

# Permanence and Asymptotically Periodic Solution for A Cyclic Predator-Prey Model With Sigmoidal Type Functional Response

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*Abstract:* This paper is concerned with a cyclic predator-prey system with Sigmoidal type functional response. By using the differential inequality theory, some sufficient conditions are derived for the permanence of the system. By constructing a suitable Liapunov function, we obtain that the system has a unique asymptotically periodic solution which is globally asymptotically stable. Some numerical simulations that illustrate our analytical predictions are carried out. The paper ends with a brief conclusion.

*Key-Words:* Predator-prey system, Permanence, Sigmoidal type functional response, Asymptotically periodic solution, Liapunov function; Global stability

## 1 Introduction

In recent years, the interest in study of the dynamical properties occurring in the predator-prey system with delay has been growing rapidly. For example, Li and Ye [1] had made discussion about the multiple positive almost periodic solutions to an impulsive non-autonomous Lotka-Volterra predator-prey system with harvesting terms. Zhang and Luo [2] analyzed the multiple periodic solutions of a delayed predator-prey system with stage structure for the predator. Dai et al. [3] focused on the multiple periodic solutions for impulsive Gause-type ratio-dependent predator-prey systems with non-monotonic numerical responses. Wang and Fan [4] studied the multiple periodic solutions for a non-autonomous delayed predator-prey model with harvesting terms. Zhang et al. [5] studied the multiplicity of positive periodic solutions to a generalized delayed predator-prey system with stocking. For more investigation about predator-prey models or related topic, one can see [6-67]. It shall be pointed out that all the papers mentioned above are concerned with periodic coefficients. However, the asymptotically periodic system describe our real word more realistic and more accurate than the periodic ones, but the research work about asymptotically periodic predator-prey is scare at present. Recently, Wei and Wang [68] investigated a asymptotically periodic solution multispecies competition predator-prey model with Hilling III functional response. Yang and Chen

[69] studied the uniformly strong persistence of a non-linear asymptotically periodic multispecies competition predator-prey system with general functional response.

In this paper, we will deal with the following cyclic predator-prey system with Sigmoidal type functional response

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{x}_1(t) = x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) - \frac{d_1(t)x_1(t)x_2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} + \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)x_3^2(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{x}_2(t) = x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) - \frac{d_2(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} + \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)x_1^2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{x}_3(t) = x_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) - \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} + \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)x_2^2(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} \right], \end{array} \right. \quad (1)$$

where  $x_2$  is the predator of  $x_1$ ,  $x_3$  is the predator

of  $x_2$  and  $x_1$  is the predator of  $x_3$ , they have dependent density and Sigmoidal functional response.  $a_i(t), b_i(t), c_i(t), d_i(t), k_i(t), r_i(t) (i = 1, 2, 3)$  are continuous nonnegative and bounded function within  $[0, +\infty)$ . Moreover,  $a_i(t), c_i(t) (i = 1, 2, 3) > 0$ .

Now we define  $R_+ = [0, +\infty)$  and introduce the concept of the asymptotically function.

**Definition 1** If  $f \in C(R_+, R)$ , where  $f(t) = g(t) + \alpha(t)$ ,  $g(t)$  is continuous  $T$ -periodic function and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \alpha(t) = 0$ , then  $f(t)$  is called asymptotically  $T$ -periodic function.

Throughout this paper, we always assume that

(H1)  $a_i(t), b_i(t), c_i(t), d_i(t), k_i(t), r_i(t) (i = 1, 2, 3)$  are all continuous positive, bounded asymptotically periodic functions.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the permanence of system (1) are studied by using the differential inequality theory. In Section 3, the existence and uniqueness of asymptotically periodic solution are investigated by constructing a suitable Liapunov function. Some numerical simulations that illustrate our analytical predictions are carried out in Section 4. A brief conclusion is drawn in Section 5.

## 2 Permanence

For convenience in the following discussing, we always use the notations:

$$f^l = \inf_{t \in R} f(t), \quad f^u = \sup_{t \in R} f(t),$$

where  $f(t)$  is a continuous function. The initial value condition of system (1) is  $x_i(0) = \phi_i(0) > 0 (i = 1, 2, 3)$ . In order to obtain the main result of this paper, we shall first state some definitions and several lemmas which will be useful in the proving the main result.

**Definition 2** We say that system (1) is permanence if there are positive constants  $m$  and  $M$  such that for each positive solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  of system (1) satisfies

$$m \leq \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_i(t) \leq \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_i(t) \leq M,$$

where  $i = 1, 2, 3$ .

**Definition 3** The solution  $X(t, t_0, \phi)$  is called ultimately bounded. If there exists  $B > 0$  such that for any  $t_0 \geq 0, \phi \in C$ , there exists  $T = T(t_0, \phi) > 0$  when  $t \geq t_0 + T, |X(t, t_0, \phi)| \leq B$ .

**Lemma 4 [70]** If  $a > 0, b > 0$  and  $\dot{x} \geq x(b - ax)$ , when  $t \geq 0$  and  $x(0) > 0$ , we have

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) \geq \frac{b}{a}.$$

If  $a > 0, b > 0$  and  $\dot{x} \leq x(b - ax)$ , when  $t \geq 0$  and  $x(0) > 0$ , we have

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) \leq \frac{b}{a}.$$

Now we state our permanence result for system (1).

**Lemma 5** The set  $R_+^n = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) | x_i > 0, i = 1, 2, 3.\}$  is the positively invariant set of system (1).

**Proof:** It follows from the initial value condition  $x_i(0) = \phi_i(0) > 0 (i = 1, 2, 3)$  that

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} x_1(t) &= x_1(0) \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \left[ r_1(s) - a_1(s)x_1(s) - \frac{d_1(s)x_1(s)x_2(s)}{c_1(s) + b_1(s)x_1(s) + x_1^2(s)} + \frac{k_3(s)d_3(s)x_3^2(s)}{c_3(s) + b_3(s)x_3(s) + x_3^2(s)} \right] ds \right\}, \\ x_2(t) &= x_2(0) \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \left[ r_2(s) - a_2(s)x_2(s) - \frac{d_2(s)x_2(s)x_3(s)}{c_2(s) + b_2(s)x_2(s) + x_2^2(s)} + \frac{k_1(s)d_1(s)x_1^2(s)}{c_1(s) + b_1(s)x_1(s) + x_1^2(s)} \right] ds \right\}, \\ x_3(t) &= x_3(0) \exp \left\{ \int_0^t \left[ r_3(s) - a_3(s)x_3(s) - \frac{d_3(s)x_1(s)x_3(s)}{c_3(s) + b_3(s)x_3(s) + x_3^2(s)} + \frac{k_2(s)d_2(s)x_2^2(s)}{c_2(s) + b_2(s)x_2(s) + x_2^2(s)} \right] ds \right\}. \end{aligned} \right. \quad (2)$$

The proof of Lemma 5 is complete.

**Theorem 6** Let  $M_1, M_2, M_3$  are defined by (3),(5) and (7), respectively. In addition to the condition (H1), suppose that the following condition

$$(H2) \quad b_1^l r_1^l > d_1^u M_2, b_2^l r_2^l > d_2^u M_3, b_3^l r_3^l > d_3^u M_1$$

hold, then system (1) is permanent, that is, there exist positive constants  $m_i, M_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$  which are independent of the solution of system (1), such that for any positive solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  of system (1) with the initial condition

$$x_i(0) \geq 0 (i = 1, 2, 3),$$

one has

$$m_i \leq \liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_i(t) \leq \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_i(t) \leq M_i.$$

**Proof:** It is easy to see that system (1) with the initial value condition  $(x_1(0), x_2(0), x_3(0))$  has positive solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  passing through  $(x_1(0), x_2(0), x_3(0))$ . Let  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  be any positive solution of system (1) with the initial condition  $(x_1(0), x_2(0), x_3(0))$ . It follows from the first equation of system (1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_1(t)}{dt} &= x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d_1(t)x_1(t)x_2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)x_3^2(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} \right] \\ &\leq x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + k_3(t)d_3(t) \right] \\ &\leq x_1(t) \left[ r_1^u + k_3^u d_3^u - a_1^l x_1(t) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from Lemma 4 that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sup x_1(t) \leq \frac{r_1^u + k_3^u d_3^u}{a_1^l} := M_1. \quad (3)$$

For any positive constant  $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ , it follows (3) that there exists a  $T_1 > 0$  such that for all  $t > T_1$ ,

$$x_1(t) \leq M_1 + \varepsilon. \quad (4)$$

By the second equation of system (1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_2(t)}{dt} &= x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d_2(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)x_1^2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} \right] \\ &\leq x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + k_1(t)d_1(t) \right] \\ &\leq x_2(t) \left[ r_2^u + k_1^u d_1^u - a_2^l x_2(t) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from Lemma 4 that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sup x_2(t) \leq \frac{r_2^u + k_1^u d_1^u}{a_2^l} := M_2. \quad (5)$$

For any positive constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , it follows (5) that there exists a  $T_2 > 0$  such that for all  $t > T_2$ ,

$$x_2(t) \leq M_2 + \varepsilon. \quad (6)$$

By the third equation of system (1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_3(t)}{dt} &= x_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)x_2^2(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} \right] \\ &\leq x_2(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + k_2(t)d_2(t) \right] \\ &\leq x_2(t) \left[ r_3^u + k_2^u d_2^u - a_3^l x_3(t) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from Lemma 4 that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sup x_3(t) \leq \frac{r_3^u + k_2^u d_2^u}{a_3^l} := M_3. \quad (7)$$

For any positive constant  $\varepsilon > 0$ , it follows (7) that there exists a  $T_3 > T_2 > 0$  such that for all  $t > T_3$ ,

$$x_3(t) \leq M_3 + \varepsilon. \quad (8)$$

For  $t \geq T_3$ , from (6) and the first equation of system (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_1(t)}{dt} &= x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d_1(t)x_1(t)x_2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)x_3^2(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} \right] \\ &\geq x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d_1(t)x_2(t)}{b_1(t)} \right] \\ &\geq x_1(t) \left[ r_1^l - a_1^u x_1(t) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{d_1^u(M_2 + \varepsilon)}{b_1^l} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, as a direct corollary of Lemma 4, one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \inf x_1(t) \geq \frac{b_1^l r_1^l - d_1^u(M_2 + \varepsilon)}{a_1^u b_1^l}. \quad (9)$$

Setting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , it follows that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \inf x_1(t) \geq \frac{b_1^l r_1^l - d_1^u M_2}{a_1^u b_1^l} := m_1. \quad (10)$$

For  $t \geq T_3$ , from (8) and the second equation of system (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_2(t)}{dt} &= x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) - \frac{d_2(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2} + \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)x_1^2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} \right] \\ &\geq x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) - \frac{d_2(t)x_3(t)}{b_2(t)} \right] \\ &\geq x_2(t) \left[ r_2^l - a_2^u x_2(t) - \frac{d_2^u(M_3 + \varepsilon)}{b_2^l} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

It follows Lemma 2.1 and (11) that

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_2(t) \geq \frac{b_2^l r_2^l - d_2^u(M_3 + \varepsilon)}{a_2^u b_2^l}. \tag{12}$$

Setting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  in (12) leads to

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_2(t) \geq \frac{b_2^l r_2^l - d_2^u M_3}{a_2^u b_2^l} := m_2. \tag{13}$$

For  $t \geq T_3 > T_1 > 0$ , from (4) and the second equation of system (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx_3(t)}{dt} &= x_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) - \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} + \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)x_2^2(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} \right] \\ &\geq x_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) - \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{b_3(t)} \right] \\ &\geq x_3(t) \left[ r_3^l - a_3^u x_3(t) - \frac{d_3^u(M_1 + \varepsilon)}{b_3^l} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

It follows Lemma 4 that

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_3(t) \geq \frac{b_3^l r_3^l - d_3^u(M_1 + \varepsilon)}{a_3^u b_3^l}. \tag{14}$$

Setting  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  in (2.13) leads to

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x_3(t) \geq \frac{b_3^l r_3^l - d_3^u M_1}{a_3^u b_3^l} := m_3. \tag{15}$$

In view of (3),(5),(7),(10), (13) and (15), we can conclude that system (1) is permanent. The proof of Theorem 6 is complete.

Denote

$$\Omega = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3)^T \in R_+ | m_i \leq x_i \leq M_i, i = 1, 2, 3\}.$$

**Corollary 7** *The set  $\Omega$  is the ultimately bounded set of system (1).*

### 3 Existence and uniqueness of asymptotically periodic solution

Let us consider the asymptotically periodic system as follows

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f(t, x_t), \tag{16}$$

where  $f \in C([-r, 0], R^n)$  and for any  $x_t \in C$ . Define  $x_t(\theta) = x(t + \theta), \theta \in [-r, 0]$ . For any  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$ , we define  $|x| = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$ , from the above proof, we can see that there exists  $H > 0$  such that  $|x| \leq nM_i < H$ . For any  $\phi \in C$ , define  $\|\phi\| = \sup_{-r \leq \theta \leq 0} |\phi(\theta)|$ . Let  $C_H = \{\phi \in C, \|\phi\| < H\}$  and  $S_H = \{x \in R^n, |x| < H\}$ . In order to focus on the existence and uniqueness of asymptotically periodic solution of system (16), we consider the adjoint system

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = f(t, x_t), \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y_t). \end{cases} \tag{17}$$

Then we begin with our analysis with Lemma 3.1.

**Lemma 8 (Yuan [71])** *Let  $V \in C(R_+ \times S_H \times S_H, R_+)$  satisfy*

- (i)  $a(|x - y|) \leq V(t, x, y) \leq b(|x - y|)$ , where  $a(r)$  and  $b(r)$  are continuously positively increasing functions;
- (ii)  $|V(t, x_1, y_1) - V(t, x_2, y_2)| \leq l(|x_1 - x_2| + |y_1 - y_2|)$ , where  $l$  is a constant and satisfies  $l > 0$ ;
- (iii) there exists continuous non-increasing function  $P(s)$ , such that for  $s > 0, P(s) > s$ . And as  $P(V(t, \phi(0), \phi(0))) > V(t + \theta, \phi(\theta), \phi(\theta)), \theta \in [-r, 0]$ , it follows that  $V'_{(17)}(t, \phi(0), \phi(0)) \leq -\delta V(t, \phi(0), \phi(0))$ , where  $\delta$  is a constant and satisfies  $\delta > 0$ . Furthermore, system (16) has a solution

$\xi(t)$  for  $t \geq t_0$  and satisfies  $\|\xi_t\| \leq H$ . Then system (16) has a unique asymptotically periodic solution, which is uniformly asymptotically stable.

**Theorem 9** Let  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$  and  $\delta$  are defined by (24), (25), (26) and (27), respectively. In addition to the conditions (H1) and (H2), assume further that  $\delta > 0$  is satisfied, then there exists a unique asymptotically periodic solution of system (1) which is uniformly asymptotically stable.

**Proof:** By Theorem 6 (or Corollary 7), we know that the solution of system (1) is ultimately bounded.  $\Omega$  is the region of ultimately bounded. We consider the adjoint system of system (1) as follows

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \dot{x}_1(t) &= x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) - \frac{d_1(t)x_1(t)x_2(t)}{c_1(t)+b_1(t)x_1(t)+x_1^2(t)} + \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)x_3^2(t)}{c_3(t)+b_3(t)x_3(t)+x_3^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{x}_2(t) &= x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) - \frac{d_2(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)}{c_2(t)+b_2(t)x_2(t)+x_2^2(t)} + \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)x_1^2(t)}{c_1(t)+b_1(t)x_1(t)+x_1^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{x}_3(t) &= x_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) - \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{c_3(t)+b_3(t)x_3(t)+x_3^2(t)} + \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)x_2^2(t)}{c_2(t)+b_2(t)x_2(t)+x_2^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{u}_1(t) &= u_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)u_1(t) - \frac{d_1(t)u_1(t)u_2(t)}{c_1(t)+b_1(t)u_1(t)+u_1^2(t)} + \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)u_3^2(t)}{c_3(t)+b_3(t)u_3(t)+u_3^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{u}_2(t) &= u_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)u_2(t) - \frac{d_2(t)u_2(t)u_3(t)}{c_2(t)+b_2(t)u_2(t)+u_2^2(t)} + \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)u_1^2(t)}{c_1(t)+b_1(t)u_1(t)+u_1^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{u}_3(t) &= u_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)u_3(t) - \frac{d_3(t)u_1(t)u_3(t)}{c_3(t)+b_3(t)u_3(t)+u_3^2(t)} + \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)u_2^2(t)}{c_2(t)+b_2(t)u_2(t)+u_2^2(t)} \right]. \end{aligned} \right. \quad (18)$$

For  $X(t) = (x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  and  $U(t) = (u_1(t), u_2(t), u_3(t))$  are the solutions of system (18)

in  $\Omega \times \Omega$ . Let  $x_i^*(t) = \ln x_i(t), u_i^*(t) = \ln u_i(t), i = 1, 2, 3$ . Now we construct a Lyapunov functional as follows

$$V(t) = \sum_{i=1}^3 |x_i^*(t) - u_i^*(t)|. \quad (19)$$

Taking  $a(r) = b(r) = \sum_{i=1}^3 |x_i^*(t) - u_i^*(t)|$  and using the inequality  $\|a\| - \|b\| \leq \|a - b\|$ , we can easily prove that (i) and (ii) in Lemma 8 hold true. In the sequel, we will investigate (iii) of Lemma 8. It follows from (16) that

$$\begin{aligned} D^+V(t) &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \left( \frac{\dot{x}_i(t)}{x_i(t)} - \frac{\dot{u}_i(t)}{u_i(t)} \right) \\ &\times \text{sign}(x_i(t) - u_i(t)) \\ &\leq -a_1^l |x_1(t) - u_1(t)| \\ &+ \left[ \frac{d_1(t)x_1(t)x_2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} - \frac{d_1(t)u_1(t)u_2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)u_1(t) + u_1^2(t)} \right] \\ &+ \left[ \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)x_3^2(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} - \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)u_3^2(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)u_3(t) + u_3^2(t)} \right] \\ &- a_2^l |x_2(t) - u_2(t)| \\ &+ \left[ \frac{d_2(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} - \frac{d_2(t)u_2(t)u_3(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)u_2(t) + u_2^2(t)} \right] \\ &+ \left[ \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)x_1^2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} - \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)u_1^2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)u_1(t) + u_1^2(t)} \right] \\ &- a_3^l |x_3(t) - u_3(t)| \\ &+ \left[ \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} - \frac{d_3(t)u_1(t)u_3(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)u_3(t) + u_3^2(t)} \right] \\ &+ \left[ \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)x_2^2(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} - \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)u_2^2(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)u_2(t) + u_2^2(t)} \right] \\ &\leq \left[ -a_1^l + \frac{c_1^M d_1^M M_2 + d_1^M M_1^2 M_2}{(c_1^l + b_1^l m_1 + m_1^2)^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \times |x_1(t) - u_1(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{c_1^M d_1^M M_1 + d_1^M b_1^M M_1^2 + d_1^M M_1^3}{(c_1^l + b_1^l m_1 + m_1^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times |x_2(t) - u_2(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{2k_3^M c_3^M d_3^M M_3 + 2k_3^M b_3^M d_3^M M_3^2}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times |x_3(t) - u_3(t)| \\
 & + \left[ -a_2^l + \frac{d_2^M c_2^M M_3 + d_2^M M_2^2 M_3}{(c_2^l + b_2^l m_2 + m_2^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times |x_2(t) - u_2(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{d_2^M c_2^M M_2 + d_2^M b_2^M M_2^2 + d_2^M M_2^3}{(c_2^l + b_2^l m_2 + m_2^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times |x_3(t) - u_3(t)| \\
 & + \left[ -a_3^l + \frac{d_3^M c_3^M M_1 + 2d_3^M M_3 M_1}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times |x_3(t) - u_3(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{d_3^M c_3^M M_3 + 2d_3^M b_3^M M_3 + 2d_3^M M_3^2}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times |x_1(t) - u_1(t)|. \tag{20}
 \end{aligned}$$

Nothing that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |x_i(t) - u_i(t)| \\
 & = |\exp(x_i^*(t)) - \exp(u_i^*(t))| \\
 & = \exp(\xi_i(t)) |x_i^*(t) - u_i^*(t)|, \tag{21}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\xi_i(t)$  lies between  $x_i(t)$  and  $u_i(t)$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & m_i |x_i^*(t) - u_i^*(t)| \\
 & \leq |x_i(t) - u_i(t)| \\
 & \leq M_i |x_i^*(t) - u_i^*(t)|, i = 1, 2, 3. \tag{22}
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows from (20) and (22) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 D^+V(t) & \leq \left[ -a_1^l + \frac{c_1^M d_1^M M_2 + d_1^M M_1^2 M_2}{(c_1^l + b_1^l m_1 + m_1^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times m_1 |x_1^*(t) - u_1^*(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{c_1^M d_1^M M_1 + d_1^M b_1^M M_1^2 + d_1^M M_1^3}{(c_1^l + b_1^l m_1 + m_1^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_2 |x_2^*(t) - u_2^*(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{2k_3^M c_3^M d_3^M M_3 + 2k_3^M b_3^M d_3^M M_3^2}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_3 |x_3^*(t) - u_3^*(t)| \\
 & + \left[ -a_2^l + \frac{d_2^M c_2^M M_3 + d_2^M M_2^2 M_3}{(c_2^l + b_2^l m_2 + m_2^2)^2} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \times m_2 |x_2^*(t) - u_2^*(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{d_2^M c_2^M M_2 + d_2^M b_2^M M_2^2 + d_2^M M_2^3}{(c_2^l + b_2^l m_2 + m_2^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_3 |x_3^*(t) - u_3^*(t)| \\
 & + \left[ -a_3^l + \frac{d_3^M c_3^M M_1 + 2d_3^M M_3 M_1}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times m_3 |x_3^*(t) - u_3^*(t)| \\
 & + \left[ \frac{d_3^M c_3^M M_3 + 2d_3^M b_3^M M_3 + 2d_3^M M_3^2}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_1 |x_1^*(t) - u_1^*(t)| \\
 & = -\theta_1 |x_1^*(t) - u_1^*(t)| \\
 & -\theta_2 |x_2^*(t) - u_2^*(t)| \\
 & -\theta_3 |x_3^*(t) - u_3^*(t)|, \tag{23}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \theta_1 & = \left[ a_1^l - \frac{c_1^M d_1^M M_2 + d_1^M M_1^2 M_2}{(c_1^l + b_1^l m_1 + m_1^2)^2} \right] m_1 \\
 & - \left[ \frac{d_3^M c_3^M M_3 + 2d_3^M b_3^M M_3 + 2d_3^M M_3^2}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_1, \tag{24}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \theta_2 & = \left[ a_2^l - \frac{d_2^M c_2^M M_3 + d_2^M M_2^2 M_3}{(c_2^l + b_2^l m_2 + m_2^2)^2} \right] m_2 \\
 & - \left[ \frac{c_1^M d_1^M M_1 + d_1^M b_1^M M_1^2 + d_1^M M_1^3}{(c_1^l + b_1^l m_1 + m_1^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_2, \tag{25}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \theta_3 & = \left[ a_3^l - \frac{d_3^M c_3^M M_1 + 2d_3^M M_3 M_1}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] m_3 \\
 & - \left[ \frac{2k_3^M c_3^M d_3^M M_3 + 2k_3^M b_3^M d_3^M M_3^2}{(c_3^l + b_3^l m_3 + m_3^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_3 \\
 & - \left[ \frac{d_2^M c_2^M M_2 + d_2^M b_2^M M_2^2 + d_2^M M_2^3}{(c_2^l + b_2^l m_2 + m_2^2)^2} \right] \\
 & \times M_3. \tag{26}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\delta = \min\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3\}. \tag{27}$$

It follows from (23) and (27) that

$$D^+V(t) \leq -\delta V(t). \tag{28}$$

Then (iii) of Lemma 3.1 is fulfilled. Therefore system (1) has a unique positive asymptotically periodic solution in domain  $\Omega$ , which is uniformly asymptotically stable. The proof is complete.

### 4 Numerical example

To illustrate the theoretical results, we present some numerical simulations. Let us consider the following cyclic predator-prey system with Sigmoidal type functional response:

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x}_1(t) = x_1(t) \left[ r_1(t) - a_1(t)x_1(t) - \frac{d_1(t)x_1(t)x_2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} + \frac{k_3(t)d_3(t)x_3^2(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{x}_2(t) = x_2(t) \left[ r_2(t) - a_2(t)x_2(t) - \frac{d_2(t)x_2(t)x_3(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} + \frac{k_1(t)d_1(t)x_1^2(t)}{c_1(t) + b_1(t)x_1(t) + x_1^2(t)} \right], \\ \dot{x}_3(t) = x_3(t) \left[ r_3(t) - a_3(t)x_3(t) - \frac{d_3(t)x_1(t)x_3(t)}{c_3(t) + b_3(t)x_3(t) + x_3^2(t)} + \frac{k_2(t)d_2(t)x_2^2(t)}{c_2(t) + b_2(t)x_2(t) + x_2^2(t)} \right], \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} b_1(t) = 20 + 0.2 \sin t, b_2(t) = 10 + 0.4 \cos t, \\ b_3(t) = 15 + 0.3 \sin t, a_1(t) = 10 + \sin t, \\ a_2(t) = 11 + \cos t, a_3(t) = 12 - \cos t, \\ r_1(t) = 10 + 0.3 \sin t, r_2(t) = 12 + 0.2 \cos t, \\ r_3(t) = 13 - 0.2 \sin t, d_1(t) = 0.2 + 0.2 \cos t, \\ d_2(t) = 0.2 + 0.1 \sin t, d_3(t) = 0.1 + 0.1 \cos t, \\ k_1(t) = 1 + \sin t, k_2(t) = 1 + \sin t, \\ k_3(t) = 1 + \sin t. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\begin{cases} b_1^l = 19.8, b_1^u = 9.6, b_3^l = 14.7, \\ r_1^l = 9.7, r_2^l = 11.8, r_3^l = 12.8, \\ a_1^l = 9, a_2^l = 10, a_3^l = 11, \\ r_1^u = 10.3, r_2^u = 12.2, r_3^u = 13.2, \\ d_1^u = 0.4, d_2^u = 0.3, d_3^u = 0.2, \\ M_1 = 1.1889, M_2 = 1.3, M_3 = 1.2181. \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that the coefficients of system (29) satisfy all the conditions in Theorem 9. The phase diagram of system (29) is illustrated in Figures 1-3. Numerical simulations show that system (29) has a unique positive periodic solution which is globally asymptotically stable.

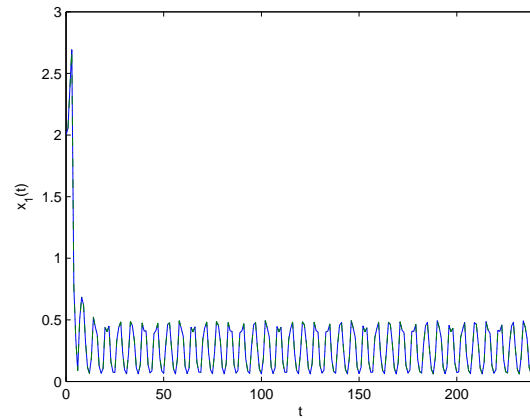


Fig.1. The dynamical behavior of the solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  of system (29).

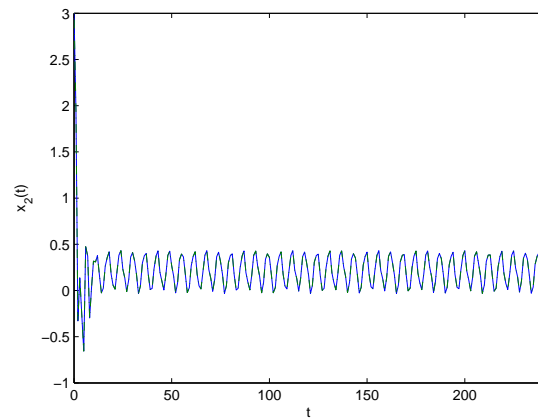


Fig.2. The dynamical behavior of the solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  of system (29).

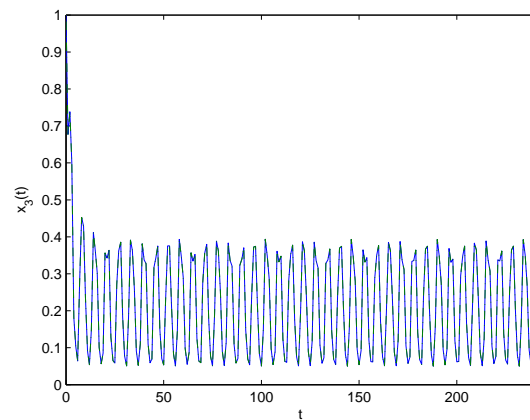


Fig.3. The dynamical behavior of the solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t))$  of system (29).

## 5 Conclusions

In this paper, we have analyzed a cyclic predator-prey system with Sigmoidal type functional response. Applying the differential inequality theory, we obtain some sufficient conditions for the permanence of the system. By constructing a suitable Liapunov function, we find that under some suitable conditions, the system has a unique asymptotically periodic solution which is globally asymptotically stable. Numerical simulations show the feasibility of our main results.

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