



## Periodic Solutions for an equation governing dynamics of a renewable resource subjected to weak Allee effect

G. KIRAN KUMAR

Dept. of Mathematics, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Srikakulam, Etcherla, AP, India

**Abstract:** *Abstract In this article the minimum number of positive periodic solutions admitted by a non-autonomous scalar differential equation is estimated. This result is employed to find the minimum number of positive periodic solutions admitted by a model representing dynamics of a renewable resource that is subjected to weak Allee effects in a seasonally varying environment. Leggett-Williams multiple fixed point theorem is used to establish the existence of at least two positive periodic solutions for the considered dynamic equation. Two methods are obtained to establish the existence of periodic solutions. Key results are illustrated through numerical simulation.*

### 1. Introduction

The term Allee effect seems to have originated from the works of Allee [3, 4]. Allee effect refers to reduction in individual fitness at low population density that can lead to extinction [6, 11, 12]. It is strongly related to the extinction vulnerability of populations. According to [28], any ecological mechanism that can lead to a positive relationship between a component of individual fitness and either the number or density of conspecifics can be termed a mechanism of the Allee effect [19, 31] or depensation [10, 15, 21] or negative competition effect [37].

Most ecosystems experience fluctuations in environmental factors which affect the birth rates, mortality rates, carrying capacities and other vital factors of the species in the ecosystems. In spite of the influence of such environmental fluctuations on species dynamics, the amount of analysis which has been carried out on autonomous growth models is much more than that which has been done on models in which the parameters are allowed to vary with time. In recent years an increasing amount of attention has been paid in both the biological and mathematical literature to the effects that such variations have on growth of species. It is evident that many of the variations

with which the species must cope are regular and periodic. The quality and quantity of food and other vital resources, the occurrence of predation and competition, and the susceptibility or exposure to diseases or other hazards are but a few other

examples of things which can affect growth and dynamics of species which can vary regularly [13, 27].

### 2. The Model

Let us consider the following differential equation representing the dynamics of a population subjected to additive Allee effects.

$$(1) \quad \frac{dx}{d\tau} = rx \left( 1 - \frac{x}{k} - \frac{\nu}{1 + \omega x} \right)$$

where the positive constants  $r$  and  $k$  stand for intrinsic growth rate and carrying capacity of the resource,  $\nu$  and  $\omega$  are constants that indicate the severity of Allee effect that has been modelled [1, 2]. Considering these parameters to be positive constants (which is a realistic assumption), it can be easily observed that (1) always admits the trivial solution as one of the equilibrium solutions and it admits at most two positive equilibrium solutions depending on the values of the remaining parameters. Equilibrium analysis and qualitative behaviour of solutions of (1) is presented in [34]. Assuming that the parameters  $r, k, \nu, \omega$  to be constants imply that the growth rate, carrying capacity, the extra mortality due to other factors remain the same throughout and are independent of the seasons. We introduce periodic variations in the growth dynamics by assuming that these parameters are periodic of same period [8, 13, 30].

In this article we are interested in studying the existence of positive periodic solutions of (1) under

the assumption that the associated coefficients  $r, k, \nu$  and  $\omega$  are positive periodic functions of same period,  $P$ . Thus we consider the equation

$$(2) \quad \frac{dx}{d\tau} = r(\tau)x \left( 1 - \frac{x}{k(\tau)} - \frac{\nu(\tau)}{1 + \omega(\tau)x} \right)$$

The following lemma transforms the  $P$  periodic differential equation (2) into another equivalent simpler (involving only two periodic coefficients instead of three)  $T$  periodic differential equation where  $T$  could be different from  $P$ .

Lemma 1. The transformation  $t = G(\tau) = \int_0^\tau r(s)ds$  transforms (2) to a  $T$

- periodic equation given by

$$(3) \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = y \left( 1 - \frac{y}{\kappa(t)} - \frac{\eta(t)}{1 + m(t)y} \right)$$

with  $y(t) = x(G^{-1}(t))$  where  $\kappa(t) = k(G^{-1}(t))$ ,  $\eta(t) = \nu(G^{-1}(t))$  and  $m(t) = \omega(G^{-1}(t))$  are positive periodic functions of period  $T = G(P)$ . Also, for each  $T$ -periodic solution  $y(t)$  of (3),  $x(\tau) = x(G^{-1}(t))$  defines a  $P$ -periodic solution of (2).

In the light of lemma 1, we shall concentrate only on the existence of  $T$  periodic solutions for (3).

### 3. Periodic solutions for a general scalar differential equation

In this section we shall study the existence of positive periodic solutions for a general scalar differential equation for which (3) becomes a special case. The results developed in this section will be applied to (3) to find conditions under which existence of two positive periodic solutions are guaranteed.

Let us consider the following general scalar differential equation

$$(4) \quad dy = y + f(t,y) dt$$

where  $f$ , defined on  $R \times R$ , is a non positive valued continuous function and satisfies  $f(t + T, y) = f(t, y)$ . We have the following lemma which is easily verifiable.

Lemma 2. If  $y(t)$  is a  $T$ -periodic solution of (4) then it also satisfies the integral equation

$$(5) \quad t+T y(t) = \int G(t,s) f(s,y(s)) ds$$

where  $G(t,s)$  is the Green's function given by  $G(t,s) = \frac{e^{-(s-t)}}{e^{-T}-1}$ ,  $s \in [t, t+T]$ .

Note that the Green's function  $G(t,s)$  satisfies

$$(6) \quad \frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} < G(t,s) < \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} < 0, \quad s \in [t, t+T]$$

The following fundamentals are needed to prove the results to follow. Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $K$  be a cone in  $X$ . A mapping  $\psi : K \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is said to be concave nonnegative continuous functional [20] on  $K$  if it is continuous, nonnegative and satisfies

$$\psi(\eta x + (1 - \eta)y) \geq \eta\psi(x) + (1 - \eta)\psi(y), x, y \in K, \eta \in [0, 1].$$

Let  $a, b, c > 0$  be constants with  $K$  and  $X$  as defined above. Define

$$K_a = \{y \in K : \|y\| < a\}$$

and

$$K(\psi, b, c) = \{y \in K : \|y\| < c, \psi(y) > b\}.$$

Corollary 1. Suppose that there exist two positive constants  $c_1 < c_2$  such that

$$(\tilde{H}_1) \quad \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds = y$$

at  $y = c_2$

and

$$\frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds > c_2$$

for

$$c_2 < y \leq \frac{c_2}{e^{-T}}$$

$$(\tilde{H}_2) \quad \max_{0 < y \leq c_1} \left\{ \frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds \right\} < c_1$$

Then (4) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.

Theorem 3. Assume that

$T$

$(H_1^*) \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds$  is strictly monotonically increasing such that

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \frac{1}{y} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds = \infty$$

$(H_2^*)$  there exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that  $\frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds < c$  in a small left neighborhood of  $c$ .

Then (4) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.

*Proof.* We shall show that the validity of conditions  $H_1^*$  and  $H_2^*$  imply validity of  $\tilde{H}_1$  and  $\tilde{H}_2$  of

Corollary 1. Given that  $\frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds$  strictly

monotonically increasing with respect to  $y$ . Hence this monotonicity property holds for  $\frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds$  also. If  $(a, c)$  represents a left neighborhood in which  $H_2^*$  is valid then by choosing  $c_1$  to be any element of  $(a, c)$  we have

$\max_{0 \leq y \leq c_1} \left\{ \frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds \right\} < c_1$ . Thus  $\tilde{H}_2$  is satisfied. From  $H_1^*$  and in view

of  $H_2^*$  we have  $\frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds < y$  over  $(a, c)$  and there exists a  $c_2 > c$  such that  $\frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds \geq c_2$  for all  $y \geq c_2$ . This implies validity of  $\tilde{H}_1$ . Hence,

by Corollary 1, (4) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.  $\square$

The Theorem 2, Corollary 1 and Theorem 3 involve conditions on integral of the function  $f(t, y)$ . Below we present two existence theorems which are based on bounds of the function  $f(t, y)$ .

Theorem 4. Suppose that there exists two positive constant  $c_1 < c_2$  such

that  $(H_3) \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y(t)) \right\} \geq \frac{c_2}{T}$  when  $c_2 \leq y(t) \leq \frac{c_2}{e^{-T}}$  for all  $t \in$

$[0, T]$ ,  $(H_4) \max_{\|y\| \leq c_1} \left\{ \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y(t)) \right\} \right\} < \frac{c_1}{T}$ .

Then (4) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.

Corollary 2. Suppose that there exists two positive constant  $c_1 < c_2$  such

that  $(\tilde{H}_3) \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y) \right\} = \frac{y}{T}$  at  $y = c_2$  and

$\min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y) \right\} > \frac{c_2}{T}$   
 $(\tilde{H}_4) \max_{0 \leq y \leq c_1} \left\{ \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y) \right\} \right\} < \frac{c_1}{T}$   
 for  $c_2 < y \leq \frac{c_2}{e^{-T}}$

Then (4) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.

Theorem 5. Assume that

$(H_3^*) \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y) \right\}^T$  is strictly monotonically increasing function such that  $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T}-1} \frac{f(t, y)}{y} \right\} = \infty$

$(H_4^*)$  there exists a  $c > 0$  such that  $\max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{1}{e^{-T}-1} f(t, y) \right\} < \frac{c}{T}$  in a small left neighborhood of  $c$ .

Then (4) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.

Proofs of Theorem 4, Corollary 2 and Theorem 5 are parallel to that of Theorem 2,

Corollary 1 and Theorem 3 respectively. Hence the proofs are omitted.

**4. Application to renewable resource dynamics involving additive Allee effects**

In this section, we shall apply the results developed in the previous section to find the existence of two positive periodic solutions of (3). Let us consider the following form of (3).

$$(12) \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = y - \frac{y^2}{\kappa(t)} - \frac{\eta(t)y}{1 + m(t)y}.$$

In view of (4) we have

$$(13) \quad f(t, y) = -\frac{y^2}{\kappa(t)} - \frac{\eta(t)y}{1 + m(t)y}$$

where the coefficients  $\eta(t)$  and  $m(t)$  are positive T-periodic continuous functions. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T} - 1} \frac{1}{y} \int_0^T f(s, y) ds &= \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T} - 1} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-T}}{1 - e^{-T}} \end{aligned}$$

Clearly  $H_1^*$  of Theorem 3 is satisfied by (3). We have the following theorem.

Lemma 3. *If there exists a  $l \geq 0$  such that*

$$(14) \quad \int_0^T \frac{\eta(s)}{1 + m(s)l} ds < 1 - e^{-T} - l \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)}$$

*then there is a  $c > l$  that satisfies  $H_2^*$ . Further, (3) admits at least two positive T-periodic solutions.*

*Proof.* Let us consider the equation

$$(15) \quad \frac{1}{e^{-T} - 1} \int_0^T \left( -\frac{y^2}{\kappa(s)} - \frac{\eta(s)y}{1 + m(s)y} \right) ds = y.$$

Simplifying (15) we obtain

$$(16) \quad \int_0^T \frac{\eta(s)}{1 + m(s)y} ds = 1 - e^{-T} - y \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)}$$

Let us denote

$$\begin{aligned} r(y) &= \int_0^T \frac{\eta(s)}{1 + m(s)y} ds, \quad s(y) = 1 - e^{-T} - y \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)} \\ z(y) &= \int_0^T \left( \frac{y^2}{\kappa(s)} + \frac{\eta(s)y}{1 + m(s)y} \right) ds \end{aligned} \quad \text{and}$$

defined on positive  $y$  axis. Observe that  $z(y)$  is continuous and strictly increasing function,  $r(y)$  is a convex function and it approaches zero as  $y$  approaches  $\infty$ . On the other hand  $s(y)$  is a linear decreasing function inter-

$$- e^{-T}) / \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)}$$

secting the  $y$  axis at  $(1 - e^{-T}) / \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)}$ . Let us assume that there exists  $l \geq 0$  such that

$$\int_0^T \frac{\eta(s)}{1 + m(s)l} ds < 1 - e^{-T} - l \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)}$$

In view of the qualitative behaviour of the functions  $r(y)$  and

$$c \in \left( l, (1 - e^{-T}) / \int_0^T \frac{ds}{\kappa(s)} \right)$$

$s(y)$ , there exists a such

that  $r(c) = s(c)$ . Since  $z(y) < z(c)$  for  $y < c$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \left( \frac{y^2}{\kappa(s)} + \frac{\eta(s)y}{1 + m(s)y} \right) ds &< \int_0^T \left( \frac{c^2}{\kappa(s)} + \frac{\eta(s)c}{1 + m(s)c} \right) ds \\ &= c(1 - e^{-T}) \quad (\text{since } r(c) = s(c)). \end{aligned}$$

$$z(y) = \int_0^T \left( \frac{y^2}{\kappa(s)} + \frac{\eta(s)y}{1 + m(s)y} \right) ds$$

Since strictly monotonically increasing con-

tinuous function we obtain

$$\int_0^T \left( \frac{y^2}{\kappa(s)} + \frac{\eta(s)y}{1 + m(s)y} \right) ds < c(1 - e^{-T})$$

The above inequality can be rewritten as

(17)

$$\frac{1}{e^{-T} - 1} \int_0^T \left( -\frac{y^2}{\kappa(s)} - \frac{\eta(s)y}{1 + m(s)y} \right) ds < c.$$

Therefore  $H_2^*$  of Theorem 3 is satisfied. Hence, from Theorem 3, (3) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.  $\square$

Now we shall apply Theorem 5 to investigate the existence of positive periodic solutions for (3). Since the coefficient functions  $m(t), \eta(t)$  and  $\kappa(t)$  are assumed to be positive periodic functions, there exists positive constants  $a, b, d, f, g$  and  $h$  satisfying

$$(18) \quad a \leq \eta(t) \leq b, d \leq m(t) \leq f \text{ and } g \leq \kappa(t) \leq h.$$

In view of (18) we have

$$(19) \quad \frac{y^2}{h} + \frac{ay}{1 + yf} \leq \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{y^2}{\kappa(t)} + \frac{\eta(t)y}{1 + m(t)y} \right\} \leq \frac{y^2}{g} + \frac{by}{1 + y}$$

Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \frac{1}{y} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T} - 1} f(t, y) \right\} &= \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \frac{1}{y} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{e^{-T} - 1} \left( -\frac{y^2}{\kappa(t)} - \frac{\eta(t)y}{1 + m(t)y} \right) \right\} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \min_{0 \leq t \leq T} \left\{ \frac{e^{-T}}{1 - e^{-T}} \left( \frac{y}{\kappa(t)} + \frac{\eta(t)}{1 + m(t)y} \right) \right\} = \infty \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $H_3^*$  of Theorem 5 is satisfied. We have the following Lemma, proof of which can be constructed parallel to that of Lemma 3. Lemma 4. *If there exists  $l' \geq 0$  such that*

$$(20) \quad \frac{b}{1 + l'd} < \frac{1 - e^{-T}}{T} - \frac{l'}{g}$$

*then there is a  $c > l'$  that satisfies  $H_4^*$ . Further, (3) admits at least two positive  $T$ -periodic solutions.*

### 5. Discussion and Conclusions

Allee effects occur when ever fitness of an individual in a small or sparse population decreases as the population size or density also declines [6, 11, 12, 31]. The additive Allee effect that is known to occur when a prey dynamics is influenced by predator satiation [7, 34], group defence in a prey

species, inhibition in micro organisms [1, 2] or difficulty in searching for a mate [34]. In all the works that concerned the additive Allee effects, the involved parameters have been taken to be constants implying that the dynamics are time independent or the environment is constant in time. But in natural world a biological organism's physical environment is non constant in time. Often the environment is either periodic or almost periodic. Periodicity in the environment is incorporated into the dynamics of a species by assuming that the involved coefficients in the equation governing its dynamics to be periodic [8, 13, 30]. In this article we have considered dynamics of a renewable resource that is subjected to additive Allee effect in a periodically varying environment. We have observed that, under reasonable conditions on the coefficient functions, there are at least two positive periodic solutions for the considered model.

The existence of at least two positive periodic solutions is obtained by employing *Leggett-Williams Multiple fixed point theorem* to the considered model. The existence is established using two different conditions. The first type involves integral conditions while the other involves bounds of the periodic coefficients. The existence results are illustrated through numerical simulation in section 5 using a suitable example. The theoretical results developed in this article provide an upper bound on the number of positive periodic solutions admitted by the considered model. It would be more interesting to obtain results that decide the exact number of periodic solutions along with their stability nature. Work in this direction is in progress.

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