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# On the System of Three Order Rational Difference <br> Equation 

Guozhuan Hu ${ }^{1^{*}}$<br>${ }^{1}$ Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Huaiyin Institute of Technology, Huaian, Jiangsu 223003,

## Author's contribution

The sole author designed, analyzed and interpreted and prepared the manuscript.
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#### Abstract

This paper is concerned with the local and global asymptotic behavior of positive solution for a system of three order rational difference equations $$
x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n}}{\alpha+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, \quad y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{\beta+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} \quad n=0,1, \cdots
$$ where $\alpha, \beta \in(0, \infty)$, and the initial values $x_{-1}, x_{0} \in(0, \infty), y_{-1}, y_{0} \in(0, \infty)$. Finally, some numerical examples are provided to illustrate theoretical results obtained.


Keywords: Difference equations; equilibrium point; rate of convergence; global asymptotic behavior.
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Difference equations or discrete dynamical systems are diverse fields which impact almost every branch of pure and applied mathematics. Every dynamical system $x_{n+1}=f\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}\right)$ determines a difference equation and vise versa. Recently, there has been great interest in studying difference equations systems. One of the reasons for this is a necessity for some techniques which can be used in investigating equations arising in mathematical models describing real life situations such as population biology [1, 2], economic, probability theory, genetics, psychology, etc. In particular, rational difference equations have appealed more and more scholars due to their wide application. For detail, see $[3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13$, $14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24]$.

Kurbanli [3] studied a three-dimensional system of rational difference equations

$$
\begin{gathered}
x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n-1}}{y_{n} x_{n-1}-1}, y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n-1}}{x_{n} y_{n-1}-1} \\
z_{n+1}=\frac{z_{n-1}}{y_{n} z_{n-1}-1}
\end{gathered}
$$

where the initial conditions are arbitrary real numbers.

Cinar et al. [4] has obtained the positive solution of the difference equation system

$$
x_{n+1}=\frac{m}{y_{n}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{p y_{n}}{x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} .
$$

Cinar [5] has obtained the positive solution of the difference equation system

$$
x_{n+1}=\frac{1}{y_{n}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} .
$$

Also, Cinar [6] has obtained the positive solution of the difference equation system

$$
x_{n+1}=\frac{1}{z_{n}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n}}{x_{n-1}}, z_{n+1}=\frac{1}{x_{n-1}}
$$

Ozban [7] has investigated the positive solutions of the system of rational difference equations

$$
x_{n+1}=\frac{1}{y_{n-k}}, \quad y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{x_{n-m} y_{n-m+k}}
$$

Papaschinopoulos et al. [8] investigated the global behavior for a system of the following two nonlinear difference equations.

$$
\begin{gathered}
x_{n+1}=A+\frac{y_{n}}{x_{n-p}}, \\
y_{n+1}=A+\frac{x_{n}}{y_{n-q}}, n=0,1, \cdots,
\end{gathered}
$$

where $A$ is a positive real number, $p, q$ are positive integers, and $x_{-p}, \cdots, x_{0}, y_{-q}, \cdots, y_{0}$ are positive real numbers.

In 2012, Zhang, Yang and Liu [9] investigated the global behavior for a system of the following third order nonlinear difference equations.
$x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n-2}}{B+y_{n-2} y_{n-1} y_{n}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n-2}}{A+x_{n-2} x_{n-1} x_{n}}$,
where $A, B \in(0, \infty)$, and the initial values $x_{-i}, y_{-i} \in(0, \infty), i=0,1,2$.

Although difference equations are sometimes very simple in their forms, they are extremely difficult to understand thoroughly the behavior of their solutions. In book [25] Kocic and Ladas have studied global behavior of nonlinear difference equations of higher order. Similar nonlinear systems of rational difference equations were investigated (see [26]). Other related results reader can refer $[10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17$, $18,19,20,21,22,23,24]$.

Motivated by above discussion, our goal, in this paper is to investigate the solutions of the two-dimensional system of three order rational nonlinear difference equations in the form

$$
\begin{gather*}
x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n}}{\alpha+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, \\
y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{\beta+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, n=0,1, \cdots . \tag{1.1}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $\alpha, \beta \in(0, \infty)$ and the initial values $x_{-1}, x_{0}, y_{-1}$ and $y_{0} \in(0, \infty)$. Moreover, we have studied the local stability, global stability, boundedness of solutions. We will consider some special cases of (1.1) as applications. Finally, we give some numerical examples.

## 2 MAIN RESULTS

Let $I_{x}, I_{y}$ be some intervals of real number and $f: I_{x}^{2} \times I_{y}^{2} \rightarrow I_{x}, g: I_{x}^{2} \times I_{y}^{2} \rightarrow I_{y}$ be continuously differentiable functions. Then for every initial conditions $\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right) \in I_{x} \times I_{y}(i=-1,0)$, the system of difference equations

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
x_{n+1}=f\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, y_{n}, y_{n-1}\right),  \tag{2.1}\\
y_{n+1}=g\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, y_{n}, y_{n-1}\right),
\end{array} \quad n=0,1,2, \cdots\right.
$$

has a unique solution $\left\{\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)\right\}_{n=-1}^{\infty}$. A point $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \in I_{x} \times I_{y}$ is called an equilibrium point of (2.1) if $\bar{x}=f(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{y}), \bar{y}=g(\bar{x}, \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{y})$, i. e., $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)=(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Definition 2.1. Assume that $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ be a fixed point of (2.1). Then
(i) $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is said to be stable relative to $I_{x} \times I_{y}$ if for every $\varepsilon>0$, there exists $\delta>0$ such that for any initial conditions $\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right) \in I_{x} \times I_{y}(i=-1,0)$, with $\sum_{i=-1}^{0}\left|x_{i}-\bar{x}\right|<\delta, \sum_{i=-1}^{0}\left|y_{i}-\bar{y}\right|<\delta$, implies $\left|x_{n}-\bar{x}\right|<\varepsilon,\left|y_{n}-\bar{y}\right|<\varepsilon$.
(ii) $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is called an attractor relative to $I_{x} \times I_{y}$ if for all $\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right) \in I_{x} \times I_{y}(i=-1,0), \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n}=$ $\bar{x}, \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n}=\bar{y}$.
(iii) $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is called asymptotically stable relative to $I_{x} \times I_{y}$ if it is stable and an attractor.
(iv) Unstable if it is not stable.

Theorem 2.1. [25] Assume that $X(n+1)=$ $F(X(n)), n=0,1, \cdots$, is a system of difference equations and $\bar{X}$ is the equilibrium point of this system i.e., $F(\bar{X})=\bar{X}$. If all eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix $J_{F}$, evaluated at $\bar{X}$ lie inside the open unit disk $|\lambda|<1$, then $\bar{X}$ is locally asymptotically stable. If one of them has modulus greater than one, then $\bar{X}$ is unstable.
Theorem 2.2. Assume that $\alpha<1, \beta<1$. Then the following statements are true.
(i) The equilibrium $(0,0)$ is locally unstable.
(ii) If $\alpha=\beta$, then the system has infinite positive equilibrium points $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ such that $\bar{x} \bar{y}=1-\alpha$ which are locally unstable.
Proof. (i) We can easily obtain that the linearized system of (1.1) about the equilibrium $(0,0)$ is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Phi_{n+1}=D \Phi_{n} \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Phi_{n}=\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, y_{n}, y_{n-1}\right)^{T}$,

$$
D=\left(d_{i j}\right)_{4 \times 4}=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
\frac{1}{\alpha} & 0 & 0 & 0  \tag{2.3}\\
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \frac{1}{\beta} & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0
\end{array}\right)
$$

The characteristic equation of (2.2) is
$f(\lambda)=\lambda^{2}\left(\lambda-\frac{1}{\alpha}\right)\left(\lambda-\frac{1}{\beta}\right)=0$.
This shows that the roots of characteristic equation $\lambda=\frac{1}{\alpha}$ and $\lambda=\frac{1}{\beta}$ lie outside unit disk. So the unique equilibrium $(0,0)$ is locally unstable.
(ii) If $\alpha=\beta$, We can easily obtain that system (1.1) has infinite positive equilibrium points $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ such that $\bar{x} \bar{y}=1-\alpha$. The linearized system about equilibrium point $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ of system (1.1) is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Phi_{n+1}=G \Phi_{n} \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Phi_{n}=\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, y_{n}, y_{n-1}\right)^{T}$,

$$
G=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
1 & \alpha-1 & 0 & -\bar{x}^{2} \\
1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -\bar{y}^{2} & 1 & \beta-1 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0
\end{array}\right)
$$

Let $\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2}, \lambda_{3}, \lambda_{4}$ denote the 4 eigenvalues of Matrix $G$. Let $D=\operatorname{diag}\left(d_{1}, d_{2}, d_{3}, d_{4}\right), d_{i} \neq 0(i=$ $1,2,3,4)$ be a diagonal matrix,
Clearly $D$ is invertible. Computing $D G D^{-1}$, we obtained
$D G D^{-1}=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}1 & \frac{d_{1}}{d_{2}}(\alpha-1) & 0 & -\frac{d_{4}}{d_{1}} \bar{x}^{2} \\ \frac{d_{2}}{d_{1}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{d_{3}}{d_{2}} \bar{y}^{2} & 1 & \frac{d_{3}}{d_{4}}(\beta-1) \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{d_{4}}{d_{3}} & 0\end{array}\right)$
It is well known that $G$ has the same eigenvalues as $D G D^{-1}$, we obtain that

$$
\begin{aligned}
\max _{1 \leq k \leq 4}\left|\lambda_{k}\right|= & \left\|D G D^{-1}\right\| \\
= & \max \left\{d_{2} d_{1}^{-1}, d_{4} d_{3}^{-1}, 1+\frac{d_{1}}{d_{2}}(1-\alpha)+\frac{d_{4}}{d_{1}} \bar{x}^{2}\right. \\
& \left.1+\frac{d_{3}}{d_{4}}(1-\beta)+\frac{d_{3}}{d_{2}} \bar{y}^{2}\right\} \\
> & 1
\end{aligned}
$$

It follows from Theorem 2.1 [25] that the positive equilibrium points $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is locally unstable.

Theorem 2.3. Assume that $\alpha>1, \beta>1$. Then the equilibrium $(0,0)$ is globally asymptotically stable.

Proof. For $\alpha>1, \beta>1$, from (i) of Theorem 2.2, the equilibrium $(0,0)$ is locally asymptotically stable. From (1.1), it is easy to see that every positive solution $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ is bounded, i. e., $0 \leq$ $x_{n} \leq x_{0}, 0 \leq y_{n} \leq y_{0}$. Now, it is sufficient to prove that $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ is decreasing. From (1.1), we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_{n}}=\frac{1}{\alpha+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} \leq \frac{1}{\alpha}<1 \\
& \frac{y_{n+1}}{y_{n}}=\frac{1}{\beta+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} \leq \frac{1}{\beta}<1
\end{aligned}
$$

This implies that the sequences $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ and $\left\{y_{n}\right\}$ are decreasing. Hence, $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n}=$ $0, \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n}=0$. Therefore, the equilibrium $(0,0)$ is globally asymptotically stable.

Theorem 2.4. Assume that $\alpha=\beta=1$. Then the following statements are true
(i) the system (1.1) exist infinite equilibrium points $(0, \bar{y})$ and $(\bar{x}, 0)$
(ii) every positive solution $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ of (1.1) converges $(0,0)$.

Proof. (1) For $\alpha=\beta=1$, we consider the following system

$$
\begin{equation*}
x=\frac{x}{1+x y}, \quad y=\frac{y}{1+x y} \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

It is clear to see that the system (2.6) has infinite equilibrium points $(0, \bar{y})$ and $(\bar{x}, 0)$.
(ii) Since the initial values $x_{0}, x_{-1}, y_{0}, y_{-1}$ are positive real number. It is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.3. we can easily get the positive solution $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ converges the equilibrium $(0,0)$.

## 3 RATE OF CONVERGENCE

In order to study the rate of convergence of positive solutions of (1.1) which converge to equilibrium point $(0,0)$ of this system, first we consider the following results that gives the rate of convergence of solution of a system of difference equations.

$$
\begin{equation*}
X_{n+1}=[A+B(n)] X_{n}, \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $X_{n}$ is $m$ dimensional vector, $A \in C^{m \times m}$ is a constant matrix. $B: Z^{+} \rightarrow C^{m \times m}$ is a matrix function satisfying

$$
\begin{equation*}
\|B(n)\| \rightarrow 0 \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$, where $\|\cdot\|$ is any matrix norm which is associated with the vector norm

$$
\|(x, y)\|=\sqrt{x^{2}+y^{2}}
$$

Proposition 3.1. (Perrons Theorem)[27] Suppose that condition (3.2) holds. If $X_{n}$ is any solution of (3.1), then $X_{n}=0$ for all large $n$ or

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho=\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left\|X_{n+1}\right\|}{\left\|X_{n}\right\|} \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

exists and is equal to the modulus of one of the eigenvalues of matrix $A$.

Proposition 3.2. [27] Suppose that condition (3.2) holds. If $X_{n}$ is any solution of (3.1), then $X_{n}=0$ for all large $n$ or

$$
\begin{equation*}
\rho=\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left\|X_{n+1}\right\|} \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

exists and is equal to the modulus of one of the eigenvalues of matrix $A$.

Let $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ be an arbitrary positive solution of system (1.1) such that $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n}=$ $0, \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n}=0$. It follows from (1.1) that
$x_{n+1}-0=\frac{x_{n}}{\alpha+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}=\frac{1}{\alpha+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} x_{n}$
and
$y_{n+1}-0=\frac{y_{n}}{\beta+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}=\frac{1}{\beta+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} y_{n}$
Let $E_{n}^{1}=x_{n}-0, E_{n}^{2}=y_{n}-0$, then we have
$E_{n+1}^{1}=A_{n} E_{n}^{1}+B_{n} E_{n}^{2}, \quad E_{n+1}^{2}=C_{n} E_{n}^{1}+D_{n} E_{n}^{2}$.
where

$$
\begin{gathered}
A_{n}=\frac{1}{\alpha+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, B_{n}=0, C_{n}=0 \\
D_{n}=\frac{1}{\beta+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}} .
\end{gathered}
$$

Moreover

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} A_{n}=\frac{1}{\alpha}, \quad \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} D_{n}=\frac{1}{\beta}
$$

Now the limiting system of error terms can be written as

$$
\binom{E_{n+1}^{1}}{E_{n+1}^{2}}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1 / \alpha & 0 \\
0 & 1 / \beta
\end{array}\right)\binom{E_{n}^{1}}{E_{n}^{2}}
$$

which is similar to linearized system of (1.1) about the equilibrium point $(0,0)$.

Using Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 3.2, we have following result.

Theorem 3.1. Assume that $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ be a positive solution of (1.1) such that $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n}=$ $0, \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n}=0$, then the error vector $E_{n}=$ $\left(E_{n}^{1}, E_{n}^{2}\right)^{T}$ of every solution of (1.1) satisfies the following asymptotic relations

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left\|E_{n}\right\|}=\left|\lambda_{1,2} F_{J}(0,0)\right|, \\
& \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left\|E_{n+1}\right\|}{\left\|E_{n}\right\|}=\left|\lambda_{1,2} F_{J}(0,0)\right|,
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\lambda_{1,2} F_{J}(0,0)=\frac{1}{\alpha} \quad$ or $\quad \frac{1}{\beta}$ are the characteristic of Jacobian matrix $F_{J}(0,0)$.

## 4 NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

In order to illustrate the results of the previous sections and to support our theoretical discussions, some interesting numerical examples are considered in this section. These examples represent different types of qualitative behavior of solutions to the system of nonlinear difference equations.
Example 4.1. If the initial conditions $x_{0}=$ $0.7, x_{-1}=0.8, y_{0}=0.9, y_{-1}=0.5$, and $\alpha=$ $1.4, \beta=1.2$, we have the following system
$x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n}}{1.4+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{1.2+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}$.
It is clear that $\alpha>1, \beta>1$. Then the equilibrium $(0,0)$ is globally asymptotically stable.(Using MATLAB software, See Theorem 2.3, Fig. 1)

Example 4.2. If the initial conditions $x_{0}=$ $9.8, x_{-1}=7.2, y_{0}=9.6, y_{-1}=6.2$, and $\alpha=$ $0.8, \beta=0.7$, we have the following system
$x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n}}{0.8+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{0.7+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}$
It is clear that $\alpha<1, \beta<1$. Then equilibrium $(0,0)$ and ( $\bar{x}, \bar{y}$ ) are unstable.(Using MATLAB software, see Theorem 2.2, Fig. 2)


Fig. 1. The fixed point $(0,0)$ is globally asymptotically stable


Fig. 2. The fixed point $(0,0)$ and $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ is unstable


Fig. 3. the positive solution $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ of system (1.1) converges the equilibrium ( 0,0 ). Example 4.3. If the initial conditions $x_{0}=$ $0.7, x_{-1}=0.8, y_{0}=0.6, y_{-1}=0.3$, and $\alpha=\beta=$ 1 , we have the following system
$x_{n+1}=\frac{x_{n}}{1+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}, y_{n+1}=\frac{y_{n}}{1+x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}$.

It is clear that $\alpha=\beta=1$. Then the positive solution $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ of system (1.1) converges the equilibrium $(0,0)$. (Using MATLAB software, see Theorem 2.4, Fig. 3)

## 5 CONCLUSION

This paper is concerned with the behavior of positive solution to system (1.1) under some conditions. The results obtained are as follows:
(i) If $\alpha>1$ and $\beta>1$, the system (1.1) has an unique equilibrium $(0,0)$ which is globally asymptotically stable. (ii) If $\alpha<1$ and $\beta<1$, then system (1.1) has equilibrium $(0,0)$ which is unstable. Furthermore if $\alpha=\beta<1$, then system has infinite positive equilibrium ( $\bar{x}, \bar{y}$ ) such that $\bar{x} \bar{y}=1-\alpha$ which are locally unstable. (iii) If $\alpha=\beta=1$, system (1.1) has infinite equilibrium point $(0, \bar{y})$ and $(\bar{x}, 0)$ and every positive solution $\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ converges equilibrium point $(0,0)$.

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## COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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[^0]:    *Corresponding author: E-mail: hugzmath@163.com;

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