Research Article

Pattern Formation in a Reaction-Diffusion Predator-Prey Model with Weak Allee Effect and Delay

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In this paper, we establish a reaction-diffusion predator-prey model with weak Allee effect and delay and analyze the conditions of Turing instability. The effects of Allee effect and delay on pattern formation are discussed by numerical simulation. The results show that pattern formations change with the addition of weak Allee effect and delay. More specifically, as Allee effect constant and delay increases, coexistence of spotted and stripe patterns, stripe patterns, and mixture patterns emerge successively. From an ecological point of view, we find that Allee effect and delay play an important role in spatial invasion of populations.

1. Introduction

Since the Allee effect was proposed by Allee [1] in 1931, the predator-prey model with Allee effect has been studied extensively [2–27]. From the ordinary differential equation predator-prey model with Allee effect to the partial differential equation model, many researchers have achieved rich results [4, 7, 9–16, 28]. Cai et al. [6] established a Leslie–Gower predator-prey model with additive Allee effect on prey, and they found Allee effect can increase the risk of ecological extinction. Sen et al. [5] established a two-prey one-predator model with Allee effect, and the effects of Allee effect on the dynamics of predator population are discussed. Of course, the research on reaction-diffusion predator-prey model with Allee effect is also very rich. For example, Wang et al. [7] established a reaction-diffusion predator-prey model and found the model dynamics exhibits both Allee effect and diffusion controlled pattern formation growth to holes. They also studied Allee effect induced instability in a reaction-diffusion predator-prey model [4]. Petrovskii et al. found that the deterministic system with Allee effect can induce patch invasion [23]. Sun et al. found that predator mortality plays an important role in the pattern formation of populations [13]. It is now believed that the spatial composition of population interactions has been identified as an important factor in how ecological communities operate and form. Pattern formation in the predator-prey model is an appropriate tool for understanding the basic mechanism of spatio-temporal population dynamics. We find that there are few studies on delays in reaction-diffusion predator-prey model with Allee effect. So next we discuss the effects of Allee effect and delay on pattern formation. First, we consider a predator-prey model with hyperbolic mortality established by Zhang et al. [10], the model is obtained as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial U}{\partial t} - d_1 \Delta U &= aU \left( 1 - \frac{U}{K} \right) - \frac{bUV}{c + U}, \\
\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} - d_2 \Delta V &= \frac{mUV}{c + U} - h(V), \\
\frac{\partial U}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial n} &= 0, \\
U(x, 0) &= U_0(x) \geq 0, V(x, 0) = V_0(x) \geq 0,
\end{align*}
\]

(1)
where $U$ and $V$ are the population densities of prey and predator, respectively; $a$ is the birth rate, $K$ is the carrying capacity and $b$ is the maximum uptake rate of the prey; $c$ is the prey density at which the predator has the maximum kill rate; $m$ is the birth rate of the predator; function $h(V)$ reflects the prey density at which the predator has the maximum kill rate; $\tau$ is the time delay of the predator, respectively; and $\Delta$ is the Laplacian operator. The homogeneous Neumann boundary condition implies that the system above is self-contained and there is no host across the boundary. After nondimensionalization,

$$U \rightarrow Ku, V \rightarrow \frac{ac}{b} v, \frac{K}{c} \rightarrow \beta, \frac{m}{a} \rightarrow \alpha, T \rightarrow \frac{t}{\tau}$$

(2)

Then, considering that the predator-prey model with Allee effect is more realistic, people begin to introduce delay into the predator-prey model and discuss the effects of Allee effect and delay on the dynamics of the model [2,17–22]. We try to introduce weak Allee effect and searching delay into model (1), and then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - d_1 \Delta u &= au(1-u)\left(\frac{u}{u+A}\right) - \frac{auv}{1+\beta u} \frac{t}{t-r}, x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - d_2 \Delta v &= \frac{\beta uv}{1+\beta u} - h(v), \quad x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} &= 0, \quad x \in \partial \Omega, t > 0, \\
u(x,0) &= u_0(x) \geq 0, v(x,0) = v_0(x) \geq 0, \quad x \in \Omega.
\end{aligned}$$

(3)

where $h(v) = \frac{\gamma v^2}{e + \eta v}$. For hyperbolic mortality, $\gamma$ is the death rate of the predator, $e$ and $\eta$ are coefficients of light attenuation by water and self-shading in the context of plankton mortality, and $\tau$ is the searching delay. The weak Allee effect term is $u/u + A$, where $A > 0$ is described as a weak Allee effect constant.

2. Turing Instability

First, we consider the model with $\tau = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - d_1 \Delta u &= au(1-u)\left(\frac{u}{u+A}\right) - \frac{auv}{1+\beta u} \frac{t}{t-r}, \quad x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - d_2 \Delta v &= \frac{\beta uv}{1+\beta u} - \frac{\gamma v^2}{e + \eta v}, \quad x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} &= 0, \quad x \in \partial \Omega, t > 0, \\
u(x,0) &= u_0(x) \geq 0, v(x,0) = v_0(x) \geq 0, \quad x \in \Omega.
\end{aligned}$$

(4)

Obviously, if $d_1 = d_2 = 0$, without diffusion in model (4), then we can obtain the following ordinary differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{du}{dt} &= au(1-u)\left(\frac{u}{u+A}\right) - \frac{auv}{1+\beta u} = f(u, v), \\
\frac{dv}{dt} &= \frac{\beta uv}{1+\beta u} - \frac{\gamma v^2}{e + \eta v} = g(u, v).
\end{aligned}$$

(5)

We mainly focus on the stability of the positive equilibrium of model (4). Clearly, the positive equilibrium $E_0 = (u_0, v_0)$ of the ordinary differential equation (ODE) or the partial differential equation (PDE) model (4) satisfies $f(u_0, v_0) = 0$ and $g(u_0, v_0) = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{du}{dt} &= au(1-u)\left(\frac{u}{u+A}\right) - \frac{auv}{1+\beta u} = 0, \\
\frac{dv}{dt} &= \frac{\beta uv}{1+\beta u} - \frac{\gamma v^2}{e + \eta v} = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

(6)

For simplicity of discussion, in this paper, we shall concentrate the case of $\eta = \gamma$ and $e = 1$. We easily see that model (4) exhibits a positive equilibrium point $E_0 = (u_0, v_0)$ when $\beta > \gamma/1 - \gamma, 0 < \gamma < 1$, and $A < \gamma/\beta$. When $\beta > \gamma/1 - \gamma, 0 < \gamma < 1$, and $\gamma/\beta < A < (\gamma/\beta - \beta)^2 + 4\beta^2/\gamma^2$, model (4) exhibits two positive equilibrium points $E_0 = (u_0, v_0)$ and $E_2 = (u_2, v_2)$. In this work, we mainly focus on a positive equilibrium point, where

$$u_* = \sqrt{\frac{(\beta \gamma - \gamma - \beta)^2 + (\gamma - \beta A)\beta \gamma}{2\beta \gamma} + \frac{\beta \gamma - \gamma - \beta}{2\beta \gamma}}, v_* = \frac{\beta - u_*}{\gamma}.$$  

(7)

We calculate the Jacobian matrix of model (5) at $E_0$, which is given by $J_* = \begin{bmatrix} a_{10} & a_{01} \\ b_{10} & b_{01} \end{bmatrix}$, where

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{10} &= \frac{-2au_*^3 - 3\alpha Au_*^2 + au_*^2 + 2\alpha Au_*}{(u_* + A)^2} - \frac{a\beta u_*}{\alpha y(1 + \beta u_*)^2}, \\
a_{01} &= \frac{-au_*}{1 + \beta u_*}, \\
b_{10} &= \frac{\beta^2 u_*}{\alpha y(1 + \beta u_*)^2}, \\
b_{01} &= \frac{-\beta u_*}{(1 + \beta u_*)^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

(8)

We can easily know that the characteristic polynomial is

$$H(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - T\lambda + D,$$  

(9)
where
\[ T = \frac{-2au^3 - 3\alpha Au^2 + au^2 + 2\alpha Au}{(u_0 + A)^2} - \frac{a\beta u}{y(1 + \beta u_0)^2} \]

\[ D = \left( \frac{-2au^3 - 3\alpha Au^2 + au^2 + 2\alpha Au}{(u_0 + A)^2} - \frac{a\beta u}{y(1 + \beta u_0)^2} \right) \times \frac{-\beta u_0}{(1 + \beta u_0)^2} + \frac{a\beta^2 u^3}{y(1 + \beta u_0)^3}. \]

Thus, we have the following conclusions:
(a) If \( T < 0 \) and \( D > 0 \), then the positive equilibrium is locally asymptotically stable.
(b) If \( T > 0 \), then the positive equilibrium is unstable.

Next, let us consider the PDE model (4); we choose the perturbation function consisting of the following two-dimensional Fourier modes:
\[ u(x, y, t) = e^{i(x\alpha + y\beta) t}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{10} - k^2 d_1 \\ b_{10} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{01} \\ b_{01} - k^2 d_2 \end{bmatrix}, \]

so, we can find
\[ T_k = a_{10} + b_{01} - k^2 (d_1 + d_2), \]
\[ D_k = (a_{10} - k^2 d_1)(b_{01} - k^2 d_2) - a_{01} b_{10}. \]

We know, when \( E_0 \) is stable,
\[ T = \frac{-2au^3 - 3\alpha Au^2 + au^2 + 2\alpha Au}{(u_0 + A)^2} - \frac{a\beta u}{y(1 + \beta u_0)^2} < 0. \]

We can easily find that \( T_k = a_{11} + a_{22} - k^2 (d_1 + d_2) < 0. \) So, if model (3) changes from stable to unstable, it needs to be
\[ D_k = (a_{10} - k^2 d_1)(b_{01} - k^2 d_2) - a_{01} b_{10} < 0, \]

that is,
\[ 2 \sqrt{D_k} < a_{10} + b_{01} \frac{d_1}{d_2} d_1 < d_2. \]

3. Delay-Induced Instability

Finally, we consider the PDE model (4) with delay (searching delay), and we get model (3). Considering \( \tau \) and spatial diffusion, if \( \tau \) is small enough, the following changes are made [29]:
\[ u(x, y, t - \tau) = u(x, y, t) - \tau \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \]

\[ = v(x, y, t) - \tau \frac{\partial v}{\partial t}, \]

we substitute (16) into model (3) to get
\[
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - d_1 \Delta u &= au(1 - u) \left( \frac{u}{u + A} \right) - \frac{a(u(x, y, t - \tau) v(x, y, t - \tau) \Delta u)}{1 + \beta (u(x, y, t - \tau) \Delta v)} , x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - d_2 \Delta v &= \frac{\beta uv}{1 + \beta u} - \frac{\gamma v^2}{e + \eta v} , x \in \Omega, t > 0, \\
\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} &= 0 , x \in \partial \Omega, t > 0, \\
u(x, \theta) = \varphi(x, \theta) &\geq 0, v(x, \theta) = \psi(x, \theta) \geq 0 , (x, \theta) \in \Omega \times (-\tau, 0).
\end{aligned}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - d_1 \Delta u &= au(1-u)\left(\frac{u}{u+A}\right) - \frac{auv}{1+\beta u} \\
-\tau f_{u(t-\tau)}(u(t-\tau), v(t-\tau)) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \\
-\tau f_{v(t-\tau)}(u(t-\tau), v(t-\tau)) \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &\quad x \in \Omega, t > 0,
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, \quad x \in \partial \Omega, t > 0,
\]

\[
u(x, \theta) = \varphi(x, \theta) \geq 0, \quad \psi(x, \theta) = \psi(x, \theta) \geq 0,
\]

\[
(x, \theta) \in \Omega \times (-\tau, 0),
\]

where

\[
\begin{align*}
f(u, v) &= au(1-u)\left(\frac{u}{u+A}\right) - \frac{auv}{1+\beta u} g(u, v) \\
&= \frac{\beta uv}{1+\beta u} - \frac{\gamma v^2}{e + \eta v}.
\end{align*}
\]

We can see that if \( f(u, v) = 0 \) and \( g(u, v) = 0 \) are satisfied at equilibrium point \( E_* = (u_*, v_*) \), then we can get the model:

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - d_1 \Delta u &= f_u(u, v)(u - u_*) + f_v(u, v)(v - v_*) \\
-\tau f_{u(t-\tau)}(u(t-\tau), v(t-\tau)) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} \\
-\tau f_{v(t-\tau)}(u(t-\tau), v(t-\tau)) \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &\quad x \in \Omega, t > 0,
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - d_2 \Delta v = g_u(u, v)(u - u_*) + g_v(u, v)(v - v_*),
\]

\[
\frac{\partial u}{\partial n} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial n} = 0, \quad x \in \partial \Omega, t > 0,
\]

\[
u(x, \theta) = \varphi(x, \theta) \geq 0, \quad \psi(x, \theta) = \psi(x, \theta) \geq 0,
\]

\[
(x, \theta) \in \Omega \times (-\tau, 0),
\]

Assuming that the solution of the system has the following form,

\[
\tilde{u}_*(x, t) = u_0^* e^{\lambda t} \cos k_x x, \quad \tilde{v}_*(x, t) = v_0^* e^{\lambda t} \sin k_x x.
\]

So, we get

\[
J_\delta^* = \begin{bmatrix}
a_{10} + \tau b_{10} N - k^2 d_1 & a_{01} + \tau b_{10} N - \tau d_2 N k^2 \\
1-M & 1-M \\
b_{10} & b_{01} - k^2 d_2
\end{bmatrix},
\]

where

\[
M = \frac{a_{10} + \tau b_{10} N}{1-M}, \quad N = \frac{a_{01} + \tau b_{10} N - \tau d_2 N k^2}{1-M}.
\]

We can easily find

\[
T_\delta^* = \begin{bmatrix}
a_{10} + \tau b_{10} N - k^2 d_1 & + b_{01} - k^2 d_2,
1-M & 1-M \\
b_{10} & b_{01} - k^2 d_2
\end{bmatrix},
\]

\[
D_\delta^* = \begin{bmatrix}
a_{10} + \tau b_{10} N - k^2 d_1 & b_{01} - k^2 d_2 \\
1-M & 1-M
\end{bmatrix}.
\]
When \( k = 0 \), model (3) undergoes Hopf bifurcation at \( T_k^* = 0 \), so the critical value for undergoing Hopf bifurcation can be obtained:

\[
\tau_H = \frac{-(a_{10} + b_{01}) + b_{01}M}{b_{10}N} \tag{27}
\]

We know, when \( E_* \) is stable,

\[
da_{10}b_{01} - a_{01}b_{10} > 0,
\]

\[
D_k = \left(\frac{a_{10} + \tau b_{10}N - k^2d_1}{1 - M}\right)(b_{01} - k^2d_2)
- b_{10}\left(\frac{a_{01} + \tau b_{01}N - \tau d_2Nk^2}{1 - M}\right) > 0.
\tag{28}
\]

So, we just need to judge

\[
T_k^* = \frac{a_{10} + \tau b_{10}N - k^2d_1}{1 - M} + b_{01} - k^2d_2 > 0.
\tag{29}
\]

It is easy to know when

\[
\tau > \frac{-a_{10} + k^2d_1 + (-b_{01} + k^2d_2)(1 - M)}{b_{10}N}
\tag{30}
\]

So, the instability condition caused by delay is as follows:

\[
T_k^* = \frac{a_{10} + \tau b_{10}N - k^2d_1}{1 - M} + b_{01} - k^2d_2 > 0.
\]

4. Amplitude Equations and Pattern Selection

We rewrite the transformed form of system (3) at the positive spatially homogeneous steady state \( E_* = (u_*, v_*) \) as follows and denote by \((U, V)^T\) the perturbation solution \((U - u_*, V - v_*)^T\) of the system:

\[
\frac{\partial X}{\partial t} = LX + H,
\tag{32}
\]

where \( X = (U, V)^T \).

Then, let the linear operator \( L \) be defined as follows:

\[
L = f^T + D_\mu \Delta = \begin{pmatrix}
a_{10} + \tau a_{01}N & b_{10} + \tau b_{01}N \\
1 - M & 1 - M \\
b_{10} & b_{01}
\end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix}
-k^2d_1 & -\tau d_2Nk^2 \\
1 - M & 1 - M \\
0 & -k^2d_2
\end{pmatrix},
\tag{33}
\]

and \( H \) be given by

\[
H = \begin{pmatrix}
A_{20}U^2 + A_{11}UV + A_{02}V^2 + A_{30}U^3 + A_{21}U^2V + A_{12}UV^2 + A_{03}V^3 + o(\varepsilon^3) \\
B_{20}U^2 + b_{11}UV + b_{02}V^2 + B_{30}U^3 + B_{21}U^2V + B_{12}UV^2 + B_{03}V^3 + o(\varepsilon^3)
\end{pmatrix},
\tag{34}
\]
where

\[ A_{20} = \frac{1}{1-M} \left( -a u_*^3 - 3 a A u_*^2 + 3 a A u_* - a A^2 + \alpha B u_*^2 \right) + \frac{\alpha B u_*^2}{\gamma (1 + \beta u_*)^3} - \frac{2 \tau N \beta^2 v_*}{(1-M)(1+\beta u_*)^3}, \]

\[ A_{11} = \frac{\alpha}{2(1+\beta u_*)} + \frac{\tau N \beta}{(1+\beta u_*)^2(1-M)}, \]

\[ A_{02} = 0, \]

\[ B_{20} = -\frac{2 \beta^2 v_*}{(1+\beta u_*)^3}, \]

\[ B_{11} = \frac{\beta}{(1+\beta u_*)^2}, \]

\[ B_{03} = -\frac{2 \gamma}{(1 + \gamma v_*)^2}, \]

\[ A_{30} = \frac{1}{1-M} \left( -9 a A^2 u_*^4 - 6 a A u_*^2 + 2 a A^2 u_* - 4 a A^2 \right) + \frac{\alpha B u_*^2}{\gamma (1 + \beta u_*)^3} + \frac{6 \tau N \beta^3 v_*}{(1-M)(1+\beta u_*)^3} \]

\[ A_{21} = -\frac{2 \tau N \beta^2}{(1-M)(1+\beta u_*)^3}, \]

\[ A_{12} = 0, \]

\[ A_{03} = 0, \]

\[ B_{30} = \frac{6 \beta^3 v_*}{(1+\beta u_*)^3}, \]

\[ B_{21} = -\frac{2 \beta^2}{(1+\beta u_*)^3}, \]

\[ B_{12} = 0, \]

\[ B_{03} = -\frac{2 \gamma}{(1 + \gamma v_*)^3}. \]

\[(35)\]

Next, near the Turing bifurcation threshold, we expand the control parameter \( \tau \) as

\[ \tau - \tau = \epsilon \tau_1 + \epsilon^2 \tau_2 + \epsilon^3 \tau_3 + o(\epsilon^3), \]

where \(|\epsilon| \ll 1\). Similarly, expand the solution \( X \), linear operator \( L \), and the nonlinear term \( H \) into Taylor series at \( \epsilon = 0 \):

\[ X = \epsilon \left( \begin{array}{c} U_1 \\ V_1 \end{array} \right) + \epsilon^2 \left( \begin{array}{c} U_2 \\ V_2 \end{array} \right) + \epsilon^3 \left( \begin{array}{c} U_3 \\ V_3 \end{array} \right) + o(\epsilon^3), \]

\[(37)\]

\[ H = \epsilon^2 h_2 + \epsilon^3 h_3 + o(\epsilon^3), \]

\[(38)\]

\[ L = L_T + (\tau - \tau) M, \]

\[(39)\]
where

\[
\begin{align*}
  h_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} h_2^1 \\ h_2^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{00}^T U_1^2 + A_{11}^T U_1 V_1 + A_{02}^T V_1^2 \\ B_{00}^T U_1^2 + B_{11}^T U_1 V_1 + B_{02}^T V_1^2 \end{pmatrix}, \\
  h_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} h_3^1 \\ h_3^2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{10}^T U_3 + A_{21}^T U_2 V_1 + A_{12}^T V_1^2 + A_{03}^T V_1^3 + 2(A_{10}^T U_1 U_2 + A_{02}^T V_1^2 V_2) + A_{11}^T (U_1 V_2 + V_1 U_2) \\ B_{10}^T U_3 + B_{21}^T U_2 V_1 + B_{12}^T V_1^2 + B_{03}^T V_1^3 + 2(B_{10}^T U_1 U_2 + B_{02}^T V_1^2 V_2) + B_{11}^T (U_1 V_2 + V_1 U_2) \end{pmatrix}, \\
\end{align*}
\]

are terms corresponding to the second and third orders in the expansion of the nonlinear term and for the linear operator

\[
L = L_T + (\tau_T - \tau) M. \tag{41}
\]

We have,

\[
L_T = \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} + r b_{01} N - k^2 d_2 \\ b_{10} \\ b_{01} - k^2 d_2 \\ 1 - M \end{pmatrix} T_T, \tag{42}
\]

\[
M = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{43}
\]

where \( m_{11} = -a_{22} N/1 - M, \ m_{12} = -a_{23} N + d_2 N k^2/1 - M, \ m_{21} = 0, \) and \( m_{22} = 0 \) at \( U = u_* \).

Finally, we introduce multiple time scales:

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial t} = \epsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial T_1} + \epsilon^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial T_2} + o(\epsilon^3). \tag{44}
\]

Then, substituting equations (33)–(44) into equation (32) and expanding it with respect to different orders of \( \epsilon^i, (i = 1, 2, 3), \)

\[
\begin{align*}
  \epsilon : L_T \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix} &= 0, \\
  \epsilon^2 : L_T \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial T_1} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix} - \alpha_1 M \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix} - h_2, \\
  \epsilon^3 : L_T \begin{pmatrix} u_3 \\ v_3 \end{pmatrix} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial T_1} \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{\partial}{\partial T_2} \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix} - \alpha_1 M \begin{pmatrix} u_2 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \\
  &- \alpha_2 M \begin{pmatrix} u_1 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix} - h_3, \tag{45}
\end{align*}
\]

In what follows, we seek the amplitude equations by solving system (45). Since \( L_T \) has an eigenvector associated with the zero eigenvalue,

\[
(f,1)^T, \quad f = \frac{a_{01} - \tau b_{01} N + \tau d_2 N k^2}{a_{10} + \tau b_{10} N - k^2 d_1} \tag{46}
\]

The general solution of the first system of (45) can be written as

\[
\begin{pmatrix} U_1 \\ V_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f \end{pmatrix} \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 W_j e^{ik_j \tau} + \text{c.c.} \right), \tag{47}
\]

where \( W_j \) is the amplitude of the mode \( e^{i k_j \tau} \). Notice that the second system of (45) is nonhomogeneous, and \( L_T \), the adjoint operator of \( L_T \), has zero eigenvectors in the form of

\[
\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ g \end{pmatrix} e^{i k_j \tau} + \text{c.c.}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3, \tag{48}
\]

with \( g = -b_{01} (1 - M)/a_{10} + \tau b_{10} N - k^2 d_1 \). Let

\[
\begin{pmatrix} F_U \\ F_V \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_1 \\ V_1 \end{pmatrix} - \beta_1 \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} U_1 + m_{12} V_1 \\ m_{21} U_1 + m_{22} V_1 \end{pmatrix} - \alpha_2 M \begin{pmatrix} h_1^1 \\ h_2^2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{49}
\]

Then, in view of the Fredholm solvability conditions,

\[
(1,g) \begin{pmatrix} F_U^l \\ F_V^l \end{pmatrix} = 0, \tag{50}
\]

where \( F_U^l \) and \( F_V^l \) are the coefficients of \( e^{i k_j \tau} \) in \( F_U \) and \( F_V \), respectively. It follows after some routine calculation that, for \( j_l = 1, 2, 3 \) and \( l_m \neq l_m \) if \( l_m \neq m \),

\[
(f + g) \frac{\partial W_{j_1}}{\partial T_1} = \alpha_1 h_1 W_{j_1} - 2(h_1 + g h_2) W_{j_2} W_{j_3}, \tag{51}
\]

where

\[
\begin{align*}
  h_1 &= - (f^2 A_{20}^T + f A_{11}^T + A_{02}^T), \\
  h_2 &= - (f^2 B_{20}^T + f B_{11}^T + B_{02}^T), \\
  h_3 &= f m_{11} + m_{12} + g (f m_{11} + m_{22}).
\end{align*} \tag{52}
\]

Notice the forms of \( U_1 \) and \( V_1 \) given by (47). We have a particular solution for the second system of (45) as follows:
Again apply the Fredholm solvability condition to the reference [30], for the purpose of convenience of discussion, we convert it into the real form by the combination of equations (51) and (55) gives the amplitude equation (57) for the amplitude $\theta_j$ of the phase angles: $\pm \angle \phi_j$ with

$$\begin{align*}
h_1 &= -2\alpha_1 (A_{20} f^2 + A_{11} f + A_{42} + g (B_{20} f^2 + A_{11} f + B_{02} f)), \\
H &= -2 (h_1 + gh_2), \\
G_1 &= - \left( 2A_{30} f^3 + 2A_{11} f z_{v0} + A_{11} f z_{v1} + 4A_{20} f z_{u0} \right) \\
&\quad + 2A_{20} f z_{v0} + A_{21} f z_{v1} + 4A_{02} z_{v0} + 2A_{02} z_{v1} \\
&\quad + 2A_{11} z_{u0} + A_{11} z_{u1} + 3A_{03} f + A_{20} f z_{u0} \\
&\quad + 2B_{11} f z_{v0} + B_{11} f z_{v1} + 4B_{02} z_{v0} + 2B_{20} f z_{u0} \\
&\quad + 3B_{21} f^2 + 4B_{02} z_{v0} + 2B_{02} z_{v1} + 2B_{11} z_{u0} + B_{11} z_{u1} \\
&\quad + 3B_{11} z_{u0} + 3B_{03}).
\end{align*}$$

(56)

The combination of equations (51) and (55) gives the amplitude equation (57) for the amplitude

$$\tau_0 \frac{\partial A_j}{\partial t} = \mu A_j + hA_jA_m - (g_1 |A_j|^2 + g_2 (|A_j|^2 + |A_m|^2)) A_j,$n

(57)

where

$$\begin{align*}
\tau_0 &= \frac{f + g}{\tau} \left[ f m_{11} + m_{12} + g (f m_{21} + m_{22}) \right], \\
\mu &= \frac{\tau_0 - \tau}{\tau}, \\
h &= \frac{H}{\tau} [f m_{11} + m_{12} + g (f m_{21} + m_{22})], \\
g_j &= \frac{G_j}{\tau} [f m_{11} + m_{12} + g (f m_{21} + m_{22})].
\end{align*}$$

(58)

Please notice that system (57) is in complex form. Following to reference [30], for the purpose of convenience of discussion, we convert it into the real form by $A_j = \rho_j \exp (i\phi_j)$ with $\rho_j$ as the real amplitudes and $\phi_j$ as phase angles:

$$\begin{cases}
\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = -h \rho_1^2 \rho_2^2 \rho_3^2 \sin \psi, \\
\frac{\partial \rho_1}{\partial t} = -\mu \rho_1 + h \rho_2 \rho_3 \cos \phi - g_1 \rho_1^3 - g_2 (\rho_3^2 + \rho_2^2) \rho_1, \\
\frac{\partial \rho_2}{\partial t} = -\mu \rho_2 + h \rho_1 \rho_3 \cos \phi - g_1 \rho_2^3 - g_2 (\rho_3^2 + \rho_1^2) \rho_2, \\
\frac{\partial \rho_3}{\partial t} = -\mu \rho_3 + h \rho_1 \rho_2 \cos \phi - g_1 \rho_3^3 - g_2 (\rho_1^2 + \rho_2^2) \rho_3,
\end{cases}$$

(59)
where \( \varphi = \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 + \varphi_3 \). Since we are only interested in the stable steady states and notice the fact that \( \varphi_1 \neq 0 \), from the first equation of (59), we have \( \varphi = 0 \) or \( \pi \). Also, noticing the fact that \( r_0 > 0 \), it implies that when \( h > 0 \), the state corresponding to \( \varphi = 0 \) is stable, but the one corresponding to \( \varphi = \pi \) when \( h < 0 \). Then, system of amplitude equations (59) becomes

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial \rho_1}{\partial t} &= \mu \rho_1 + h |h| \rho_2 \rho_3 - g_1 \rho_1^2 + g_2 \rho_1 (\rho_2^2 + \rho_3^2), \\
\frac{\partial \rho_2}{\partial t} &= \mu \rho_2 + h |h| \rho_2 \rho_3 - g_1 \rho_2^2 + g_2 \rho_2 (\rho_1^2 + \rho_3^2), \\
\frac{\partial \rho_3}{\partial t} &= \mu \rho_3 + h |h| \rho_2 \rho_3 - g_1 \rho_3^2 + g_2 \rho_3 (\rho_1^2 + \rho_2^2).
\end{align*}
\]

(60)

Please notice that generally the amplitude equations are valid only when the control parameter is in the Turing space. It is easy to see that the above system of ordinary differential equation (60) has five equilibria, which corresponds five kinds of steady states [10, 30, 31]. Noticing the symmetry of the system, we have the following:

1. System (60) always has an equilibrium \( E_0 = (0, 0, 0) \), which is stable for \( \mu < \mu_3 = 0 \) and unstable for \( \mu > \mu_3 \).
2. System (60) has an equilibrium \( E_1 = (\sqrt{\mu/g_1}, 0, 0) \) corresponding to stripe patterns, which is stable for \( \mu > \mu_1 = h^2 g_1 / (g_2 - g_1)^2 \) and unstable for \( \mu < \mu_1 \).
3. System (60) has an equilibrium \( E_2 = (\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3) \) corresponding to hexagon patterns, with \( \varphi = 0 \) or \( \varphi = \pi \), and \( \rho_1 = |h| + \sqrt{h^2 + 4(g_1 + g_2)}/2(g_1 + 2g_2) \) is stable for \( \mu < \mu_2 = h^2 (2g_1 + g_2)/((g_2 - g_1)^2 \) and \( \rho_1 = |h| - \sqrt{h^2 + 4(g_1 + g_2)}/2(g_1 + 2g_2) \) is unstable, where \( \rho_1 = \rho_2 = \rho_3 = |h| \pm \sqrt{h^2 + 4(g_1 + 2g_2)}/2(g_1 + 2g_2) \).
4. System (60) has an equilibrium \( E_m = (\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3) \) corresponding to mixed patterns, with \( g_1 > g_2, \mu > g_1 \rho_2^2 \) which is unstable, where \( \rho_1 = |h|/g_2 - g_1, \rho_2 = \rho_3 = \sqrt{\mu - g_1 \rho_1^2}/g_2 + g_1 \).

### 5. Numerical Simulations

In this section, we will further study the dynamic behavior of the coexistence equilibrium of the delayed reaction-diffusion model (3) using numerical simulation in two-dimensional space. In this paper, a two-dimensional delay reaction-diffusion model is treated by the finite difference method in the discrete region of \( 100 \times 100 \). The spatial distance between two lattices is defined as the step size \( \Delta x \) and \( \Delta y \), using the standard five-point approximation for the 2D Laplacian with the zero-flux boundary conditions, and the time step is expressed as \( \Delta t \). Take a fixed time step \( \Delta t = 0.01 \). What needs to be further explained is that the concentrations \( S(\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}) \) at the moment \( (n + 1)\Delta t \) at the mesh position \( (i, j) \) are given by

\[
\begin{align*}
S^{n+1}_{i,j} &= S^n_{i,j} + \Delta t s_i \Delta x S^n_{i,j} + \Delta t f(S^n_{i,j}, I^n_{i,j}), \\
I^{n+1}_{i,j} &= I^n_{i,j} + \Delta t s_i \Delta x I^n_{i,j} + \Delta t g(S^n_{i,j}, I^n_{i,j}),
\end{align*}
\]

(61)

with the diffusion term (Laplacian) are defined by

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta_h S^n_{i,j} &= \frac{S^n_{i+1,j} + S^n_{i-1,j} + S^n_{i,j+1} + S^n_{i,j-1} - 4S^n_{i,j}}{h^2}, \\
\Delta_h I^n_{i,j} &= \frac{I^n_{i+1,j} + I^n_{i-1,j} + I^n_{i,j+1} + I^n_{i,j-1} - 4I^n_{i,j}}{h^2}.
\end{align*}
\]

(62)

Other parameters are fixed as

\[
\begin{align*}
\alpha &= 0.65, \\
\beta &= 6, \\
\gamma &= 0.5, \\
\varepsilon &= 1, \\
\eta &= 0.5, \\
d_1 &= 0.001, \\
d_2 &= 0.1.
\end{align*}
\]

First, we discuss the effect of weak Allee effect on Turing pattern information. We try to take the Allee effect constant to \( A = 0, A = 0.02 \), and \( A = 0.1 \). Here, we first discuss the situation without delay. When \( A = 0 \), Zhang et al. [10] give the condition of Turing instability. Here, we just give the pattern formations. By comparing Figures 1 and 2, we find that the initial state is the coexistence of stripes and spots, and the stripes are very long. With the increase of Allee parameters, the length of stripes decreases and some stripes even form a circle. Then, we continue to increase the value of the weak Allee parameter like Figure 3, and we find that pattern formations have changed again. As time goes on, we find that pattern formations show a cycle when \( t = 100 \) and \( t = 500 \) and we find that the cycle diffuses outward (indicating that pattern formations are not stable) to form a butterfly-like shape; and finally, when we increase to \( t = 2000 \), we find that the pattern formations are not stable. It was found that pattern formations became stripes and spots again. After we tried to add more time, we found that the pattern formation did not change again.

Next, let us discuss the pattern formation change of the model with time delay and without Allee effect. We change the delay to \( \tau = 0.25 \). By comparing with Figure 1, we find that the stripes and spots of the original pattern formations change to stripes like Figure 4, and the pattern formations will not change as time goes on.

Finally, we discuss the pattern formations of models with Allee effect and time delay (\( A = 0.02 \) and \( \tau = 0.02 \). We find that pattern formations are spots when \( t = 100 \); as time goes on \( t = 500 \), we find that pattern formations change again, similar to Figure 3, but the final pattern formations change differently. We can see that pattern formations change into strips surrounded by spots; we increase the time again \( t = 2000 \) to find that the pattern will spread outward in this form, forming the phenomenon of strip pattern surrounded by spots pattern; we further increase the time \( t = 5000 \) to find that the pattern such as in Figure 5 tends to stabilize and does not change again.
Figure 1: Mixture patterns obtained with model (1) for $A = 0$ and $\tau = 0$. Time: (a) $t = 100$, (b) $t = 500$, (c) $t = 2000$, and (d) $t = 5000$.

Figure 2: Continued.
6. Conclusion

This paper is based on a model that considers a predator-prey model with nonlinear mortality and Holling II functional response. The weak Allee effect is introduced and the effect of the Allee effect on pattern formations is considered. Furthermore, we consider a class of reaction-diffusion predator-prey models with searching delay and weak Allee effect, considering the effects of delay on pattern formations. We give the stability and Turing instability of the positive equilibrium point $E_\ast$. As a result of diffusion, model (3) and model (4) exhibits stationary Turing pattern. Furthermore, through numerical simulation, comparing Figures 1 and 2, we find that the Allee effect will reduce the length of the strip pattern in Figure 1, and there will be some “cycle” pattern as shown in Figure 2. From an ecological point of view, we
Figure 4: Stripes pattern obtained with model (1) for $A = 0$ and $\tau = 0.25$. Time: (a) $t = 100$, (b) $t = 500$, (c) $t = 1000$, and (d) $t = 2000$.

Figure 5: Continued.
know that the Allee effect increases the risk of population extinction, while the effect of the longer stripe pattern in Figure 1 increases the likelihood of predation. However, the shorter stripes and spots in Figure 2 reduce the likelihood of predation. As the Allee effect parameter continues to increase, we find that the pattern has changed again. The type of the pattern is similar to that of Figure 1, but the density and size of the pattern will change slightly as shown in Figure 3. We believe that in order to avoid predator hunting, predators are concentrated in a certain area rather than scattered throughout the habitat, which further reduces the contact area between predator and prey. Over time, prey needs to migrate to new habitats. The aggregation pattern diffuses slowly, the predator follows the pursuit, and the aggregation point enlarges gradually. It is worth noting when the Allee effect parameter is $A = 0.1$, there are two positive equilibrium points in model (4). Next, we consider the effect of delay on pattern formations. By comparing Figure 1 with Figure 4, we find when the delay is $\tau = 0.25$, the pattern changes from the state where the starting spots pattern and the strip pattern coexist to the case where only the strip pattern exists. Finally, we try to consider the Allee effect and delay to observe the changes in pattern formations, where $A = 0.02$ and $\tau = 0.02$. We find that when both are present, the spots pattern is surrounded by strip patterns as shown in Figure 5. This reminds us of animals in the natural world at the lower end of the food chain, often with a means of protection. Juvenile animals are surrounded by adult animals to reduce the probability of their juvenile animals being preyed. This may be an interesting finding or not. So, we find that Allee effect and delay play an important role in spatial invasion of populations.

**Data Availability**

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

**Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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