

## Research Article

# Stability and Hopf Bifurcation of a Predator-Prey Model with Distributed Delays and Competition Term

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Received 31 March 2014; Accepted 12 April 2014; Published 27 April 2014

Academic Editor: Ligang Wu

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A class of predator-prey system with distributed delays and competition term is considered. By considering the time delay as bifurcation parameter, we analyze the stability and the Hopf bifurcation of the predator-prey system. According to the theorem of Hopf bifurcation, some sufficient conditions are obtained for the local stability of the positive equilibrium point.

## 1. Introduction

In general, delay differential equations display more complicated dynamics than ordinary differential equations as a time delay could bring a switch in the stability of equilibria and induce various oscillations and periodic solutions. Neural Networks with time delay or distributed delays have been investigated by some researchers [1–4]. Different from [1–4], distributed delays are introduced into a Lotka-Volterra predator-prey system. Lotka-Volterra predator-prey system is always the hot question in mathematical ecology, and many scholars have made deep and broad study in this area [5–10]. May [5] first proposed a model describing a predator-prey system with delay:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= x(t) [r_1 - a_{11}x(t - \tau) - a_{12}y(t)], \\ \dot{y}(t) &= y(t) [-r_2 - a_{21}x(t) - a_{22}y(t)], \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $x(t)$ ,  $y(t)$  denote the densities of prey and predator at time  $t$ , respectively,  $\tau > 0$  denotes growth time of prey,  $r_1 > 0$ ,  $r_2 > 0$  denote the growth rates of prey and predator at time  $t$ , respectively,  $a_{ii} > 0$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) denote the inner impact factors in two populations, respectively, and  $a_{ij} > 0$  ( $i \neq j$ ) denote the mutual impact factors in two populations, respectively.

Recently, Song and Wei [9] developed a Logistic predator-prey model with discrete and distributed delays:

$$\dot{x}(t) = rx(t) \left[ 1 - a_1x(t - \tau) - a_2 \int_{-\infty}^t f(t-s)x(s)ds \right], \quad (2)$$

where  $r$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $a_1$ , and  $a_2$  are positive constants and  $f(t)$  is the kernel function satisfying  $f(t) \geq 0$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) and  $\int_0^{\infty} f(t)dt = 1$ .

In nature, living space and resources are limited. Therefore it is advisable to study a predator-prey model with competition term. The competition term describes the competitive interactions between the two species. Associated with these works in [5, 9, 10], in this paper, a predator-prey model with distributed delays and competition term is considered:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\bar{x}}(t) &= \bar{x}(t) \left[ r - r_1\bar{x}(t - \tau) - r_2 \int_{-\infty}^t f(t-s)\bar{x}(s)ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - a_1\bar{y}(t - \tau) \right], \\ \dot{\bar{y}}(t) &= \bar{y}(t) \left[ -r_3 + a_2\bar{x}(t - \tau) - r_4\bar{y}(t - \tau) \right] \\ &\quad - c\bar{y}(t)\bar{y}^2(t - \tau). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Obviously, system (3) improves and contains most of existing models. For (3), we define the kernel function

$$f(t) = \sigma e^{-\sigma t}, \quad \sigma > 0. \quad (4)$$

Denote

$$\bar{u}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t \sigma e^{-\sigma(t-s)}\bar{x}(s)ds. \quad (5)$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\bar{x}}(t) &= \bar{x}(t) \left[ r - r_1 \bar{x}(t - \tau) - r_2 \bar{u}(t) - a_1 \bar{y}(t - \tau) \right] \\ \dot{\bar{u}}(t) &= \sigma \bar{x}(t) - \sigma \bar{u}(t) \\ \dot{\bar{y}}(t) &= \bar{y}(t) \left[ -r_3 + a_2 \bar{x}(t - \tau) - r_4 \bar{y}(t - \tau) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - c \bar{y}(t) \bar{y}^2(t - \tau) \right].\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

Let  $\bar{x}(t) = (r/r_1)\bar{x}(t)$ ,  $\bar{u}(t) = (r/r_1)\bar{u}(t)$ , and  $\bar{y}(t) = (r_3/r_4)\bar{y}(t)$ ; by (6),

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\bar{x}}(t) &= r \bar{x}(t) \left[ 1 - \bar{x}(t - \tau) - \frac{r_2}{r_1} \bar{u}(t) - \frac{a_1 r_3}{r r_4} \bar{y}(t - \tau) \right] \\ \dot{\bar{u}}(t) &= \sigma \bar{x}(t) - \sigma \bar{u}(t) \\ \dot{\bar{y}}(t) &= r_3 \bar{y}(t) \left[ -1 + \frac{a_2 r}{r_1 r_3} \bar{x}(t - \tau) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \bar{y}(t - \tau) - \frac{c r_3}{r_4^2} \bar{y}^2(t - \tau) \right].\end{aligned}\quad (7)$$

Denote  $a = r_2/r_1$ ,  $b = a_1 r_3 / r r_4$ ,  $c = a_2 r / r_1 r_3$ , and  $d = c r_3 / r_4^2$ ; from (7), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\bar{x}}(t) &= r \bar{x}(t) \left[ 1 - \bar{x}(t - \tau) - a \bar{u}(t) - b \bar{y}(t - \tau) \right] \\ \dot{\bar{u}}(t) &= \sigma \bar{x}(t) - \sigma \bar{u}(t) \\ \dot{\bar{y}}(t) &= r_3 \bar{y}(t) \\ &\quad \times \left[ -1 + c \bar{x}(t - \tau) - \bar{y}(t - \tau) - d \bar{y}^2(t - \tau) \right].\end{aligned}\quad (8)$$

## 2. Main Results

To ensure system (8) with positive equilibrium points, let us suppose system (8) with conditions

$$G_1: \sqrt{\Delta} - (1 + a)d > 0, (2 + b)(1 + a)d - \sqrt{\Delta} > 0,$$

where  $\Delta = (1 + a + bc)^2 - 4(1 + a)d(1 + a - c)$ .

Clearly,  $z^* = (x^*, u^*, y^*)$  is a positive equilibrium point of system (8) if and only if  $z^* = (x^*, u^*, y^*)$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= 1 - x^* - a u^* - b y^* \\ 0 &= b x^* - b u^* \\ 0 &= -1 + c x^* - y^* - d y^{*2}.\end{aligned}\quad (9)$$

Obviously, under the assumption  $G_1$ , system (8) has unique positive equilibrium points  $z^* = (x^*, u^*, y^*)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}x^* &= \frac{(2 + b)(1 + a)d - b\sqrt{\Delta}}{2(1 + a)^2 d} \\ u^* &= x^* \\ y^* &= \frac{\sqrt{\Delta} - (1 + a + bc)}{2(1 + a)d}.\end{aligned}\quad (10)$$

Let  $\bar{x}(t) = x(t) - x^*$ ,  $\bar{u}(t) = u(t) - u^*$ , and  $\bar{y}(t) = y(t) - y^*$ ; then

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= r [x(t) + x^*] [-x(t - \tau) - a u(t) - b y(t - \tau)] \\ \dot{u}(t) &= b x(t) - b u(t) \\ \dot{y}(t) &= r_3 [y(t) + y^*] \\ &\quad \times [c x(t - \tau) - (1 + 2d y^*) y(t) - d y^2(t)].\end{aligned}\quad (11)$$

Linearizing system (11) at  $(0, 0, 0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= r x^* [-x(t - \tau) - a u(t) - b y(t - \tau)] \\ \dot{u}(t) &= b x(t) - b u(t) \\ \dot{y}(t) &= r_3 y^* [c x(t - \tau) - (1 + 2d y^*) y(t)],\end{aligned}\quad (12)$$

then the characteristic equation of (12) is

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda^3 + d_1 \lambda^2 + d_2 \lambda - d_3 + (d_4 \lambda^2 + d_5 \lambda - d_6) e^{-\lambda \tau} \\ + (d_7 \lambda + d_8) e^{-2\lambda \tau} = 0,\end{aligned}\quad (13)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}d_1 &= b - r_3 y^* (1 + 2d y^*), \\ d_2 &= r a b x^* - r r_3 x^* y^* (1 + 2d y^*), \\ d_3 &= r r_3 a b x^* y^* (1 + 2d y^*), \quad d_4 = r x^*, \\ d_5 &= r b x^* - r r_3 x^* y^* (1 + 2d y^*), \\ d_6 &= r r_3 b x^* y^* (1 + 2d y^*), \\ d_7 &= r r_3 b c x^* y^*, \quad d_8 = r r_3 b^2 c x^* y^*.\end{aligned}\quad (14)$$

By (13), we can get

$$\begin{aligned}(\lambda^3 + d_1 \lambda^2 + d_2 \lambda - d_3) e^{\lambda \tau} + (d_4 \lambda^2 + d_5 \lambda - d_6) \\ + (d_7 \lambda + d_8) e^{-\lambda \tau} = 0.\end{aligned}\quad (15)$$

Clearly,  $i\omega$  ( $\omega > 0$ ) is a solution of (15) if and only if  $\omega$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned}(-i\omega^3 - d_1 \omega^2 + d_2 i\omega - d_3) e^{i\omega \tau} + (-d_4 \omega^2 + d_5 i\omega - d_6) \\ + (d_7 i\omega + d_8) e^{-i\omega \tau} = 0.\end{aligned}\quad (16)$$

Substituting  $e^{i\omega \tau} = \cos \omega \tau + i \sin \omega \tau$ ,  $e^{-i\omega \tau} = \cos \omega \tau - i \sin \omega \tau$  into (16), then

$$\begin{aligned}(-i\omega^3 - d_1 \omega^2 + d_2 i\omega - d_3) (\cos \omega \tau + i \sin \omega \tau) \\ + (-d_4 \omega^2 + d_5 i\omega - d_6) \\ + (d_7 i\omega + d_8) (\cos \omega \tau - i \sin \omega \tau) = 0;\end{aligned}\quad (17)$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned} & [(\omega^3 - d_2\omega) - d_7\omega] \cos \omega\tau \\ & + [d_8 + (d_1\omega + d_3)] \sin \omega\tau = d_5\omega, \\ & [(\omega^3 - d_2\omega) + d_7\omega] \sin \omega\tau \\ & + [d_8 - (d_1\omega + d_3)] \cos \omega\tau = d_4\omega^2 + d_6; \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \omega\tau &= (d_4\omega^5 + [d_6 - d_4(d_2 + d_7)]\omega^3 + d_1d_5\omega^2 \\ &+ [d_5(d_3 - d_8) - d_6(d_2 + d_7)]\omega) \\ &\times (\omega^6 - 2d_2\omega^4 + (d_1^2 + d_2^2 - d_7^2)\omega^2 \\ &+ 2d_1d_3\omega + d_3^2 - d_8^2)^{-1}, \\ \cos \omega\tau &= (d_5\omega^4 - d_1d_4\omega^3 + (d_5d_7 - d_2d_5 - d_4d_8 - d_3d_4)\omega^2 \\ &- d_1d_6\omega - (d_3 + d_8)d_6) \\ &\times (\omega^6 - 2d_2\omega^4 + (d_1^2 + d_2^2 - d_7^2)\omega^2 \\ &+ 2d_1d_3\omega + d_3^2 - d_8^2)^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 &= -2d_2, & e_2 &= d_1^2 + d_2^2 - d_7^2, \\ e_3 &= 2d_1d_3, & e_4 &= d_3^2 - d_8^2, & e_5 &= d_4, \\ e_6 &= d_6 - d_4(d_2 + d_7), & e_7 &= d_1d_5, \\ e_8 &= [d_5(d_3 - d_8) - d_6(d_2 + d_7)], \\ e_9 &= d_5, & e_{10} &= -d_1d_4, \\ e_{11} &= d_5d_7 - d_2d_5 - d_4d_8 - d_3d_4, \\ e_{12} &= -d_1d_6, & e_{13} &= -(d_3 + d_8), \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \omega\tau &= \frac{e_5\omega^5 + e_6\omega^3 + e_7\omega^2 + e_8\omega}{\omega^6 + e_1\omega^4 + e_2\omega^2 + e_3\omega + e_4}, \\ \cos \omega\tau &= \frac{e_9\omega^4 + e_{10}\omega^3 + e_{11}\omega^2 + e_{12}\omega + e_{13}}{\omega^6 + e_1\omega^4 + e_2\omega^2 + e_3\omega + e_4}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Combined with  $\sin^2\omega\tau + \cos^2\omega\tau = 1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \omega^{12} + f_1\omega^{10} + f_2\omega^8 + f_3\omega^7 + f_4\omega^6 + f_5\omega^5 + f_6\omega^4 + f_7\omega^3 \\ & + f_8\omega^2 + f_9\omega + f_{10} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= 2e_1 - e_5^2, & f_2 &= 2e_2 + e_1^2 - 2e_5e_6 - e_9^2, \\ f_3 &= 2(e_3 - e_5e_7 - e_9e_{10}), \\ f_4 &= 2e_4 + 2e_1e_2 - e_6^2 - e_{10}^2 - 2e_5e_8 - 2e_9e_{11}, \\ f_5 &= 2(e_1e_3 - e_6e_7 - e_9e_{12} - e_{10}e_{11}), \\ f_6 &= e_2^2 + 2e_1e_4 - e_7^2 - e_{11}^2 - 2e_6e_8 - 2e_9e_{13} - 2e_{10}e_{12}, \\ f_7 &= 2(e_2e_3 - e_7e_8 - e_{10}e_{13} - e_{11}e_{12}), \\ f_8 &= e_3^2 + 2e_2e_4 - e_8^2 - e_{12}^2 - 2e_{11}e_{13}, \\ f_9 &= 2(e_3e_4 - e_{12}e_{13}), & f_{10} &= e_4^2 - e_{13}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} G(\omega) &= \omega^{12} + f_1\omega^{10} + f_2\omega^8 + f_3\omega^7 + f_4\omega^6 + f_5\omega^5 \\ &+ f_6\omega^4 + f_7\omega^3 + f_8\omega^2 + f_9\omega + f_{10}. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Assume

$G_2$ : system (22) has at least one positive real solution.

On the other hand,

$$\cos \omega_k\tau = \frac{e_9\omega_k^4 + e_{10}\omega_k^3 + e_{11}\omega_k^2 + e_{12}\omega_k + e_{13}}{\omega_k^6 + e_1\omega_k^4 + e_2\omega_k^2 + e_3\omega_k + e_4}; \quad (25)$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_k^{(j)} &= \frac{1}{\omega_k} \\ &\times \left\{ \arccos \frac{e_9\omega_k^4 + e_{10}\omega_k^3 + e_{11}\omega_k^2 + e_{12}\omega_k + e_{13}}{\omega_k^6 + e_1\omega_k^4 + e_2\omega_k^2 + e_3\omega_k + e_4} + 2j\pi \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

where  $k = 1, \dots, 12$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, \pm i\omega_k$ . Define

$$\tau_0 = \tau_{k_0}^{(0)} = \min_{k \in \{1, \dots, 12\}} \{\tau_k^{(0)}\}, \quad \omega_0 = \omega_{k_0}. \quad (27)$$

When  $\tau = 0$ , we can obtain

$$\lambda^3 + (d_1 + d_4)\lambda^2 + (d_2 + d_5 + d_7)\lambda + d_8 - d_3 - d_6 = 0. \quad (28)$$

By Hurwitz criterion, it follows that the solutions of (28) are all of negative real parts when  $\tau = 0$ , so the positive equilibrium point  $Z^*$  is locally asymptotically stable.

In the following, we assume

$G_3$ :  $\text{Re}(d\lambda/d\tau)|_{\tau=\tau_0} \neq 0$ .

From (13),

$$\begin{aligned} & (3\lambda^2 + 2d_1\lambda + d_2)e^{\lambda\tau} + (\lambda^3 + d_1\lambda^2 + d_2\lambda - d_3)e^{\lambda\tau} \\ & \times \left( \lambda + \tau \frac{d\lambda}{d\tau} \right) + (2d_4\lambda + d_5) \frac{d\lambda}{d\tau} + d_7e^{-\lambda\tau} \frac{d\lambda}{d\tau} \\ & - (d_7\lambda + d_8)e^{-\lambda\tau} \left( \lambda + \tau \frac{d\lambda}{d\tau} \right) = 0; \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d\lambda}{d\tau} \\ &= (-\lambda(\lambda^3 + d_1\lambda^2 + d_2\lambda - d_3)e^{\lambda\tau} + \lambda(d_7\lambda + d_8)e^{-\lambda\tau}) \\ & \quad \times ((3\lambda^2 + 2d_1\lambda + d_2)e^{\lambda\tau} + (\lambda^3 + d_1\lambda^2 + d_2\lambda - d_3)\tau e^{\lambda\tau} \\ & \quad + 2d_4\lambda + d_5 + d_7e^{-\lambda\tau} - (d_7\lambda + d_8)e^{-\lambda\tau})^{-1}, \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{d\lambda}{d\tau}\right)^{-1} \\ &= \frac{(3\lambda^2 + 2d_1\lambda + d_2)e^{\lambda\tau} + 2d_4\lambda + d_5 + d_7e^{-\lambda\tau}}{-\lambda(\lambda^3 + d_1\lambda^2 + d_2\lambda - d_3)e^{\lambda\tau} + \lambda(d_7\lambda + d_8)e^{-\lambda\tau}} \\ & \quad - \frac{\tau}{\lambda} \\ &= \frac{(3\lambda^2 + 2d_1\lambda + d_2)e^{\lambda\tau} + 2d_4\lambda + d_5 + d_7e^{-\lambda\tau}}{d_4\lambda^3 + d_5\lambda^2 - d_6\lambda + 2\lambda(d_7\lambda + d_8)e^{-\lambda\tau}} - \frac{\tau}{\lambda} \\ &= \frac{(-3\omega^2 + 2d_1i\omega + d_2)e^{\lambda\tau} + 2d_4i\omega + d_5 + d_7e^{-\lambda\tau}}{-d_4i\omega^3 - d_5\omega^2 - d_6i\omega + 2i\omega(d_7i\omega + d_8)e^{-\lambda\tau}} \\ & \quad - \frac{\tau}{i\omega}. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Substituting  $e^{i\omega} = \cos \omega\tau + i \sin \omega\tau$ ,  $e^{-i\omega} = \cos \omega\tau - i \sin \omega\tau$  into (31), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{d\lambda}{d\tau}\right)^{-1} \\ &= ((-3\omega^2 + 2d_1i\omega + d_2)(\cos \omega\tau + i \sin \omega\tau) \\ & \quad + 2d_4i\omega + d_5 + d_7(\cos \omega\tau - i \sin \omega\tau)) \\ & \quad \times (-d_4i\omega^3 - d_5\omega^2 - d_6i\omega \\ & \quad + 2i\omega(d_7i\omega + d_8)(\cos \omega\tau - i \sin \omega\tau))^{-1} - \frac{\tau}{i\omega} \\ &= ((-3\omega^2 + d_2 + d_7)\cos \omega\tau - 2d_1\omega \sin \omega\tau + d_5) \\ & \quad \times ((-d_5\omega^2 - 2d_7\omega^2 \cos \omega\tau + 2d_8\omega \sin \omega\tau) \\ & \quad + i(-d_4\omega^3 - d_6\omega + 2d_8\omega \cos \omega\tau + 2d_7\omega^2 \sin \omega\tau))^{-1} \\ & \quad + (i[2d_1\omega \cos \omega\tau + (-3\omega^2 + d_2 - d_7)\sin \omega\tau + 2d_4\omega]) \\ & \quad \times ((-d_5\omega^2 - 2d_7\omega^2 \cos \omega\tau + 2d_8\omega \sin \omega\tau) \\ & \quad + i(-d_4\omega^3 - d_6\omega + 2d_8\omega \cos \omega\tau + 2d_7\omega^2 \sin \omega\tau))^{-1} \\ & \quad - \frac{\tau}{i\omega}. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= (-d_5\omega^2 - 2d_7\omega^2 \cos \omega\tau + 2d_8\omega \sin \omega\tau)^2 \\ & \quad + (-d_4\omega^3 - d_6\omega + 2d_8\omega \cos \omega\tau + 2d_7\omega^2 \sin \omega\tau)^2 \\ & > 0 \\ Q \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{d\lambda}{d\tau}\right)^{-1} \\ &= [(-3\omega^2 + d_2 + d_7)\cos \omega\tau - 2d_1\omega \sin \omega\tau + d_5] \\ & \quad \times [(-d_5\omega^2 - 2d_7\omega^2 \cos \omega\tau + 2d_8\omega \sin \omega\tau)] \\ & \quad + [2d_1\omega \cos \omega\tau + (-3\omega^2 + d_2 - d_7)\sin \omega\tau + 2d_4\omega] \\ & \quad \times [-d_4\omega^3 - d_6\omega + 2d_8\omega \cos \omega\tau + 2d_7\omega^2 \sin \omega\tau]. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Combined with

$$\operatorname{sign}\left\{\operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{d\lambda}{d\tau}\right)\Big|_{\tau=\tau_0}\right\} = \operatorname{sign}\left\{\operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{d\lambda}{d\tau}\right)\Big|_{\tau=\tau_0}^{-1}\right\}, \quad (34)$$

then we can derive the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** *If assumptions  $G_2, G_3$  hold, then*

- (i) *when  $\tau \in [0, \tau_0)$ , the positive equilibrium point  $z^*(x^*, u^*, y^*)$  of system (11) is asymptotically stable;*
- (ii) *when  $\tau = \tau_0$ , the region near the positive equilibrium point  $z^*(x^*, u^*, y^*)$  of system (11) can appear Hopf bifurcation.*

### 3. Conclusion

As we know, time delay has a strong impact on the dynamic evolution of a population, which could bring a switch in the stability of equilibria and induce various oscillations and periodic solutions. However, these effects would induce ecosystem unbalance and even biological disaster. In order to maintain the sustainable development of the biological resources, we investigate a predator-prey model with delays. In this paper, on the basis of Lotka-Volterra predator-prey system, a general class of predator-prey models with distributed delays and competition term is formulated and studied. Some sufficient conditions in terms of algebraic criterion are obtained, in order to achieve stability and Hopf bifurcation. These theoretical analyses can characterize the fundamental properties of ecological system and provide convenience for applications. By using the same method, similar results may be obtained for the predator-prey model with functional response which describes prey eaten per predator per unit of time.

In the future, we will investigate the direction of Hopf bifurcation and the stability of the bifurcating periodic solutions based on the normal form approach theory and center manifold theory introduced by Hassard et al. [11].

## Conflict of Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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