

Dynamics of a Rational Difference Equation

Elmetwally M. ELABBASY* Elsayed M. ELSAYED*

Abstract The authors investigate the global behavior of the solutions of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-l}x_{n-k}}{bx_{n-p} + cx_{n-q}}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where the initial conditions $x_{-r}, x_{-r+1}, x_{-r+2}, \dots, x_0$ are arbitrary positive real numbers, $r = \max\{l, k, p, q\}$ is a nonnegative integer and a, b, c are positive constants. Some special cases of this equation are also studied in this paper.

Keywords Stability, Periodic solutions, Difference equations

2000 MR Subject Classification 39A10

1 Introduction

In this paper, we deal with some properties of the solutions of the recursive sequence

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-l}x_{n-k}}{bx_{n-p} + cx_{n-q}}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \quad (1.1)$$

where the initial conditions $x_{-r}, x_{-r+1}, x_{-r+2}, \dots, x_0$ are arbitrary positive real numbers, $r = \max\{l, k, p, q\}$ is a nonnegative integer and a, b, c are positive constants. Also, we study some special cases of equation (1.1).

Here, we recall some notations and results which will be useful in our investigation.

Let I be some interval of real numbers and

$$f : I^{k+1} \rightarrow I$$

be a continuously differentiable function. Then for every set of initial conditions $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_0 \in I$, the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = f(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_{n-k}), \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \quad (1.2)$$

has a unique solution $\{x_n\}_{n=-k}^{\infty}$ (see [15]).

A point $\bar{x} \in I$ is called an equilibrium point of equation (1.2) if

$$\bar{x} = f(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}).$$

That is, $x_n = \bar{x}$, for $n \geq 0$, is a solution of equation (1.2), or equivalently, $\bar{x}$ is a fixed point of f .

Manuscript received November 5, 2007. Published online February 18, 2009.

*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Mansoura University, Mansoura 35516, Egypt.

E-mail: emelabbasy@mans.edu.eg emelsayed@mans.edu.eg emmelsayed@yahoo.com

Definition 1.1 (Stability) (i) *The equilibrium point $\bar{x}$ of equation (1.2) is locally stable if for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for all $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in I$ with*

$$|x_{-k} - \bar{x}| + |x_{-k+1} - \bar{x}| + \dots + |x_0 - \bar{x}| < \delta,$$

we have

$$|x_n - \bar{x}| < \epsilon \quad \text{for all } n \geq -k.$$

(ii) *The equilibrium point $\bar{x}$ of equation (1.2) is locally asymptotically stable if $\bar{x}$ is a locally stable solution of equation (1.2) and there exists $\gamma > 0$, such that for all $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in I$ with*

$$|x_{-k} - \bar{x}| + |x_{-k+1} - \bar{x}| + \dots + |x_0 - \bar{x}| < \gamma,$$

we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \bar{x}.$$

(iii) *The equilibrium point $\bar{x}$ of equation (1.2) is a global attractor if for all $x_{-k}, x_{-k+1}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in I$, we have*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \bar{x}.$$

(iv) *The equilibrium point $\bar{x}$ of equation (1.2) is globally asymptotically stable if $\bar{x}$ is locally stable, and $\bar{x}$ is also a global attractor of equation (1.2).*

(v) *The equilibrium point $\bar{x}$ of equation (1.2) is unstable if $\bar{x}$ is not locally stable.*

The linearized equation of equation (1.2) about the equilibrium $\bar{x}$ is the linear difference equation

$$y_{n+1} = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{\partial f(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x})}{\partial x_{n-i}} y_{n-i}. \quad (1.3)$$

Theorem 1.1 (see [14]) *Assume that $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$ and $k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. Then*

$$|p| + |q| < 1$$

is a sufficient condition for the asymptotic stability of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} + px_n + qx_{n-k} = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

Remark 1.1 Theorem 1.1 can be easily extended to a general linear equation of the form

$$x_{n+k} + p_1 x_{n+k-1} + \dots + p_k x_n = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, \quad (1.4)$$

where $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k \in \mathbb{R}$ and $k \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$. Then equation (1.4) is asymptotically stable provided that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k |p_i| < 1.$$

Definition 1.2 (Fibonacci Sequence) *The sequence $\{F_m\}_{m=0}^\infty = \{1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \dots\}$, i.e., $F_m = F_{m-1} + F_{m-2}$, $m \geq 0$, $F_{-2} = 0$, $F_{-1} = 1$, is called Fibonacci Sequence.*

Solutions of difference equations, periodicity, stability and boundedness of solutions to abstract difference equations have been discussed by many authors, e.g., Elabbasy et al. [9] investigated the global stability, periodicity character and gave the solution of special case of the following recursive sequence

$$x_{n+1} = ax_n - \frac{bx_n}{cx_n - dx_{n-1}}.$$

Elabbasy et al. [10] investigated the global stability, boundedness, periodicity character and gave the solution of some special cases of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{\alpha x_{n-k}}{\beta + \gamma \prod_{i=0}^k x_{n-i}}.$$

In [8], E. M. Elabbasy et al. investigated the global stability character, boundedness and the periodicity of solutions of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{\alpha x_n + \beta x_{n-1} + \gamma x_{n-2}}{Ax_n + Bx_{n-1} + Cx_{n-2}}.$$

Yang et al. [20] investigated the invariant intervals, the global attractivity of equilibrium points, and the asymptotic behavior of the solutions of the recursive sequence

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-1} + bx_{n-2}}{c + dx_{n-1}x_{n-2}}.$$

Cinar [5–7] has got the solutions of the following difference equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= \frac{x_{n-1}}{1 + x_n x_{n-1}}, \\ x_{n+1} &= \frac{x_{n-1}}{-1 + x_n x_{n-1}}, \\ x_{n+1} &= \frac{ax_{n-1}}{1 + bx_n x_{n-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Aloqeili [1] obtained the form of the solutions of the difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{a - x_n x_{n-1}}.$$

For some related works see [1–20].

The paper proceeds as follows. In Section 2 we show that when $3a < (b + c)$, the equilibrium point of equation (1.1) is locally asymptotically stable. In Section 3 we prove that the equilibrium point of equation (1.1) is a global attractor. In Section 4 we give the solutions of some special cases of equation (1.1) and give numerical examples of each case. The solutions obtained are plotted in (n, x_n) -plane by using Matlab 6.5.

2 Local Stability of Equation (1.1)

In this section, we investigate the local stability character of the solutions of equation (1.1). equation (1.1) has a unique positive equilibrium point and is given by

$$\bar{x} = \frac{a\bar{x}^2}{b\bar{x} + c\bar{x}}.$$

If $a \neq b + c$, then the unique equilibrium point is $\bar{x} = 0$.

Let $f : (0, \infty)^4 \longrightarrow (0, \infty)$ be a function defined by

$$f(u, v, w, z) = \frac{auv}{bw + cz}. \quad (2.1)$$

Therefore it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} f_u(u, v, w, z) &= \frac{av}{(bw + cz)}, \\ f_v(u, v, w, z) &= \frac{au}{(bw + cz)}, \\ f_w(u, v, w, z) &= \frac{-bauv}{(bw + cz)^2}, \\ f_z(u, v, w, z) &= \frac{-cauv}{(bw + cz)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

We see that

$$\begin{aligned} f_u(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}) &= \frac{a}{(b + c)}, \\ f_v(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}) &= \frac{a}{(b + c)}, \\ f_w(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}) &= \frac{-ab}{(b + c)^2}, \\ f_z(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{x}) &= \frac{-ac}{(b + c)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The linearized equation of equation (1.1) about $\bar{x}$ is

$$y_{n+1} + \frac{a}{(b + c)}y_{n-l} + \frac{a}{(b + c)}y_{n-k} - \frac{ab}{(b + c)^2}y_{n-p} - \frac{ac}{(b + c)^2}y_{n-q} = 0. \quad (2.2)$$

Theorem 2.1 *Assume that*

$$3a < (b + c).$$

Then the equilibrium point of equation (1.1) is locally asymptotically stable.

Proof It follows by Theorem 1.1 that equation (2.2) is asymptotically stable if

$$\left| \frac{a}{(b + c)} \right| + \left| \frac{a}{(b + c)} \right| + \left| \frac{ab}{(b + c)^2} \right| + \left| \frac{ac}{(b + c)^2} \right| < 1,$$

or

$$\frac{2a}{(b + c)} + \frac{a}{(b + c)} < 1,$$

and so

$$3a < b + c.$$

This completes the proof.

3 Global Attractor of the Equilibrium Point of Equation (1.1)

In this section, we investigate the global attractivity character of solutions of equation (1.1). We give the following theorem which is a minor modification of [15, Theorem A.0.2].

Theorem 3.1 *Let $[a, b]$ be an interval of real numbers and assume that*

$$f : [a, b]^{k+1} \rightarrow [a, b]$$

is a continuous function satisfying the following properties:

(i) *$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{k+1})$ is non-decreasing in any two components (for example x_t, x_y) for each x_r ($r \neq t, y$) in $[a, b]$ and non-increasing in the remaining components for each x_t, x_y in $[a, b]$,*

(ii) *$m = M$ once $(m, M) \in [a, b] \times [a, b]$ is a solution of the system*

$$\begin{aligned} m &= f(M, M, \dots, M, m, M, \dots, M, m, M, \dots, M, M), \\ M &= f(m, m, \dots, m, M, m, \dots, m, M, m, \dots, m, m). \end{aligned}$$

Then equation (1.2) has a unique equilibrium $\bar{x} \in [a, b]$ and every solution of equation (1.2) converges to $\bar{x}$.

Proof Set

$$m_0 = a, \quad M_0 = b,$$

and for each $i = 1, 2, \dots$, set

$$\begin{aligned} M_i &= f(m_{i-1}, m_{i-1}, \dots, m_{i-1}, M_{i-1}, m_{i-1}, \dots, m_{i-1}, M_{i-1}, m_{i-1}, \dots, m_{i-1}, m_{i-1}), \\ m_i &= f(M_{i-1}, M_{i-1}, \dots, M_{i-1}, m_{i-1}, M_{i-1}, \dots, M_{i-1}, m_{i-1}, M_{i-1}, \dots, M_{i-1}, M_{i-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Now observe that for each $i \geq 0$,

$$a = m_0 \leq m_1 \leq \dots \leq m_i \leq \dots \leq M_i \leq \dots \leq M_1 \leq M_0 = b,$$

and

$$m_i \leq x_p \leq M_i \quad \text{for } p \geq (k+1)i + 1.$$

Set

$$m = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} m_i \quad \text{and} \quad M = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} M_i.$$

Then

$$M \geq \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i \geq \liminf_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i \geq m,$$

and by the continuity of f ,

$$\begin{aligned} m &= f(M, M, \dots, M, m, M, \dots, M, m, M, \dots, M, M), \\ M &= f(m, m, \dots, m, M, m, \dots, m, M, m, \dots, m, m). \end{aligned}$$

In view of (ii),

$$m = M = \bar{x},$$

from which the result follows.

Theorem 3.2 *The equilibrium point $\bar{x}$ of equation (1.1) is a global attractor.*

Proof Let r, s be nonnegative real numbers and assume that $f : [r, s]^4 \rightarrow [r, s]$ is a function defined by equation (2.1). Then we can easily see that the function $f(u, v, w, z)$ increases in u, v and decreases in w, z .

Suppose that (m, M) is a solution of the system

$$m = f(m, m, M, M) \quad \text{and} \quad M = f(M, M, m, m).$$

Then from equation (1.1), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} m &= \frac{am^2}{bM + cM}, & M &= \frac{aM^2}{bm + cm}, \\ (b + c)mM &= am^2, & (b + c)Mm &= aM^2, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$M = m.$$

It follows from Theorem 3.1 that $\bar{x}$ is a global attractor of equation (1.1) and then the proof is completed.

4 Special Cases of Equation (1.1)

Case 1 In this case, we study the following special case of equation (1.1)

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_n x_{n-1}}{x_n + x_{n-1}}, \quad (4.1)$$

where the initial conditions x_{-1}, x_0 are arbitrary positive real numbers.

Theorem 4.1 *Let $\{x_n\}_{n=-1}^\infty$ be a solution of equation (4.1). Then for $n = 0, 1, \dots$,*

$$x_n = \frac{hk}{F_{n-1}k + F_{n-2}h},$$

where $x_{-1} = k, x_0 = h$.

Proof For $n = 0$ the result holds. Now suppose that $n > 0$ and that our assumption holds for $n - 1, n - 2$. That is,

$$x_{n-2} = \frac{hk}{F_{n-3}k + F_{n-4}h}, \quad x_{n-1} = \frac{hk}{F_{n-2}k + F_{n-3}h}.$$

Now, it follows from equation (4.1) that

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &= \frac{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}{x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{hk}{F_{n-3}k + F_{n-4}h}\right)\left(\frac{hk}{F_{n-2}k + F_{n-3}h}\right)}{\left(\frac{hk}{F_{n-3}k + F_{n-4}h}\right) + \left(\frac{hk}{F_{n-2}k + F_{n-3}h}\right)} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{hk}{F_{n-3}k + F_{n-4}h}\right)\left(\frac{1}{F_{n-2}k + F_{n-3}h}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{F_{n-3}k + F_{n-4}h}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{F_{n-2}k + F_{n-3}h}\right)} \\ &= \frac{hk}{(F_{n-2}k + F_{n-3}h + F_{n-3}k + F_{n-4}h)} \\ &= \frac{hk}{(F_{n-2}h + F_{n-1}k)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the proof is completed.

Lemma 4.1 Every positive solution of equation (4.1) is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

Proof It follows from equation (4.1) that

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_n x_{n-1}}{x_n + x_{n-1}} \leq \frac{x_n x_{n-1}}{x_{n-1}} = x_n,$$

or

$$x_{n+1} \leq x_n.$$

Then the sequence $\{x_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is decreasing and so is bounded from above by $M = \max\{x_{-1}, x_0\}$.

For $x_{-1} = 5$, $x_0 = 9$, the solution of equation (4.1) will take the form $\{3.214286, 2.368421, 1.363636, 0.8653846, 0.5294118, \dots\}$, this solution is stable and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$ (see Figure 1).

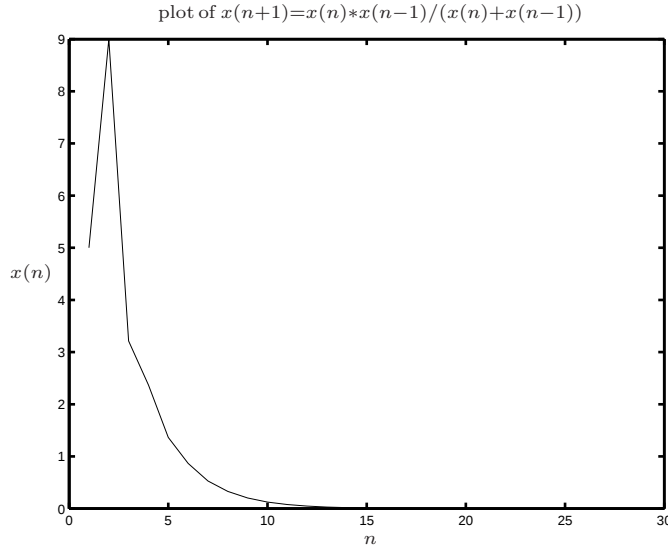


Figure 1 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n) * x(n-1) / (x(n) + x(n-1))$

Case 2 In this case, we study the following special case of equation (1.1)

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}{x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}}, \quad (4.2)$$

where the initial conditions x_{-2} , x_{-1} , x_0 are arbitrary positive real numbers.

Theorem 4.2 Let $\{x_n\}_{n=-2}^{\infty}$ be a solution of equation (4.2). Then $x_1 = \frac{rk}{k+r}$, for $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{hkr}{d_{n-4}hk + d_{n-3}kr + d_{n-2}hr},$$

where $x_{-2} = r$, $x_{-1} = k$, $x_0 = h$, $\{d_m\}_{m=0}^{\infty} = \{1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, \dots\}$, i.e., $d_m = d_{m-2} + d_{m-3}$, $m \geq 0$, $d_{-3} = 0$, $d_{-2} = 1$, $d_{-1} = 1$.

Proof For $n = 1, 2, 3$ the result holds; then suppose that our assumption holds for $n-1$, $n-2$, $n-3$ where $n > 3$. That is,

$$x_{n-2} = \frac{hkr}{d_{n-7}hk + d_{n-6}kr + d_{n-5}hr}, \quad x_{n-1} = \frac{hkr}{d_{n-6}hk + d_{n-5}kr + d_{n-4}hr}.$$

Now, it follows from equation (4.2) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{n+1} &= \frac{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}{x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}} \\
 &= \frac{\left(\frac{hkr}{d_{n-7}hk + d_{n-6}kr + d_{n-5}hr}\right)\left(\frac{hkr}{d_{n-6}hk + d_{n-5}kr + d_{n-4}hr}\right)}{\left(\frac{hkr}{d_{n-7}hk + d_{n-6}kr + d_{n-5}hr}\right) + \left(\frac{hkr}{d_{n-6}hk + d_{n-5}kr + d_{n-4}hr}\right)} \\
 &= \frac{\left(\frac{hkr}{d_{n-7}hk + d_{n-6}kr + d_{n-5}hr}\right)\left(\frac{1}{d_{n-6}hk + d_{n-5}kr + d_{n-4}hr}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{d_{n-7}hk + d_{n-6}kr + d_{n-5}hr}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{d_{n-6}hk + d_{n-5}kr + d_{n-4}hr}\right)} \\
 &= \frac{hkr}{(d_{n-7}hk + d_{n-6}kr + d_{n-5}hr + d_{n-6}hk + d_{n-5}kr + d_{n-4}hr)} \\
 &= \frac{hkr}{(d_{n-7} + d_{n-6})hk + (d_{n-6} + d_{n-5})kr + (d_{n-5} + d_{n-4})hr} \\
 &= \frac{hkr}{d_{n-4}hk + d_{n-3}kr + d_{n-2}hr}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the proof is completed.

Lemma 4.2 Every positive solution of equation (4.2) is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

Proof It follows from equation (4.2) that

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}{x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}} \leq \frac{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}{x_{n-2}} = x_{n-1}$$

or

$$x_{n+1} \leq x_{n-1}.$$

Then the subsequences $\{x_{2n-1}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$, $\{x_{2n}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ are decreasing and so are bounded from above by $M = \max\{x_{-2}, x_{-1}, x_0\}$.

Let $x_{-2} = 5$, $x_{-1} = 9$, $x_0 = 12$. Then the solution will be $\{3.214286, 5.142857, 2.535211, 1.978022, 1.698113, 1.111111, 0.9137055, 0.6716418, 0.5013927, \dots\}$ (see Figure 2).

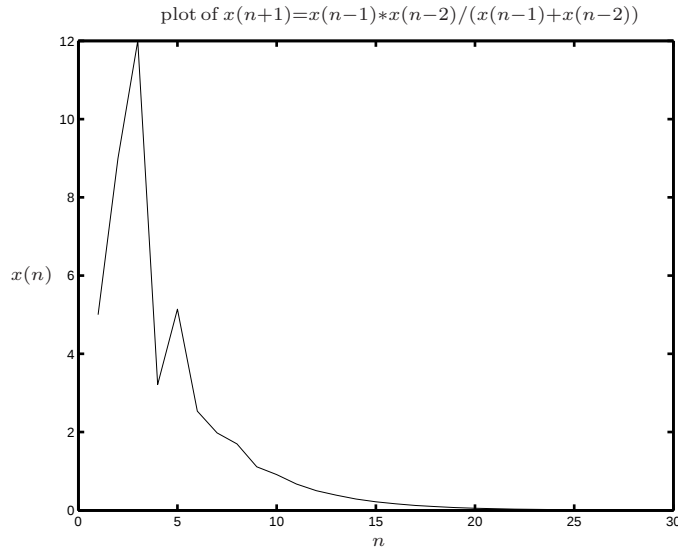


Figure 2 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n-1) * x(n-2) / (x(n-1) + x(n-2))$

The following cases can be treated similarly.

Case 3 Let $x_{-2} = r$, $x_{-1} = k$, $x_0 = h$. Then the solution of the sequence

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}x_{n-2}}{x_n + x_{n-2}} \quad (4.3)$$

is given by

$$x_{2n} = \frac{h \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (F_{2i-1}h + F_{2i}r)}{\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (F_{2i}h + F_{2i+1}r)}, \quad x_{2n+1} = \frac{kr \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (F_{2i}h + F_{2i+1}r)}{\prod_{i=0}^n (F_{2i-1}h + F_{2i}r)},$$

where $n = 0, 1, \dots$, which is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

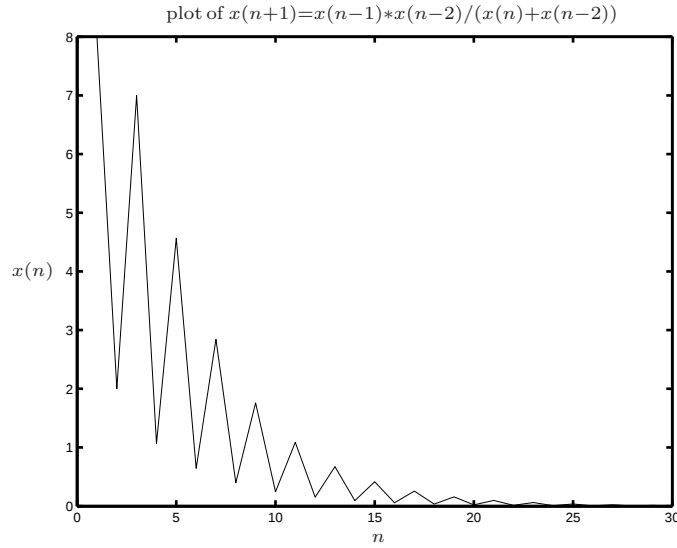


Figure 3 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n-1) * x(n-2) / (x(n) + x(n-2))$

Figure 3 shows the solution when $x_{-2} = 8$, $x_{-1} = 2$, $x_0 = 7$.

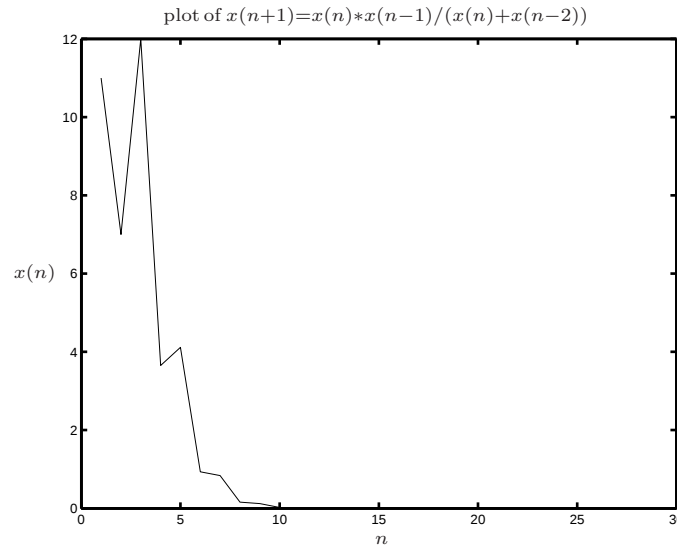


Figure 4 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n) * x(n-1) / (x(n) + x(n-2))$

Case 4 Let $x_{-2} = r$, $x_{-1} = k$, $x_0 = h$. Then the solution of the sequence

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}x_n}{x_n + x_{n-2}} \quad (4.4)$$

is given by

$$x_{2n-1} = \frac{kh^n}{\prod_{i=1}^n ((2i-1)h+r)}, \quad x_{2n} = \frac{h^{n+1}}{\prod_{i=1}^n (2ih+r)},$$

where $n = 0, 1, \dots$, which is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

Figure 4 shows the solution when $x_{-2} = 11$, $x_{-1} = 7$, $x_0 = 12$.

Case 5 Let $x_{-2} = r$, $x_{-1} = k$, $x_0 = h$. Then the solution of the sequence

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}x_n}{x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}} \quad (4.5)$$

is given by

$$x_{2n} = \frac{h(hk)^n}{\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (((i+1)k+r)((i+1)h+k))}, \quad x_{2n+1} = \frac{(hk)^{n+1}}{\prod_{i=0}^n ((i+1)k+r) \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} ((i+1)h+k)},$$

$n = 0, 1, \dots$, which is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

Figure 5 shows the solution when $x_{-2} = 5$, $x_{-1} = 8$, $x_0 = 3$.

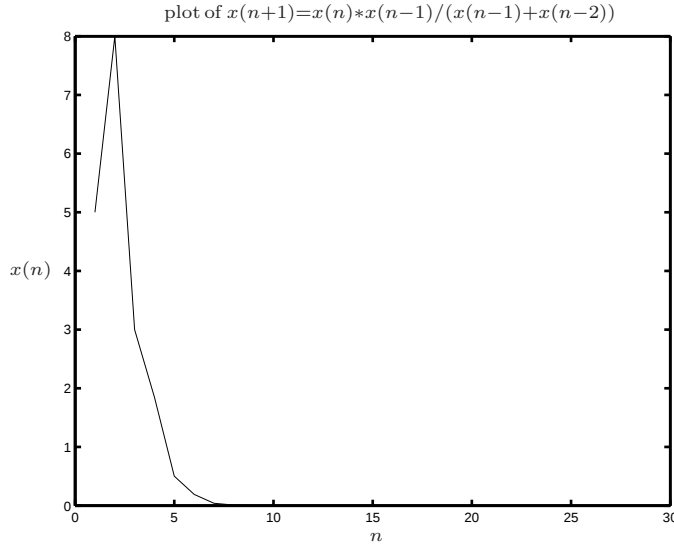


Figure 5 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n) * x(n-1) / (x(n-1) + x(n-2))$

Case 6 Let $x_{-2} = r$, $x_{-1} = k$, $x_0 = h$. Then the solution of the sequence

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-2}x_n}{x_n + x_{n-2}} \quad (4.6)$$

is given by

$$x_n = \frac{hkr}{t_{n-3}hr + t_{n-2}hk + t_{n-1}kr}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

where $\{t_m\}_{m=0}^{\infty} = \{1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, \dots\}$, i.e., $t_m = t_{m-1} + t_{m-3}$, $m \geq 0$, $t_{-3} = 0$, $t_{-2} = 0$, $t_{-1} = 1$, which is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

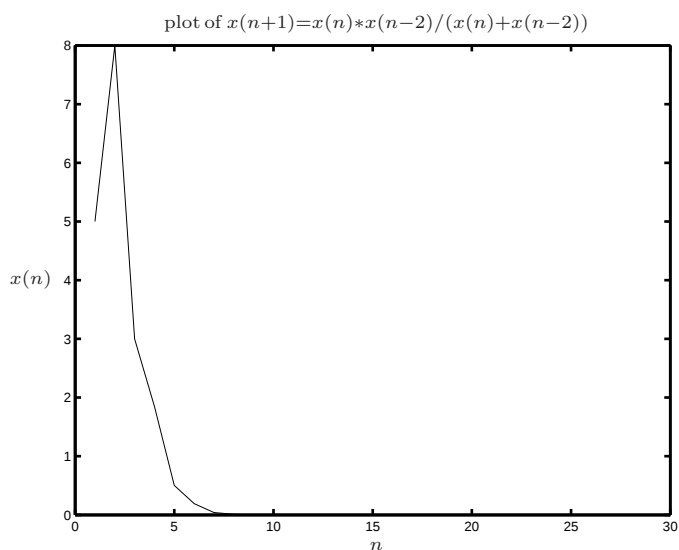
Figure 6 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n) * x(n-2) / (x(n) + x(n-2))$

Figure 6 shows the solution when $x_{-2} = 6$, $x_{-1} = 9$, $x_0 = 17$.

Case 7 Let $x_{-2} = r$, $x_{-1} = k$, $x_0 = h$. Then the solution of the sequence

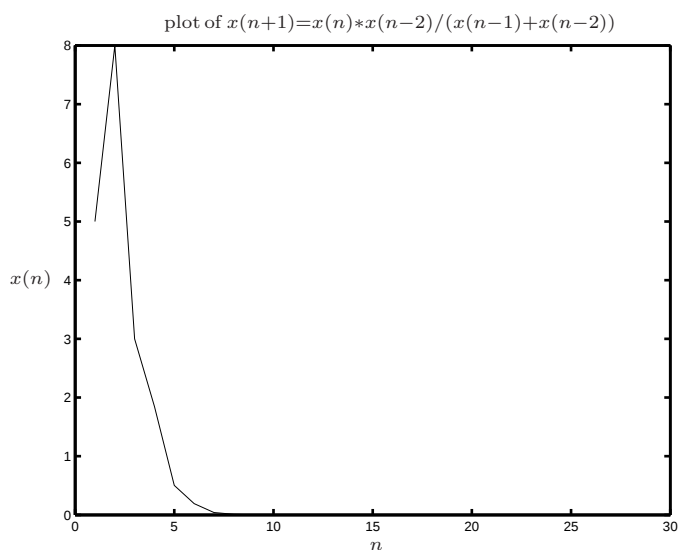
$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-2}x_n}{x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}} \quad (4.7)$$

is given by

$$x_{2n} = \frac{hkr}{(F_{n-2}k + F_{n-1}r)(F_{n-2}h + F_{n-1}k)}, \quad x_{2n+1} = \frac{hkr}{(F_{n-1}k + F_nr)(F_{n-2}h + F_{n-1}k)},$$

$n = 0, 1, \dots$, which is bounded and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

Figure 7 shows the solution when $x_{-2} = 13$, $x_{-1} = 7$, $x_0 = 12$.

Figure 7 plot of $x(n+1) = x(n) * x(n-2) / (x(n-1) + x(n-2))$

References

- [1] Aloqeili, M., Dynamics of a rational difference equation, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **176**(2), 2006, 768–774.
- [2] Amleh, A. M., Kirk, V. and Ladas, G., On the dynamics of $x_{n+1} = \frac{a+bx_{n-1}}{A+Bx_{n-2}}$, *Math. Sci. Res. Hot-Line*, **5**, 2001, 1–15.
- [3] Berenhaut, K., Foley, J. and Stevic, S., Quantitative bounds for the recursive sequence $y_{n+1} = A + \frac{y_n}{y_{n-k}}$, *Appl. Math. Lett.*, **19**, 2006, 983–989.
- [4] Chen, H. and Wang, H., Global attractivity of the difference equation $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_n + \alpha x_{n-1}}{\beta + x_n}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **181**, 2006, 1431–1438.
- [5] Cinar, C., On the positive solutions of the difference equation $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{1+x_n x_{n-1}}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **150**, 2004, 21–24.
- [6] Cinar, C., On the difference equation $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{-1+x_n x_{n-1}}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **158**, 2004, 813–816.
- [7] Cinar, C., On the positive solutions of the difference equation $x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-1}}{1+bx_n x_{n-1}}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **156**, 2004, 587–590.
- [8] Elabbasy, E. M., El-Metwally, H. and Elsayed, E. M., Global attractivity and periodic character of a fractional difference equation of order three, *Yokohama Math. J.*, **53**, 2007, 89–100.
- [9] Elabbasy, E. M., El-Metwally, H. and Elsayed, E. M., On the difference equation $x_{n+1} = ax_n - \frac{bx_n}{cx_n - dx_{n-1}}$, *Adv. Diff. Eq.*, **2006**, 2006, 1–10. Article ID 82579
- [10] Elabbasy, E. M., El-Metwally, H. and Elsayed, E. M., On the difference equations $x_{n+1} = \frac{\alpha x_{n-k}}{\beta + \gamma \prod_{i=0}^k x_{n-i}}$, *J. Conc. Appl. Math.*, **5**(2), 2007, 101–113.
- [11] El-Metwally, H., Grove, E. A. and Ladas, G., A global convergence result with applications to periodic solutions, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, **245**, 2000, 161–170.
- [12] El-Metwally, H., Grove, E. A., Ladas, G., et al., On the difference equation $y_{n+1} = \frac{y_{n-(2k+1)} + p}{y_{n-(2k+1)} + qy_{n-2t}}$, Proceedings of the 6th ICDE, Taylor and Francis, London, 2004.
- [13] El-Metwally, H., Grove, E. A., Ladas, G., et al., On the global attractivity and the periodic character of some difference equations, *J. Diff. Eqs. Appl.*, **7**, 2001, 1–14.
- [14] Kocic, V. L. and Ladas, G., Global Behavior of Nonlinear Difference Equations of Higher Order with Applications, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1993.
- [15] Kulenovic, M. R. S. and Ladas, G., Dynamics of Second Order Rational Difference equations with Open Problems and Conjectures, Chapman and Hall/CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2001.
- [16] Li, Z. and Zhu, D., Global asymptotic stability of a higher order nonlinear difference equation, *Appl. Math. Lett.*, **19**, 2006, 926–930.
- [17] Saleh, M. and Aloqeili, M., On the difference equation $x_{n+1} = A + \frac{x_n}{x_{n-k}}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **171**, 2005, 862–869.
- [18] Saleh, M. and Abu-Baha, S., Dynamics of a higher order rational difference equation, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **181**, 2006, 84–102.
- [19] Sun, T. and Xi, H., On convergence of the solutions of the difference equation $x_{n+1} = 1 + \frac{x_{n-1}}{x_n}$, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, **325**, 2007, 1491–1494.
- [20] Yang, X., Su, W., Chen, B., et al., On the recursive sequence $x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-1} + bx_{n-2}}{c + dx_{n-1}x_{n-2}}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **162**, 2005, 1485–1497.
- [21] Yang, X., Yang, Y. and Luo, J., On the difference equation $x_n = \frac{p+x_{n-s}}{qx_{n-t} + x_{n-s}}$, *Appl. Math. Comp.*, **189**(1), 2007, 918–926.