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# Bifurcation and chaos in a discrete-time fractional-order logistic model with Allee effect and proportional harvesting

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## Abstract

The Allee effect and harvesting always get a pivotal role in studying the preservation of a population. In this context, we consider a Caputo fractional-order logistic model with the Allee effect and proportional harvesting. In particular, we implement the piecewise constant arguments (PWCA) method to discretize the fractional model. The dynamics of the obtained discrete-time model are then analyzed. Fixed points and their stability conditions are established. We also show the existence of saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcations in the discrete-time model. These analytical results are then confirmed by some numerical simulations via bifurcation, Cobweb, and maximal Lyapunov exponent diagrams. The occurrence of period-doubling bifurcation route to chaos is also observed numerically. Finally, the occurrence of period-doubling bifurcation is successfully controlled using a hybrid control strategy.

**Keywords** Discrete-time fractional-order · Logistic map · Allee effect · Harvesting · Bifurcation · Chaos

**Mathematics Subject Classification** 34A08 · 39A28 · 39A30 · 92D40

## 1 Introduction

For the last decades, the discrete-time model gets a lot of great attentiveness from researchers in mathematical modeling, not only because of its capability in describing several phenomena such as physics, biomedicine, engineering, chemistry, and population dynamics but also due to the richness of the given dynamical patterns as well as the occurrence of bifurcations and chaotic solutions which very difficult to find in their continuous counterpart [1–6]. Particularly, the discrete-time model is successfully applied in population dynamics,

especially in a single logistic growth modeling [7–10], the epidemic modeling [11–13], and the predator–prey interaction modeling [14–18]. Most of the models are discretized using Euler scheme [19–21] and nonstandard finite difference (NSFD) [22–24] which is popular for the discretization of the model with first-order derivative as the operator. Furthermore, for the model with fractional-order derivative, we have some numerical schemes to approximate the exact solution such in [25–28]. We also have the popular discretization process is given by piecewise constant arguments (PWCA) which were proposed by El-Sayed et al. [29] and applied by other researchers in different biological phenomena [30–34].

In this paper, we study and justify the dynamics of a discrete-time model constructed using PWCA from a fractional-order logistic growth model involving the Allee effect and harvesting. The model is given by

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN \left( 1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) (N - m) - qN, \quad (1)$$

where  $N(t)$  represents the population density at time  $t$  and all parameters are positive numbers with biological interpretations and are given in Table 1.

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**Table 1** Biological interpretation for each Parameter

Parameters	Biological interpretation
$r$	The intrinsic growth rate
$K$	The environmental carrying capacity
$m$	The Allee effect threshold
$q$	The harvesting rate

Notice that the Allee effect reduces the population growth rate when the population density is low (i.e., when  $N < m$ ) as a result of several natural mechanisms such as intraspecific competition, cooperative anti-predator behavior, cooperative breeding, and limitation in finding mates. The positive growth rate occurs if the population density is in the interval  $m < N < K$ . For further explanation about the Allee effect, see [35–44].

To obtain the fractional-order model, we follow a similar way as in [14]. The first-order derivative at the left-hand side of model (1) is replaced with the fractional-order derivative  ${}^C D_t^\alpha$  which denotes the Caputo fractional derivative operator of order  $\alpha$  defined by

$${}^C D_t^\alpha f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{f'(s)}{(t-s)^\alpha} ds, \quad (2)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the order of fractional derivative with  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  and  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  is the Gamma function. Furthermore, by replacing the operator with equating the dimensions of time at the right-hand side, the following model is acquired.

$${}^C D_t^\alpha N = r^\alpha N \left(1 - \frac{N}{K}\right) (N - m) - q^\alpha N. \quad (3)$$

Model (3) can be written as

$${}^C D_t^\alpha \bar{N} = \bar{r} \bar{N} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{N}}{K}\right) (\bar{N} - m) - \bar{q} \bar{N}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\bar{r} = r^\alpha$  and  $\bar{q} = q^\alpha$ . Finally, by dropping  $(\cdot)$ , the fractional-order model for (1) is successfully obtained as follows.

$${}^C D_t^\alpha N = rN \left(1 - \frac{N}{K}\right) (N - m) - qN. \quad (5)$$

As far as we are aware, both the fractional-order model and the discrete-time version of Eq. 5 have not been introduced and studied. Especially for fractional-order model (5), since the stability properties of equilibrium point refers to Matignon condition [45], the dynamics of the one-dimensional first-order and the fractional-order models are qualitatively the same because the  $|\arg(\lambda)|$  of equilibrium point always in the real line. On the other hand, although

in the one-dimensional model, the discrete-time model has more possible complex phenomena such as period-doubling bifurcation and chaotic behaviors which do not exist in its continuous ones. This means the one-dimensional continuous model has poor dynamics than the discrete-time model. Hence, for this case, studying discrete-time model is more interesting and attractive. In this paper, we construct a discrete-time model implementing the PWCA method for the model (5), and the dynamics of the obtained discrete-time model are then investigated. The layout of this paper is as follows. In Sect. 2, the model formulation is given by applying the PWCA method to get a discrete-time model. To support the analytical process, we provide some basic theoretical results in Sect. 3. In Sect. 4, some analytical results are provided such as the existence of fixed points, their local stability, and saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcations. In Sect. 5, we present some numerical simulations and show some interesting phenomena, such as bifurcation, Lyapunov exponent, and Cobweb diagrams which correspond to the previous theoretical results. We present numerically a period-doubling route to chaos. A hybrid control strategy is applied to delay and eliminate the occurrence of period-doubling bifurcation and chaotic solution in Sect. 6. The conclusion of this work is given in Sect. 7.

## 2 Model formulation

By applying a similar procedure as in [29,30], we discretize model (5) with the PWCA method as follows

$${}^C D_t^\alpha N(t) = rN \left(1 - \frac{N(t/h)}{K}\right) \times (N(t/h) - m) - qN(t/h),$$

with initial condition  $N(0) = N_0$ . Let  $t \in [0, h)$ ,  $t/h \in [0, 1)$ , then we have

$${}^C D_t^\alpha N(t) = rN_0 \left(1 - \frac{N_0}{K}\right) (N_0 - m) - qN_0. \quad (6)$$

The solution of Eq. 6 is

$$N_1 = N_0 + \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ rN_0 \left(1 - \frac{N_0}{K}\right) (N_0 - m) - qN_0 \right].$$

Next, let  $t \in [h, 2h)$ ,  $t/h \in [1, 2)$ . Thus, we obtain

$${}^C D_t^\alpha N(t) = rN_1 \left(1 - \frac{N_1}{K}\right) (N_1 - m) - qN_1, \quad (7)$$

where its solution is given by

$$N_2 = N_1(h) + \frac{(t-h)^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ r N_1 \left( 1 - \frac{N_1}{K} \right) (N_1 - m) - q N_1 \right].$$

By proceeding the same discretization process, for  $t \in [nh, (n+1)h)$ ,  $t/h \in [n, n+1)$ , we have

$$N_{n+1} = N_n(nh) + \frac{(t-nh)^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ r N_n(nh) \left( 1 - \frac{N_n(nh)}{K} \right) (N_n(nh) - m) - q N_n(nh) \right]. \quad (8)$$

For  $t \rightarrow (n+1)h$ , Eq. 8 is reduced to a discrete-time fractional-order logistic model with the Allee effect and proportional harvesting

$$N_{n+1} = N_n + \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} N_n \left[ r \left( 1 - \frac{N_n}{K} \right) (N_n - m) - q \right] = f(N). \quad (9)$$

We remark that if  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$  then Eq. 9 is exactly the same as the Euler discretization of model (5).

### 3 Fundamental concepts

To analyze the dynamical behavior such as the existence of fixed point, the local stability, and the occurrence of saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcation of the discrete-time model (9), the following definition and theorems are needed.

**Definition 1** [46] Consider the following map

$$x(n+1) = f(x(n)). \quad (10)$$

A point  $x^*$  is said a fixed point of the map (10) if  $f(x^*) = x^*$ . If  $|f'(x^*)| \neq 1$ , then  $x^*$  is called a hyperbolic fixed point, and if  $|f'(x^*)| = 1$ , then  $x^*$  is called a nonhyperbolic fixed point.

**Theorem 1** [46] Let  $x^*$  be a hyperbolic fixed point of the map (10) where  $f$  is continuously differentiable at  $x^*$ . The following statements then hold true:

- (i) If  $|f'(x^*)| < 1$ , then  $x^*$  is locally asymptotically stable.
- (ii) If  $|f'(x^*)| > 1$ , then  $x^*$  is unstable.

**Theorem 2** [46] Let  $x^*$  is a nonhyperbolic fixed point of the map (10) satisfying  $f'(x^*) = 1$ . If  $f'(x)$ ,  $f''(x)$ , and  $f'''(x)$  are continuous at  $x^*$ , then the following statements hold:

- (i) If  $f''(x^*) \neq 0$ , then  $x^*$  unstable (semistable).
- (ii) If  $f''(x^*) = 0$  and  $f'''(x^*) > 0$ , then  $x^*$  unstable.
- (iii) If  $f''(x^*) = 0$  and  $f'''(x^*) < 0$ , then  $x^*$  locally asymptotically stable.

**Definition 2** [46] The Schwarzian derivative,  $Sf$ , of a function  $f$  is defined by

$$Sf(x) = \frac{f'''(x)}{f'(x)} - \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{f''(x)}{f'(x)} \right]^2.$$

Particularly, if  $f'(x^*) = -1$  then

$$Sf(x^*) = -f'''(x^*) - \frac{3}{2} [f''(x^*)]^2.$$

**Theorem 3** [46] Let  $x^*$  is a hyperbolic fixed point of the map (10) satisfying  $f'(x^*) = -1$ . If  $f'(x)$ ,  $f''(x)$ , and  $f'''(x)$  are continuous at  $x^*$ , then the following statements hold:

- (i) If  $Sf(x^*) < 0$ , then  $x^*$  is locally asymptotically stable.
- (ii) If  $Sf(x^*) > 0$ , then  $x^*$  is unstable.

**Theorem 4** (The existence of Saddle-Node Bifurcation [46]) Suppose that  $x_{n+1} = f(\mu, x_n)$  is a  $C^2$  one-parameter family of one-dimensional maps, and  $x^*$  is a fixed point with  $f'(\mu, x) = 1$ . Assume further that

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu}(\mu^*, x^*) \neq 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}(\mu^*, x^*) \neq 0.$$

Then there exists an interval  $I$  around  $x^*$  and a  $C^2$  map  $\mu = p(x)$ , where  $p: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $p(x^*) = \mu^*$  and  $f(p(x), x) = x$ . Moreover, if  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}(\mu^*, x^*) < 0$ , the fixed points exist for  $\mu > \mu^*$ , and if  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}(\mu^*, x^*) > 0$ , the fixed points exist for  $\mu < \mu^*$ .

**Theorem 5** (The existence of period-doubling bifurcation [46]) Suppose that  $x_{n+1} = f(\mu, x_n)$  is a  $C^2$  one-parameter family of one-dimensional maps, and  $x^*$  is a fixed point. Assume that

- (i)  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(\mu^*, x^*) = -1$
- (ii)  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \mu \partial x}(\mu^*, x^*) \neq 0$

Then there is an interval  $I$  about  $x^*$  and a function  $p: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f_{p(x)}(x) \neq x$  but  $f_{p(x)}^2 = x$ .

## 4 Analytical results

We explore some analytical results here such as the existence of fixed points, their local stability, and the existence of some bifurcations, namely saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcations. Since the map (9) is constructed by PWCA with step size ( $h$ ), the analytical process is then investigated by considering the impact of  $h$ . Some analytical results also examine the influence of the harvesting ( $q$ ) on the dynamics of the given map.

### 4.1 The existence of fixed point

Based on definition (1), the fixed point of the map (9) is obtained by solving the following equation

$$N = N + \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} N \left[ r \left( 1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) (N - m) - q \right]. \quad (11)$$

The solutions of Eq. 11 are described as follows:

- (i) The extinction of population fixed point  $N_0^* = 0$  which always exists.
- (ii) The nonzero fixed points  $N_{1,2}^*$  which are the positive solutions of the following quadratic polynomial

$$N^2 - (m + K)N + mK + \frac{qK}{r} = 0. \quad (12)$$

The solutions of Eq. 12 are

$$\begin{aligned} N_1^* &= \frac{m + K}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{(q^* - q)rK}}{r}, \\ N_2^* &= \frac{m + K}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{(q^* - q)rK}}{r}, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where  $q^* = \frac{(m-K)^2 r}{4K} > 0$ . The existence of nonzero fixed points (13) is shown by Theorem 6.

**Theorem 6** (i) If  $q > q^*$ , then the nonzero fixed point of the map (9) do not exist.

(ii) If  $q = q^*$ , then there exists a unique nonzero fixed point  $N^* = \frac{m+K}{2}$  of the map (9).

(iii) If  $q < q^*$ , then there exist two nonzero fixed points, namely  $N_{1,2}^*$  of the map (9).

**Proof** (i) It is easy to confirm that if  $q > q^*$  then the solutions of Eq. 12 are a pair of complex conjugate numbers.

(ii) For  $q = q^*$ , we have  $N^* = N_1^* = N_2^* = \frac{m+K}{2}$ . Hence,  $N^*$  is the only positive fixed point of the map (9).

(iii) If  $q < q^*$ , then  $N_{1,2}^* \in \mathbb{R}$ . Because  $N_1^* N_2^* = mK + \frac{qK}{r} > 0$  and  $N_1^* + N_2^* = m + K > 0$ , then  $N_1^*$  and  $N_2^*$  are obviously positive, showing that there are two nonzero fixed points.

### 4.2 Local stability

Now, the dynamical behaviors of the map (9) around each fixed point are investigated. Theorems 7, 10 are presenting to describe the local dynamics of fixed points  $N_i^*$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , and  $N^*$ . The complete dynamics including local stability, unstable condition, and nonhyperbolic properties for each fixed point are studied by employing Theorems 1, 2, 3. In this respect, all dynamical properties are expressed in step size ( $h$ ) and harvesting rate ( $q$ ) to simplify the mathematical terms.

**Theorem 7** Let's denote  $\hat{q} = \frac{(2m^2 + 3mK + 2K^2)r}{K}$  and  $h_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2\Gamma(1+\alpha)}{mr+q}}$ . Then the following statements hold:

- (i) if  $0 < h < h_0$ , then  $N_0^*$  is locally asymptotically stable,
- (ii) if  $h > h_0$ , then  $N_0^*$  is unstable, and
- (iii) if  $h = h_0$ , then  $N_0^*$  is nonhyperbolic fixed point. Furthermore, if
  - (iii.a)  $q < \hat{q}$ , then  $N_0^*$  is locally asymptotically stable, and
  - (iii.b)  $q > \hat{q}$ , then  $N_0^*$  is unstable.

**Proof** By evaluating  $f'(N)$  at  $N_0^*$ , we obtain

$$f'(N_0^*) = 1 - \frac{h^\alpha (mr + q)}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} = 1 - 2 \left( \frac{h}{h_0} \right)^\alpha.$$

(i) If  $0 < h < h_0$ , then  $0 < (h/h_0)^\alpha < 1$ , which implies  $|f'(N_0^*)| < 1$ . Based on Theorem 1, we have a locally asymptotically stable  $N_0^*$ .

(ii) If  $h > h_0$ , then  $(h/h_0)^\alpha > 1$ , so that  $f'(N_0^*) < -1$ . Theorem 1 states that  $N_0^*$  is an unstable fixed point.

(iii) For  $h = h_0$ , we have  $f'(N_0^*) = -1$ , i.e.,  $N_0^*$  is nonhyperbolic fixed point. The Schwarzian derivative of map  $f(N)$  at  $N_0^*$  is

$$\begin{aligned} Sf(N_0^*) &= \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} \left[ \frac{6r}{K} \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} \left[ \frac{2(m + K)r}{K} \right]^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{6rh^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} \left[ 1 - \frac{h^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1 + \alpha)} (m + K)^2 r \right] \\ &= \frac{12r}{(mr + q)K} \left[ 1 - \frac{2(m + K)^2 r}{(mr + q)K} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

If  $q < \hat{q}$ , then  $Sf(N_0^*) < 0$ , and thus,  $N_0^*$  is locally asymptotically stable. On the contrary, if  $q > \hat{q}$  then  $Sf(N_0^*) > 0$ , showing  $N_0^*$  is unstable. Thus, Theorem 7 is completely proved.



□

**Theorem 8** The nonzero fixed point  $N^*$  is semistable.

**Proof** The derivative of  $f(N)$  at  $N^*$  is

$$\begin{aligned} f'(N^*) &= 1 + \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \\ &\quad \left[ -\frac{3r}{K} \left( \frac{m+K}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{2r(m+K)}{K} \left( \frac{m+K}{2} \right) - mr - q \right] \\ &= 1 + \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ \frac{(m+K)^2 r - 4mrK}{4K} - q \right] \\ &= 1 + \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} [q^* - q]. \end{aligned}$$

$N^*$  exists when  $q = q^*$ . Clearly that  $f'(N^*) = 1$ , and therefore,  $N^*$  is a nonhyperbolic fixed point. By direct calculations, we can show that

$$\begin{aligned} f''(N^*) &= \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ -\frac{6rN}{K} + 2 \left( 1 + \frac{m}{K} \right) r \right] \\ &= \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ -\frac{6r(m+K)}{K} + \frac{2(m+K)r}{K} \right] \\ &= \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ -\frac{4r(m+K)}{K} \right] \\ &= -\frac{4r(m+K)h^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1+\alpha)} < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $f''(N^*) \neq 0$ , Theorem 2 says that the fixed point  $N^*$  is semistable. □

**Theorem 9** Suppose that:

$$\begin{aligned} h_1 &= \sqrt[66]{\frac{2K\Gamma(1+\alpha)}{2(q^*-q)K + (m+K)\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}}, \\ \hat{h} &= \sqrt[54]{\frac{(m+K)r + 6\sqrt{(q^*-q)K}}{\sqrt{4(q^*-q)rK + 2r(m+K)\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}}}. \end{aligned}$$

The local stability of  $N_1^*$  is described as follows.

- (i) If  $0 < h < h_1$ , then  $N_1^*$  is locally asymptotically stable.
- (ii) If  $h > h_1$ , then  $N_1^*$  is unstable.
- (iii) If  $h = h_1$  and
  - (iii.a) if  $\hat{h} > 1$ , then  $N_1^*$  is locally asymptotically stable, and
  - (iii.b) if  $\hat{h} < 1$ , then  $N_1^*$  is unstable.

**Proof** It is obvious to show that

$$\begin{aligned} f'(N_1^*) &= 1 + \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ -\left( \frac{3}{4K} (m+K)^2 r + 3(q^*-q) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{3}{K} (m+K) \sqrt{(q^*-q)rK} \right] \\ &= 1 - \frac{h^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ 2(q^*-q)K + (m+K)\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK} \right] \\ &= 1 - \frac{h^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ \frac{2K\Gamma(1+\alpha)}{h_1^\alpha} \right] \\ &= 1 - 2 \left( \frac{h}{h_1} \right)^\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have the following observations:

- (i) For  $0 < h < h_1$ , we have  $|f'(N_1^*)| < 1$ . According to Theorem 1, the nonzero fixed point  $N_1^*$  is locally asymptotically stable.
- (ii) If  $h > h_1$ , then we get  $f'(N_1^*) < -1$ . Thus,  $N_1^*$  is an unstable fixed point (see to Theorem 1).
- (iii) Clearly that  $f'(N_1^*) = -1$  whenever  $h = h_1$ , which shows that  $N_1^*$  is nonhyperbolic fixed point. The Schwarzian derivative of  $f(N)$  at  $N_1^*$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Sf(N_1^*) &= \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ \frac{6r^2}{K} \right] - \frac{3}{2} \left[ -\frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ \frac{(m+K)r}{K} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \frac{6}{K} \sqrt{(q^*-q)rK} \right] \right]^2 \\ &= \frac{r h^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ 6r - \frac{3}{2K} \right] \frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} [(m+K)r \\ &\quad + 6\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}]^2. \end{aligned}$$

We can easily check that if  $\hat{h} > 1$  then  $Sf(N_1^*) < 1$  and if  $\hat{h} < 1$  then  $Sf(N_1^*) > 1$ . Therefore, the stability of nonhyperbolic fixed point is explained. Finally, all of the stability conditions of fixed point  $N_1^*$  are completely determined.

□

**Theorem 10** The nonzero fixed point  $N_2^* = \frac{m+K}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}{r}$  is always unstable.

**Proof** To investigate the stability of  $N_2^*$ , we evaluate  $f'(N)$  at  $N_2^*$ :

$$f'(N_2^*) = 1 + \frac{(q^*-q)h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ \frac{(m+K)\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{(q^*-q)K}} - 2 \right].$$

By simple algebraic manipulations, we can show that  $\frac{(m+K)\sqrt{r}}{\sqrt{(q^*-q)K}} > 2$ . Thus,  $f'(N_2^*)$  is always a positive constant, which means  $N_2^*$  is always an unstable fixed point. □

### 4.3 Bifurcation analysis

From the previous analysis, we have a nonhyperbolic fixed point  $N^*$  when  $q = q^*$ , indicating the possibility of the

occurrence of saddle-node bifurcation. Moreover, the occurrence of period-doubling bifurcation is also indicated around nonhyperbolic fixed point  $N_1^*$  when  $h_1 = h_1$ . Thus, in this section, we study the existence of saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcations. The saddle-node bifurcation is a phenomenon that two fixed points with opposite signs of stability merge into a unique semistable fixed point and finally disappear when a parameter is varied, while the period-doubling bifurcation is a phenomenon that a single fixed point loses its stability accompanied by the emergence of a period-2 solution when a parameter is varied [46]. As results, we have Theorems 11, 12.

**Theorem 11** *The nonzero fixed point  $N^*$  undergoes a saddle-node bifurcation when  $q$  crosses the critical values  $q^* = \frac{(m-K)^2 r}{4K}$ .*

**Proof** It was shown previously that  $N^*$  does not exist if  $q > q^*$ . When  $q = q^*$ , we have a semistable fixed point  $N^*$ ; if  $q < q^*$ , then there exists two nonzero fixed points. By straightforward calculations, we have  $\frac{\partial f(N^*)}{\partial N} = 1$ ,  $\frac{\partial f(N^*)}{\partial q} = -\frac{h^\alpha}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \frac{m+K}{2} < 0$ , and  $\frac{\partial^2 f(N^*)}{\partial N^2} = -\frac{(m+K)r h^\alpha}{K\Gamma(1+\alpha)} < 0$ . Thus, according to Theorem 4, the fixed point  $N^*$  undergoes a saddle-node bifurcation when  $q$  crosses the critical values  $q^* = \frac{(m-K)^2 r}{4K}$ . Moreover, the fixed points exist when  $q \leq q^*$  because  $\frac{\partial f(N^*)}{\partial q} \frac{\partial^2 f(N^*)}{\partial N^2} > 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 12** *The nonzero fixed point  $N_1^*$  undergoes a period-doubling bifurcation when  $h$  crosses the critical value  $h_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2K\Gamma(1+\alpha)}{2(q^*-q)K+(m+K)\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}}$ .*

**Proof** From the proof of Theorem 9, we have that if  $h = h_1$  then  $\frac{\partial f(N_1^*)}{\partial N} = -1$ . By performing some algebraic calculations, we also have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 f(N_1^*)}{\partial h \partial N} &= \frac{\alpha h^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left[ r \left( \frac{m+K}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}{r} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left( 1 - \frac{2}{K} \left( \frac{m+K}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}{r} \right) + \frac{m}{K} \right) \right] \\ &= -\frac{r\alpha h^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left( \frac{m+K}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}{r} \right) \\ &\quad \left( \frac{2}{K} \frac{\sqrt{(q^*-q)rK}}{r} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$N_1^*$  exists if  $q \neq q^*$ , and thus, we have  $\frac{\partial^2 f(N_1^*)}{\partial h \partial N} \neq 0$ . According to Theorem 5, there are solutions of period-2 when  $h$  passes through  $h_1$ . Hence, the occurrence of period-doubling bifurcation in the map (9) is completely proved.  $\square$

Theorem 12 states that the period-doubling bifurcation in the map (9) can be achieved by varying the step size  $h$ . However, such bifurcation can also be realized by setting a

fixed value of  $h$  and other parameters while varying a certain parameter. In the following section, we give an example of period-doubling bifurcation which is driven by the constant of harvesting ( $q$ ).

## 5 Numerical results

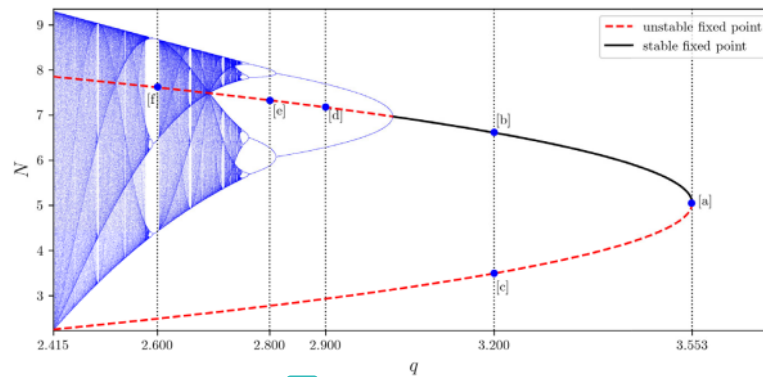
In this section, we present some numerical simulations of the map (9) not only to support the previous analytical findings but also to show more dynamical behaviors of the map (9). Numerical simulations are given by considering some biological and mathematical aspects such as the influence of the harvesting, the step size ( $h$ ), the Allee effect ( $m$ ), and the order  $\alpha$ . To support the numerical simulations, a desktop PC is used based on AMD Ryzen 5 3400 G 3.7GHz, 16 GB RAM, and AMD Radeon RX580 8GB DDR5 VGA card. We also use an open-source software called Python 3.9 to generate all of the given figures. Due to the field data limitation, we use hypothetical parameter values for the numerical simulations. General parameter values are given as follows.

$$r = 1.45, K = 10, m = 0.1, q = 0.32, \alpha = 0.8, \text{ and } h = 0.4. \quad (15)$$

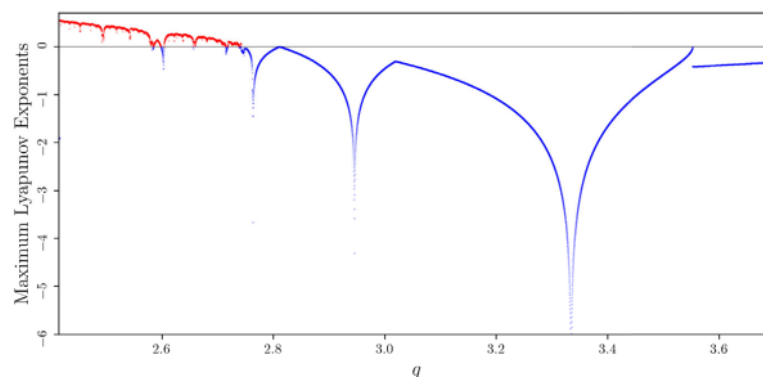
### 5.1 The influence of the Harvesting Rate

The numerical simulations in this subsection are using parameter set (15) and vary the value of the harvesting rate ( $q$ ). According to Theorem 6, map (9) with parameter set (15) has a critical value  $q^* \approx 3.5527$  such that map (9) does not have a nonzero fixed point if  $q > q^*$ . When  $q = q^*$ , map (9) has a unique nonzero fixed point  $N^* = 5.05$  which is a semistable fixed point, see Theorem 8. Furthermore, if  $q < q^*$ , then there are two nonzero fixed points, namely  $N_1^*$  and  $N_2^*$ . By taking  $h = 0.4$  and using Theorem 9, we can show that  $N_1^*$  is asymptotically stable if  $q_1 = 3.0191 \lesssim q < q^*$ . On the other hand, Theorem 10 states that  $N_2^*$  is always unstable. Since we take  $h = 0.4$ , Theorem 12 states that the fixed point  $N_1^*$  undergoes a period-doubling bifurcation when  $q$  crosses  $q_1$  from the right. To see these dynamical behaviors, we plot in Fig. 1a the bifurcation diagram of the map 9 with parameter set (15) and  $h = 0.4$  for  $2.415 \leq q \leq 3.7$ . Clearly that this bifurcation diagram fits perfectly with the results of our previous analysis. Indeed, Fig. 1a shows that  $N^*$  (labeled as [a]) is semistable, see also the Cobweb diagram shown in Fig. 2a. As the value of  $q$  decreases from  $q^*$ , the nonzero fixed point is split into two nonzero fixed points where one of them is

**Fig. 1** Bifurcation diagram and its corresponding maximum Lyapunov exponents of the map (9) with parameter set (15) and  $2.415 \leq q \leq 3.7$



(a) Bifurcation diagram



(b) Maximum Lyapunov exponents

stable in the specified interval of  $q$ , while the other fixed point is unstable. Such stability properties can also be seen in the Cobweb diagrams in Fig. 2b, c, which corresponds to points [b] and [c] in Fig. 1a, respectively. We also observe numerically the appearance of a period-doubling route to chaos (flip bifurcation) as  $q$  decreases. If we further decrease the value of  $q$ , then there appears a stable solution of period-2 when  $q$  passes through  $q_1$ . The appearance of a stable period-doubling solution, as well as a solution of period-3, is shown in Fig. 1a (see, e.g., point [d], [e], and [f], respectively, and their corresponding diagram Cobweb in Fig. 1d, e, and bif1f). The appearance of the period-3 solution indicates that our system exhibits chaotic dynamics [47]. The existence of chaotic dynamics can also be determined from the Lyapunov exponent. A system exhibits chaotic dynamics if it has positive maximum Lyapunov exponents. The maximum Lyapunov exponents which correspond to Fig. 1a are depicted in Fig. 1b. It is clearly seen that our system has positive maximum Lyapunov exponents, showing the existence

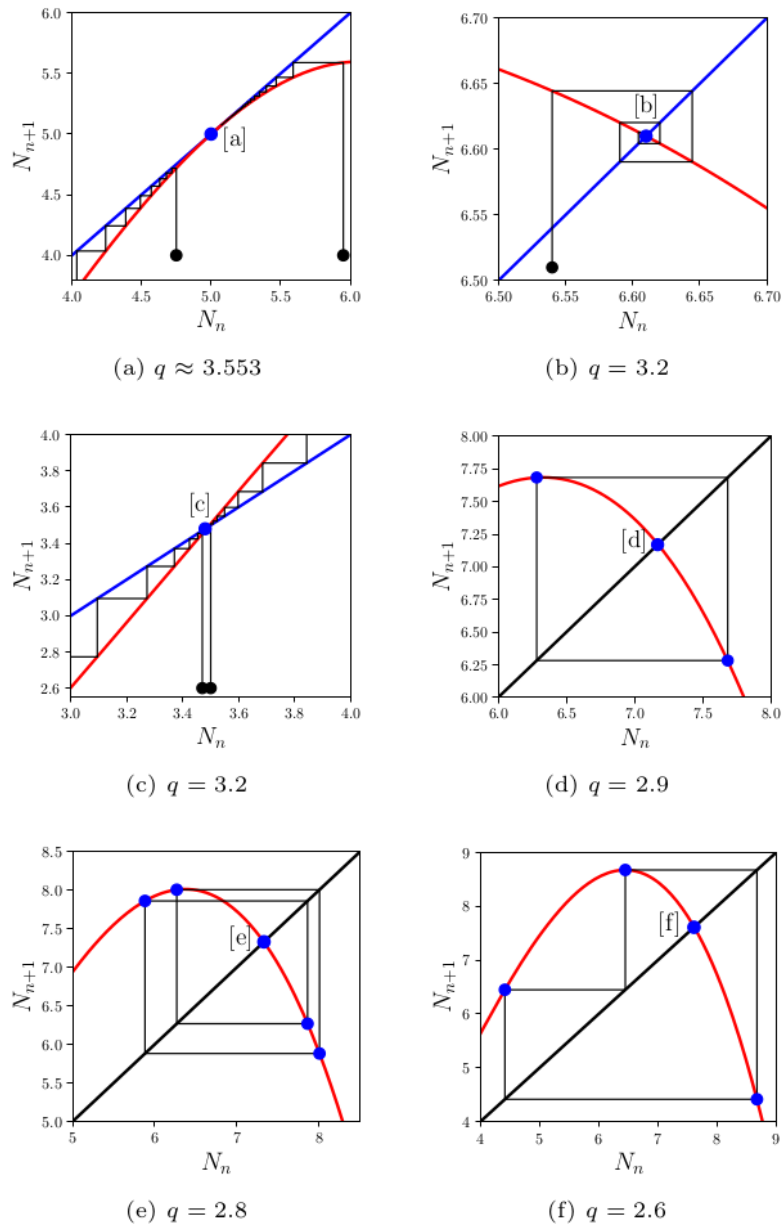
of chaotic dynamics in the map (9) which is controlled by the constant of harvesting ( $q$ ).

## 5.2 The influence of the step size

To describe the existence of period-doubling bifurcation driven by the step size  $h$  numerically, we perform simulations using the parameter set 15 and  $0.5 \leq h \leq 0.985$ . Map (9) with these parameter values has two nonzero fixed points, namely  $N_1^* \approx 6.61$  and  $N_2^* \approx 3.49$ .  $N_2^*$  is unstable while  $N_1^*$  is stable if  $0 < h < h_1 \approx 0.553$ .  $N_1^*$  loses its stability via period-doubling bifurcation when  $h$  crosses  $h_1$ . These dynamics are seen in the bifurcation diagram, see Fig. 3a. Increasing the value of  $h$  may destroy the stability of  $N_1^*$ , and the system is convergent to a stable period-2 solution. Further increasing the value of  $h$  leads to a stable period-4 cycle, and so on. To give a more detailed view, we plot Cobweb diagrams in Fig. 4 which correspond to some solutions around the fixed points labeled as [g - i] in Fig. 3a. When  $h = 0.7$ , we have a stable period-2 cycle near the nonzero fixed point [g],



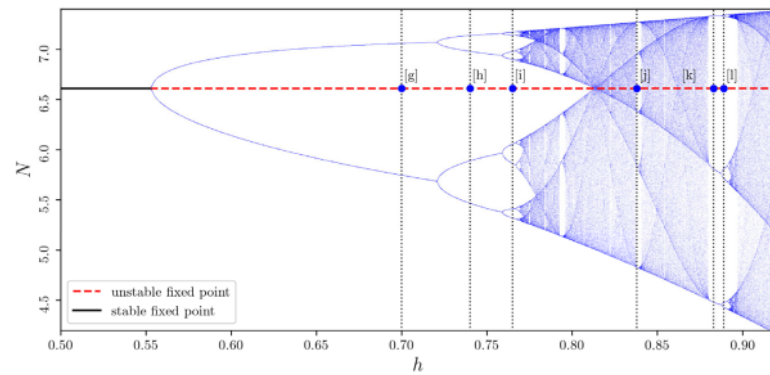
**Fig. 2** Cobweb diagrams of the map (9) with parameter set (15)



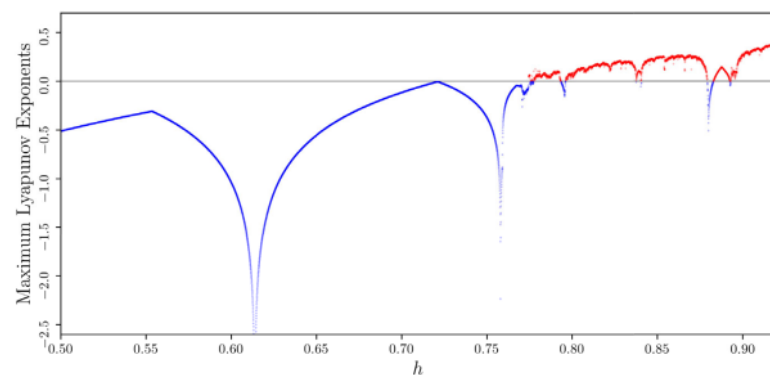
see Fig. 4a. Each of the two solutions splits into two solutions, respectively, and becomes a stable period-4 solution around fixed point [h] when  $h = 0.74$  (Fig. 4b); consecutively, for  $h = 0.765$  we have a stable period-8 cycle near fixed point [i], see Fig. 4c. Moreover, at  $h = 0.838, 0.883, 0.889$  we have, respectively, a stable period-5 cycle around fixed point [j], a stable period-3 cycle around fixed point [k], and a stable period-6 cycle around fixed point [l], see their Cobweb

diagrams in Fig. 4d, e, and f. Hence, the step size  $h$  is an important parameter that significantly affects the dynamics of the map (9). In this case, the map (9) exhibits a period-doubling bifurcation route to chaos driven by parameter  $h$ . Furthermore, the appearance of positive maximum Lyapunov exponents depicted in Fig. 3b which corresponds to the bifurcation diagram in Fig. 3a clearly shows the existence of chaotic behavior in the system.

**Fig. 3** Bifurcation diagram and its corresponding maximum Lyapunov exponents of the map (9) with parameter set (15) and  $0 \leq h \leq 0.92$



(a) Bifurcation diagram



(b) Maximum Lyapunov exponents

### 5.3 The influence of the Allee effect

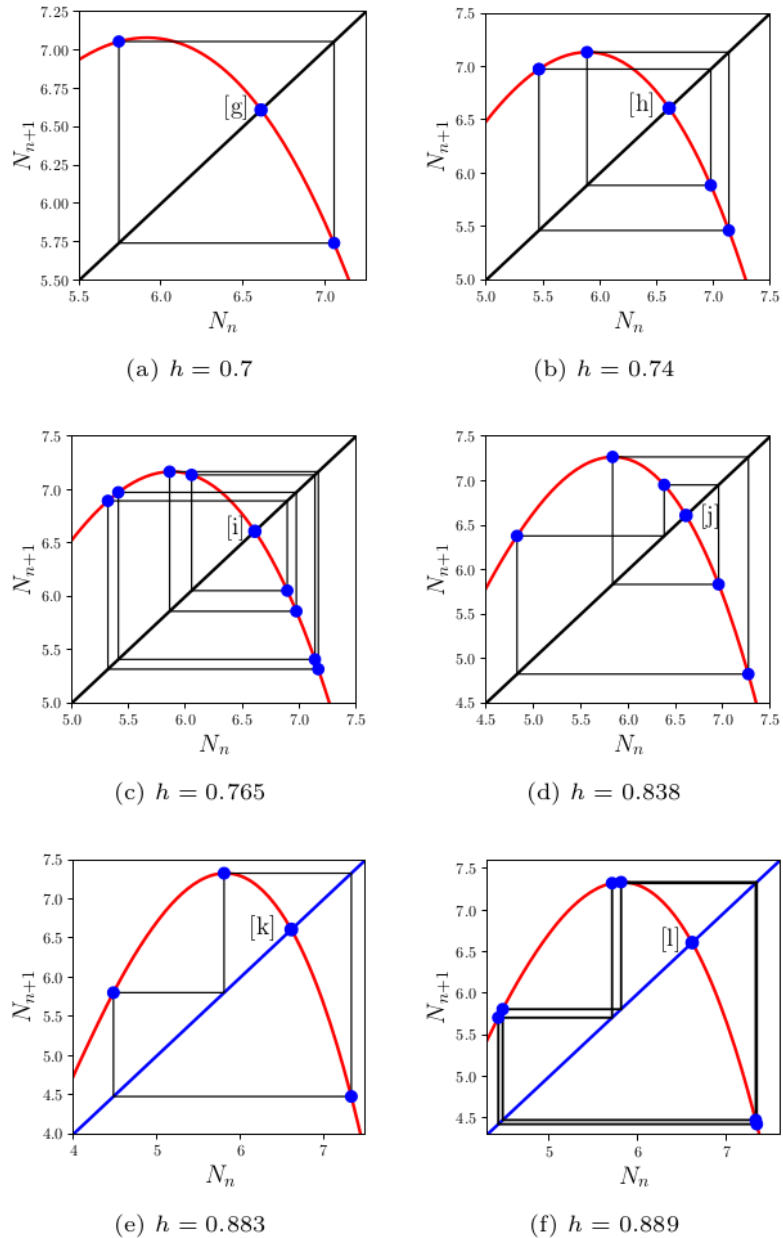
To show the influence of the Allee effect, we use the parameter set (15) and vary the values of  $m$  in the interval  $0 \leq m \leq 2.5$ . From Eq. 13, we compute numerically that  $N_1^*$  and  $N_2^*$  exist for interval  $0 \leq m \lesssim 0.6045$ . Based on Theorems 8,9,10, the stability of  $N_1^*$  and  $N_2^*$  has the different sign for  $0 \leq m < 0.6045$  and finally merge into a semistable fixed point  $N^* \approx 5.29671$  when  $m \approx 0.6045$ . When  $m$  crosses 0.6045,  $N^*$  disappears and  $N_0^*$  becomes the only fixed point of the map (9). These phenomena indicate the occurrence of saddle-node bifurcation driven by the Allee effect ( $m$ ). According to Theorems 7, we also have that  $N_0^*$  is locally asymptotically stable for  $m < 0.467$  and loses its stability via period-doubling bifurcation when  $m$  crosses 0.467. These complex dynamics are shown in Fig. 5a and its corresponding maximum Lyapunov exponents are depicted in Fig. 5b which confirms the existence of chaotic behavior on the map (9). One interesting condition is also shown for some values of  $m$ . For  $0 < m < 0.467$ , the map (9) passes through a bista-

bility condition.  $N_0^*$  and  $N_1^*$  are locally asymptotically stable simultaneously, and hence, the solution of the map is sensitive to the initial value. See the Cobweb diagrams in Fig. 6. When  $m = 0.3$ , two nearby initial values are convergent to different fixed points. When the Allee effect increases to  $m = 1$ , the solution converges to a period-2 solution around  $N_0^*$ .

### 5.4 The influence of the order $\alpha$

As the impact of the discretization process, we have a parameter  $\alpha$  on map (9) which is derived from the order of the derivative of the continuous model as the memory effect. Again, we use the parameter set (15) and varying  $\alpha$ . As result, we have a bifurcation diagram and maximum Lyapunov exponents depicted in Fig. 7. The given dynamics are quite similar to the impact of the step size but in different directions. If increasing  $h$  may change the dynamics of  $N_1^*$  from locally asymptotically stable to periodic solution via period-doubling bifurcation, different dynamics direction

**Fig. 4** Cobweb diagrams of the map (9) with parameter set (15)

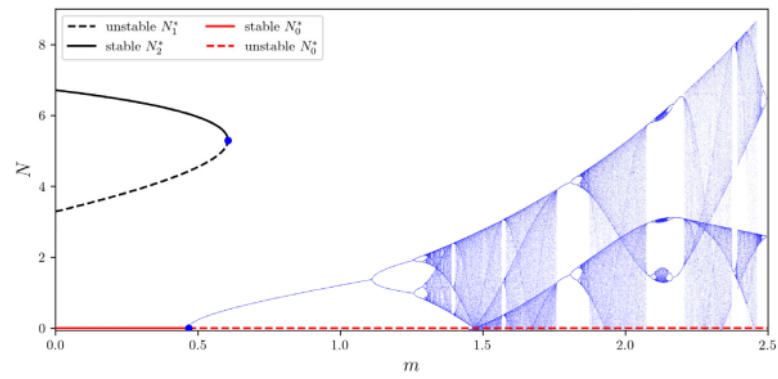


presented by  $\alpha$  where if its value increases, the unstable  $N_1^*$  becomes locally asymptotically stable via period-doubling bifurcation. Some chaotic behavior indicated by positive Lyapunov exponents disappears becomes periodic orbits and is finally convergent to  $N^*$  when  $\alpha$  crosses 0.5708.

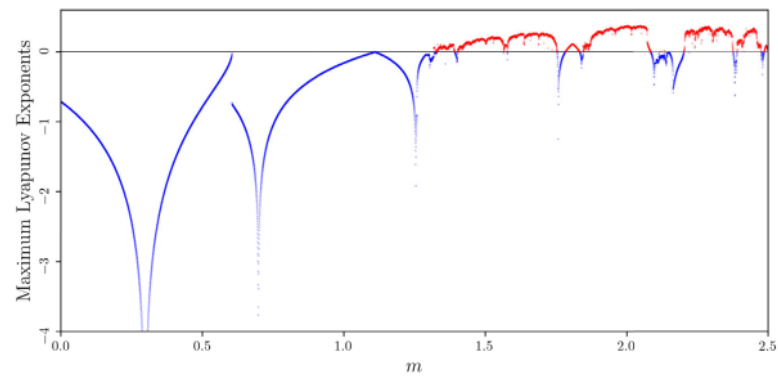
## 40 6 Hybrid control strategy

In this section, a method, namely the hybrid control strategy, is presented. This method is a combination of state feedback and parameter perturbation which is used for controlling bifurcation in a discrete system [48–51]. We first define a map

**Fig. 5** Bifurcation diagram and its corresponding maximum Lyapunov exponents of the map (9) with parameter set (15) and  $0 \leq m \leq 2.5$

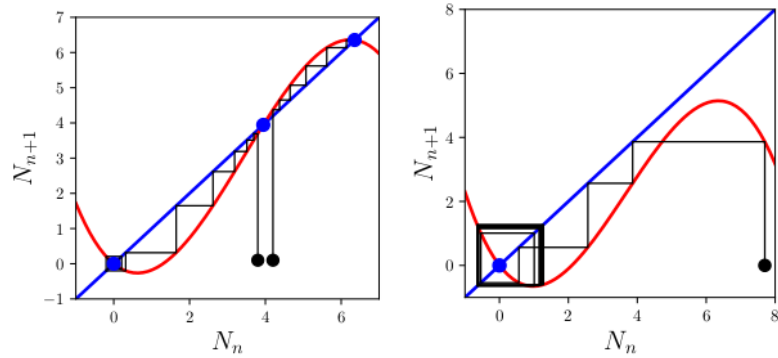


(a) Bifurcation diagram



(b) Maximum Lyapunov exponents

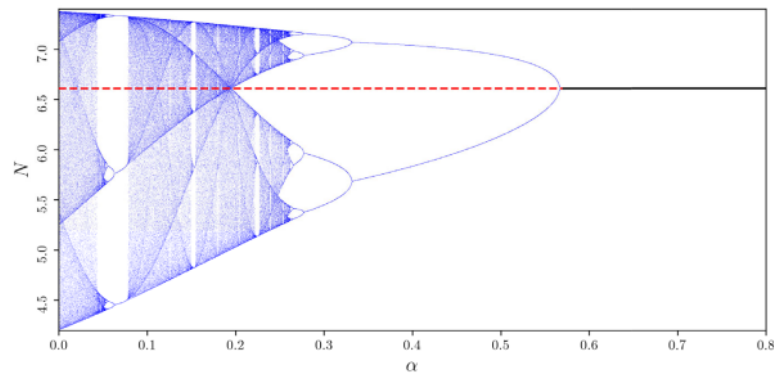
**Fig. 6** Cobweb diagrams of the map (9) with parameter set (15)



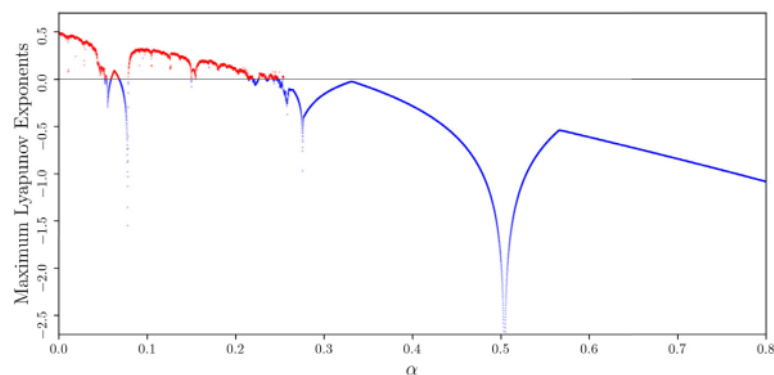
(a)  $m = 0.3$

(b)  $m = 1$

**Fig. 7** Bifurcation diagram and its corresponding maximum Lyapunov exponents of the map (9) with  $\beta = 0.30$  meter set (15) and  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 0.8$



(a) Bifurcation diagram



(b) Maximum Lyapunov exponents

(9) as follows.

$$N_{n+1} = f(N_n, \zeta), \quad (16)$$

where  $N \in \mathbb{R}$  is the population density and  $F(N_n, \zeta)$  is the right-hand side of map (9) with bifurcation parameter  $\zeta \in \mathbb{R}$ . It can be revisited from analytical and numerical results that when  $h$  and  $q$  are varies in some range, the map (9) passes through a series of period-doubling bifurcations where the route to chaos. By obeying state feedback and parameter perturbation to the map (9), we obtain the control map as follows.

$$N_{n+1} = \beta f(N_n, \zeta) + (1 - \beta)N_n = F(N, \beta), \quad (17)$$

where  $\beta \in [0, 1]$  denotes the external control parameter for map (17). We can easily show that the map (9) and (17) have similar fixed points. From Theorem 12,  $N_1^*$  is the fixed point which undergoes a period-doubling bifurcation. Particularly, from Theorem 1 in [51], the  $m$ -periodic orbit of control map (17) is also similar to the original map (9). Now, we will show

that by setting  $\beta$  and varying  $h$ , the occurrence of period-doubling bifurcation can be delayed or even eliminated. From the control map (17), we have  $F'(N_1^*) = 1 - 2\beta \left(\frac{h}{h_1}\right)^\alpha$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 F(N_1^*)}{\partial h \partial N} = \frac{\partial^2 f(N_1^*)}{\partial h \partial N} < 0$ . According to Theorem 5, the control map (17) also undergoes period-doubling bifurcation for the similar fixed point with map (9). The difference lies in the bifurcation point where the map (9) is  $h = h_1$  while the control map (17) is  $h = \frac{h_1}{\sqrt[\alpha]{\beta}}$ . This means if  $\beta$  decreases then the bifurcation point increase which means the series of periodic solutions are delayed. For example, by setting the parameter values as in Eq. 15 and  $\beta = 0.64, 0.76, 0.88, 1$ , the occurrence of bifurcation is delayed and period-3 solutions disappear. See Fig. 8a. We also check the chaotic solution near the period-3 solution. For  $h = 0.887$ , three quite close initial conditions  $N(0) = 6, 6.001, 6.002$  is given and portray the solutions in Fig. 8b. The chaotic interval which occurs for  $\beta = 1$  becomes a periodic solution for  $\beta = 0.76, 0.88$ , and finally, converges to  $N_1^*$  when  $\beta = 0.64$ .



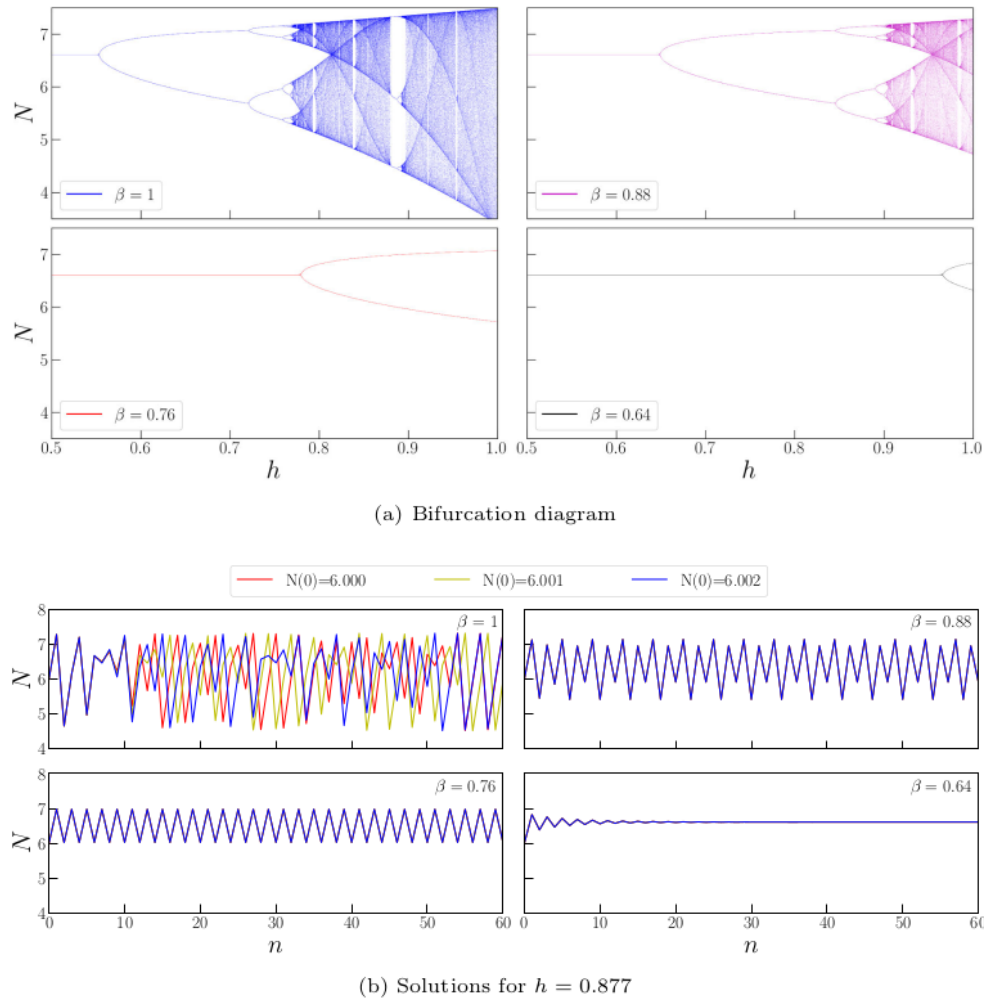


Fig. 8 Bifurcation diagrams of controlled map (17)

## 7 Conclusion

A discrete-time fractional-order logistic model with the Allee effect and proportional harvesting has been constructed and investigated dynamically. The discrete-time model is derived by applying the PWCA method to the Caputo fractional-order modified logistic model. The local stability for each fixed point is successfully investigated completely for hyperbolic and nonhyperbolic fixed points by obeying the stability theorem along with the Schwarzian derivative. Furthermore, it was shown analytically that the obtained discrete-time model exhibits a saddle-node bifurcation as well as period-doubling bifurcation. The key parameter in such bifurcations is the constant of harvesting ( $q$ ) or the step size ( $h$ ). Numerical simulations with varying parameters  $q$  and  $h$  confirm our

analytical results. The dynamics of the map are also studied numerically by varying the Allee threshold ( $m$ ) and the order  $\alpha$  which also give the saddle-node and period-doubling bifurcations. Furthermore, the presented numerical results also showed the existence of period-doubling route chaos which is indicated by the positive Lyapunov exponents and the appearance of period-3 window. We then construct the control based on the hybrid control strategy method. It is shown that the occurrence of period-doubling can be delayed. The occurrence of the chaotic solution is also successfully eliminated when the control parameter is decreased.

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**Data availability** Not applicable.

**Code availability** Not applicable.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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