecological implications.

In ecological terms, the Strong resonance bifurcation can lead to the emergence of large-amplitude population cycles, which can result in more severe boom-and-bust cycles in the ecosystem. This can have significant effects on the stability of the ecosystem, as the larger fluctuations in population size can lead to increased competition for resources, predation pressure, and other ecological interactions. The

Strong resonance bifurcation can also lead to the emergence of chaotic dynamics in the population cycles. Chaotic dynamics can lead to unpredictable changes in the ecosystem, which can make it difficult to develop effective conservation and management strategies. In addition, the presence of chaotic dynamics can lead to the emergence of unstable equilibria or the disappearance of equilibria, which can result in the extinction of one or both populations. Overall, the Strong resonance bifurcation in discrete prey-predator models highlights the importance of understanding the dynamics of populations and their interactions in ecological systems. By studying these models, we can gain insight into the underlying mechanisms that drive population cycles and other ecological processes, and develop more effective strategies to promote ecosystem stability and resilience.

6. Concluding remarks

In this article, we have extensively investigated a predator-prey model that incorporates the harvesting effect on the predator population. Our focus has been on studying the dynamics of the model around the positive fixed point, which holds considerable biological significance. Through our analysis, we have identified the conditions for the existence of various bifurcations and established the non-degeneracy of these bifurcations.

To determine the non-degeneracy conditions for each bifurcation, we calculated critical coefficients of the normal forms, specifically reducing the model to the corresponding center manifold. Our examination has enabled us to explore the occurrence of flip, Neimark-Sacker, and strong resonance 1:2, 1:3, and 1:4 bifurcations.

Additionally, by illustrating the curves associated with each bifurcation, we have observed a consistent agreement between our numerical simulations and the analytical results. This congruence provides further validation and confidence in the accuracy of our findings.

In conclusion, our study has contributed to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of predator-prey models with harvesting effects. The significant outcome of our research lies in the identification and analysis of various bifurcation phenomena exhibited by the model. These findings shed light on the complex dynamics that can arise in real-world ecological systems.

Looking ahead, there are several promising directions for future research in this domain. Firstly, it would be valuable to extend our analysis to more complex ecological models that incorporate additional factors such as spatial dynamics or multiple predator-prey interactions. Furthermore, exploring the impact of alternative harvesting strategies and management approaches on the stability and sustainability of predator-prey systems could yield important insights for ecological conservation and resource management practices. Lastly, investigate the implications of our findings in practical applications, such as designing effective strategies for controlling invasive species or optimizing fisheries management, holds great potential for further advancements in the field.

By addressing the significant outcomes of our study and providing detailed future research directions, our conclusion serves to summarize the key findings of our research while also highlighting the potential for further exploration and application in the field of predator-prey dynamics.

Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available within the article.

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