



---

*Research article*

## **Fuzzy optimal harvesting of a prey-predator model in the presence of toxicity with prey refuge under imprecise parameters**

**Shuqi Zhai, Qinglong Wang\* and Ting Yu**

School of Mathematics and Statistics, Hubei Minzu University, Enshi 445000, China

\* **Correspondence:** Email: wangqinglong125@sina.com; Tel: +86-18986850008.

**Abstract:** The objective of this paper is to investigate the dynamic behaviors of a prey-predator model incorporating the effect of toxic substances with prey refuge under imprecise parameters. We handle these biological parameters in model by using interval numbers. The existence together with stability of biological equilibria are obtained. We also analyze the existence conditions of the bionomic equilibria. The optimal harvesting strategy is explored by taking into account instantaneous annual discount rate under fuzzy conditions. Three numeric examples are performed to illustrate our analytical findings.

**Keywords:** prey-predator model; imprecise parameter; refuge; toxicity; equilibria; stability; fuzzy optimal harvesting

---

### **1. Introduction**

The study of theoretical ecology originated from Lotka [1] and Volterra [2]. In the long run, over-exploitation of living resources such as fisheries and forestry will threaten biodiversity and put humanity in a very alarming situation. Bioeconomic models involving scientific management of renewable resource exploitation have been drawing attention to the interest of many researchers [3–7] and the references therein. For example, Clark [3,4] set the foundation in this work domain. And Kar and Chaudhuri [5] investigated the existence of bioeconomic equilibrium as well as the optimal harvesting policy of a multispecies harvesting model with interference. He and Zhou [6] presented an optimal harvesting problem for a class of hierarchical age-structured model. Lately, Wang [7] established a predator-prey model with prey refuge in fuzzy environment, simultaneously investigated the problem on fuzzy optimal harvesting.

In recent years, the influence of toxicants on ecosystem have turned into a major environmental problem. Mathematical modelling for handling such problems began with the work of Hallam and Clark [8], Dubey and Hussain [9], Kar and Chaudhuri [10]. Since toxin released by one species not only affects the growth of species themselves but also may impact that of the other species, majority of

these models manage single species or two species models in general. Maynard-Smith [11] introduced the effect of toxin in a Lotka-Volterra competition model due to each species producing toxin to the other only when the other exists. Chattopadhyay et al. [12] investigated a mathematical model in view of field observations in the Ridiga area of Tulsia in the bay of West Bengal, India and indicated that toxin producing can be used as a biological control of planktonic blooms. As is known, toxicity may reduce the amount of population while refuge often increases the survival rate of prey, many preys spend most of their lives nearby or in refuges, such as holes, crevices, thick vegetation or shells, to avoid predation. The concept of prey refuge has been concerned by scholars since Maynard-Smith [11] and Gause et al. [13] introduced a quantity  $x_R$  on prey involving refuges into the models. Extensive literature shows that prey refuges have vital impact on population dynamics, see González-Olivares and Ramos-Jiliberto [14], Kar [15], Li et al. [16], Han et al. [17], Qi and Meng [18], Lu and Xia [19] in details.

Note that the biological parameters in most literature are fixed constants. Nevertheless, any species will unavoidably be influenced by the complexity of ecosystem itself. As a matter of fact, in real ecosystem many biological parameters may fluctuate collaboratively with the periodically changing environment which plays an vital effect on population growth, maturity, predation, interspecific competition etc. These uncertainties mainly come from both natural factor and human factor, such as forest fire, earthquake, changing climate, measuring error, limitations of tools, and missing experimental data. The dynamic behaviors caused by these phenomenon can be investigated through the model incorporating with imprecise biological parameters. To deal with the issue, several approaches such as interval approach, fuzzy approach and stochastic approach have been adopted by researchers to depict the imprecise parameters. To the best of our knowledge, stochastic approach is widely used by Liu and Bai [20, 21], Liu et al [22], Qi et al. [23], Xie et al. [24], Zhang [25, 26]. The imprecise parameters in stochastic approach are taken the place of random variables possessing known probability distributions, while that in fuzzy approach are substituted by fuzzy sets or fuzzy numbers with known membership functions. Bassanezi et al. [27] laid the foundation by employing fuzzy differential equations to investigate the stability of dynamical system. Mizukoshi et al. [28], on account of initial conditions under fuzzy conditions, discussed the stability of fuzzy dynamical systems. Bede and Gal [29], based on generalized differentiability, considered the solutions of fuzzy differential equations. Guo et al. [30] applied fuzzy impulsive functional differential equations in Gompertz model and logistic model. Due to the difficulties for constructing a suitable probability distribution or membership function, Pal et al. [31] first introduce interval approach into an imprecise prey-predator harvesting model. Later, Sharma and Samanta [32] came up with a two species competition harvesting model with interval parameters. Pal et al. [33] considered parameter uncertainty in biomathematical model described by two-prey one-predator system with mutualism. In this paper, both interval approach and fuzzy approach are considered to characterize the parameters. We assume biological parameters involved in our model are imprecise in nature and depicted by interval number. Since the instantaneous annual rate of discount is the difference of the inflation and discount rates which are fuzzy in economic perspective, we consider it as fuzzy and expressed by trapezoidal fuzzy number due to intuitive, use friendly, and computationally simple in promoting representation.

Motivated by the model construction in [33], we analogously care to establish a two competing and continuously harvested preys and one predator depending on two preys. Different from model (1)

in [33], we further consider the following three aspects: the refuges on preys are introduced to protect the preys from predation; the effects of toxic substances from environmental point of view on prey and predator as the hot topic of the moment are considered in our model; not only predator mortality but also intraspecific competition are taken into account which makes dynamic behaviors become more complicated. Based on the above, our model is established as follows

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx_1}{dt} = r_1x_1\left(1 - \frac{x_1}{K_1}\right) - \alpha_1x_1x_2 - c_1(1 - m_1)x_1y - \gamma_1x_1^3 - q_1E_1x_1, \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} = r_2x_2\left(1 - \frac{x_2}{K_2}\right) - \alpha_2x_1x_2 - c_2(1 - m_2)x_2y - q_2E_2x_2, \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = -dy - sy^2 + e_1(1 - m_1)x_1y + e_2(1 - m_2)x_2y - \gamma_2y^2, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

with initial value  $x_1(0) > 0$ ,  $x_2(0) > 0$ ,  $y(0) > 0$ . Here,  $x_1(t)$ ,  $x_2(t)$  and  $y(t)$  denote the biomass densities of two competing preys and one predator at time  $t$ .  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  represent the intrinsic growth rates of two preys, and  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  are the carrying capacity of two preys, respectively.  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  stand for the interspecific competition between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ .  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$  are the coefficients of predation and  $e_1$ ,  $e_2$  are the coefficients of conversion.  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  severally denote the refuge of two preys.  $d$  acts as the mortality rate of predator and  $s$  shows the intra-specific competition rate of predator.  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  were regarded as the coefficients of toxicity to the prey and predator, respectively. Since prey is directly infected by some external toxic substances, while predator that feed on these infected preys is indirectly affected by the toxic substances, we call  $0 < \gamma_2 < \gamma_1 < 1$ . These terms for toxicity  $\gamma_1x_1^3$  and  $\gamma_2y^2$  are first proposed by Das et al. [34].  $q_1, q_2$  and  $E_1, E_2$  severally denote the catchability coefficients and harvesting efforts of two preys, and also the catch rate functions  $q_1E_1x_1$  and  $q_2E_2x_2$  satisfy the catch-per-unit-effort hypothesis [3]. We consider, in this paper, parameters involved are replaced by interval numbers because of the imprecision of the parameters. Again when studying the optimal harvesting strategy of the model, the instantaneous annual discount rate is considered as fuzziness.

The rest of this paper is emerged as follows. Section 2 presents the formulation of model with interval-valued parameters. The positivity and boundedness of model together with the existence of biological equilibria are discussed in Sections 3 and 4, respectively. In Section 5, we analyze the stability of all biological equilibria. Also the existence conditions of bionomic equilibria in four cases are obtained in Section 6. In Section 7, considering the fuzzy inflation net discount rate as a trapezoidal fuzzy number, we investigate the optimal harvesting in fuzzy environment. Three numerical examples and a brief summary are displayed in Sections 8 and 9, respectively. In the end, Appendices A, B and C show some definitions and a method which will be used in previous sections.

## 2. Formulation of model

In classical deterministic differential model, the parameters, for instance the rates of species growth and death, are identified as fixed constants. Nevertheless, the values of the parameters do not always remain fixed on account of the lack of sufficient information or inaccurate understanding of ecological phenomenon. Here we consider model (1.1) has imprecise parameters, and replace the fixed positive constant  $r_i$ ,  $\alpha_i$ ,  $c_i$ ,  $e_i$ ,  $\gamma_i$ ,  $d$ ,  $s$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) by interval-valued parameters  $\bar{r}_i$ ,  $\bar{\alpha}_i$ ,  $\bar{c}_i$ ,  $\bar{d}$ ,  $\bar{s}$ ,  $\bar{e}_i$ ,  $\bar{\gamma}_i$ , respectively

(see Appendix A). Thus model (1.1) can be represented as:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx_1}{dt} = \bar{r}_1 x_1 - \frac{\bar{r}_1}{K_1} x_1^2 - \bar{\alpha}_1 x_1 x_2 - \bar{c}_1(1 - m_1)x_1 y - \bar{\gamma}_1 x_1^3 - q_1 E_1 x_1, \\ \frac{dx_2}{dt} = \bar{r}_2 x_2 - \frac{\bar{r}_2}{K_2} x_2^2 - \bar{\alpha}_2 x_1 x_2 - \bar{c}_2(1 - m_2)x_2 y - q_2 E_2 x_2, \\ \frac{dy}{dt} = -\bar{d}y - \bar{s}y^2 + \bar{e}_1(1 - m_1)x_1 y + \bar{e}_2(1 - m_2)x_2 y - \bar{\gamma}_2 y^2, \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\bar{r}_i \in [r_{il}, r_{iu}]$ ,  $\bar{\alpha}_i \in [\alpha_{il}, \alpha_{iu}]$ ,  $\bar{c}_i \in [c_{il}, c_{iu}]$ ,  $\bar{e}_i \in [e_{il}, e_{iu}]$ ,  $\bar{\gamma}_i \in [\gamma_{il}, \gamma_{iu}]$ ,  $\bar{d} \in [d_l, d_u]$ , and  $\bar{s} \in [s_l, s_u]$ , and all above interval-valued parameters are covered in the first quadrant.

Similar to the conversion method in [31], we can write model (2.1) as the following form for  $p \in [0, 1]$ :

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx_1(t; p)}{dt} = r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p x_1 - \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{K_1} x_1^2 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1)x_1 y - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^3 - q_1 E_1 x_1, \\ \frac{dx_2(t; p)}{dt} = r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p x_2 - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{K_2} x_2^2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 x_2 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2)x_2 y - q_2 E_2 x_2, \\ \frac{dy(t; p)}{dt} = -d_l^p d_u^{1-p} y - s_l^p s_u^{1-p} y^2 + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)x_1 y + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)x_2 y - \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p} y^2. \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

Clearly, if we neglect the prey refuges and toxicity effect, and the mortality rate of the predator, model (2.2) can be simplified as model (3) in [33]. Similarly, we do not consider the toxicity effect and the prey species  $x_2$ , while consider the harvesting of predator, then model (2.2) turns into system (5) in [35].

### 3. Positivity and boundedness

This section guarantees the positive properties and boundedness of model (2.2) which are necessary preparation for the subsequent results. Therefore, the theorem is proposed as follows.

**Theorem 3.1.** Any solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), y(t))$  of model (2.2) is positive and bounded for all  $t > 0$  if initial conditions  $x_1(0) > 0$ ,  $x_2(0) > 0$  and  $y(0) > 0$  exist.

*Proof.* The right side of model (2.2) satisfies continuity and Local Lipschitz condition on  $C$ , the unique solution  $(x_1(t), x_2(t), y(t))$  of model (2.2) meeting initial conditions  $x_1(0) > 0$ ,  $x_2(0) > 0$ ,  $y(0) > 0$  exist on  $[0, \xi]$ , where  $0 < \xi < +\infty$ . From model (2.2), we gain the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1(t) &= x_1(0) \left[ \exp \int_0^t \left\{ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{K_1} x_1 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1)y - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 - q_1 E_1 \right\} ds \right] > 0, \\ x_2(t) &= x_2(0) \left[ \exp \int_0^t \left\{ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{K_2} x_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2)y - q_2 E_2 \right\} ds \right] > 0, \\ y(t) &= y(0) \left[ \exp \int_0^t \left\{ -d_l^p d_u^{1-p} - (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p})y + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)x_1 + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)x_2 \right\} ds \right] > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

which together with initial conditions imply the positivity of model (2.2) for all  $t > 0$ . Under the positivity of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $y$ , we have

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} \leq x_i \left( r_{il}^{1-p} r_{iu}^p - \frac{r_{il}^p r_{iu}^{1-p}}{K_i} x_i \right), \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (3.2)$$

It is easy to see that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} x_i(t) \leq \frac{r_{il}^{1-p} r_{iu}^p}{r_{il}^p r_{iu}^{1-p}} K_i \equiv k_i.$$

Then we get the following inequation from the third equation of (2.2)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dt} &\leq y [e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1 + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2 - (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y] \\ &\leq y [e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) k_1 + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) k_2 - (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

We obtain that

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) \leq \frac{e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) k_1 + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) k_2}{s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}}.$$

The solution of model (2.2) is bounded. Therefore, the theorem is proved.  $\square$

#### 4. Existence of biological equilibria

In this part, the existence of all possible biological equilibria of model (2.2) are discussed in detail. For convenience, some notations are introduced in the following

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi &= \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p}, \quad \Omega = s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}, \\ \Xi_1 &= d_{1l}^p d_{1u}^{1-p} / (e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)), \quad \Phi_1 = c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_1) (1 - m_2), \\ \Xi_2 &= d_{2l}^p d_{2u}^{1-p} / (e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)), \quad \Phi_2 = c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) (1 - m_2), \\ \Gamma_1 &= r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p} / K_1, \quad \Upsilon_1 = r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - q_1 E_1, \quad \Lambda_1 = c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)^2 / \Omega, \\ \Gamma_2 &= r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p} / K_2, \quad \Upsilon_2 = r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - q_2 E_2, \quad \Lambda_2 = c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)^2 / \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

Similar to the concept of *BTP* (biotechnical productivity) in [31], we also define *BTP* representing the ratio of biotic potential to catchability coefficient, i.e.,  $BTP = r_l^{1-p} r_u^p / q$ .

By a tedious calculation model (2.2) exists the following biological equilibria:

- (1) Trivial equilibrium  $P_1(0, 0, 0)$  is obviously existing.
- (2) Axial equilibrium  $P_2(x_1^\theta, 0, 0)$ , where  $x_1^\theta = \left( -\Gamma_1 + \sqrt{\Gamma_1^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_1} \right) / (2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p})$  exists if  $\Upsilon_1 > 0$  (i.e.,  $E_1 < (BTP)_{x_1}$ ) holds.
- (3) Axial equilibrium  $P_3(0, x_2^\psi, 0)$ , where  $x_2^\psi = \Upsilon_2 / \Gamma_2$  exists if  $\Upsilon_2 > 0$  (i.e.,  $E_2 < (BTP)_{x_2}$ ) holds.
- (4) Axial equilibrium  $P_4(x_1^\xi, 0, y^\xi)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^\xi &= \left[ -(\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1) + \sqrt{(\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1)^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} (\Xi_1 \Lambda_1 + \Upsilon_1)} \right] / (2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}), \\ y^\xi &= e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) (x_1^\xi - \Xi_1) / \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

exists if  $\Upsilon_1 > \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Xi_1^2 + \Gamma_1 \Xi_1$  is satisfied.

(5) Axial equilibrium  $P_5(0, x_2^{\eta}, y^{\eta})$ , where

$$x_2^{\eta} = (\Xi_2\Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2)/(\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) \text{ and } y^{\eta} = e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)(x_2^{\eta} - \Xi_2)/\Omega, \quad (4.3)$$

exists if  $\Upsilon_2 > \Gamma_2\Xi_2$  is satisfied.

(6) Axial equilibrium  $P_6(x_1^{\nu}, x_2^{\nu}, 0)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^{\nu} &= \left[ (\Psi - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2) + \sqrt{(\Psi - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2)^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2 (\Upsilon_1\Gamma_2 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2)} \right] / (2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2), \\ x_2^{\nu} &= (\Upsilon_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1^{\nu}) / \Gamma_2, \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

exists if either

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi &> \Gamma_1\Gamma_2, \quad (\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})^2 \Upsilon_1 < \Upsilon_2 (\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Gamma_1), \\ (\Psi - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2)^2 &\geq 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2 (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 - \Upsilon_1\Gamma_2) \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\Psi \leq \Gamma_1\Gamma_2, \quad \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 \Psi < (\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})^2 \Gamma_2 \Upsilon_1 < \Gamma_2 \Upsilon_2 (\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Gamma_1)$$

hold.

(7) Axial equilibrium  $P_7(x_1^{\xi}, x_2^{\xi}, 0)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^{\xi} &= \left[ (\Psi - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2) - \sqrt{(\Psi - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2)^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2 (\Upsilon_1\Gamma_2 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2)} \right] / (2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2), \\ x_2^{\xi} &= (\Upsilon_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1^{\xi}) / \Gamma_2, \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

exists if the following conditions are satisfied

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi &> \Gamma_1\Gamma_2, \quad (\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})^2 \Upsilon_1 > \Upsilon_2 (\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Gamma_1), \\ (\Psi - \Gamma_1\Gamma_2)^2 &\geq 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2 (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 - \Upsilon_1\Gamma_2) > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

(8) Interior equilibrium  $P_8(x_1^{\theta}, x_2^{\theta}, y^{\theta})$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^{\theta} &= \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} c}}{2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}}, \quad x_2^{\theta} = \frac{-(\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega)x_1^{\theta} + (\Xi_2\Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2)\Omega}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2)\Omega}, \\ y^{\theta} &= \frac{[e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)\Gamma_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)]x_1^{\theta} + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)(\Upsilon_2 - \Xi_2\Gamma_2)}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2)\Omega}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

In addition,  $b$  and  $c$  are expressed as

$$b = \frac{(\Gamma_1\Gamma_2 + \Gamma_1\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2\Lambda_1 - \Psi)\Omega - (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Phi_1)}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2)\Omega} \quad (4.8)$$

and

$$c = \frac{\Phi_1\Upsilon_2 - \Phi_1\Xi_2\Gamma_2 + (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2 + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Xi_2\Lambda_2 - \Gamma_2\Upsilon_1 - \Lambda_2\Upsilon_1)\Omega}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2)\Omega}. \quad (4.9)$$

The equilibrium  $P_8$  exists if (III) and (IV) hold, and simultaneously one of the conditions (I) and (II) is satisfied

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(I)} \quad &b \geq 0, \quad c < 0, \quad \text{(II)} \quad b < 0, \quad b^2 \geq 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} c, \quad \text{(III)} \quad (\Xi_2\Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2)\Omega > (\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega)x_1^{\theta}, \\ \text{(IV)} \quad &[e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)\Gamma_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)]x_1^{\theta} + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)(\Upsilon_2 - \Xi_2\Gamma_2) > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

(9) Interior equilibrium  $P_9(x_1^S, x_2^S, y^S)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^S &= \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} c}}{2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}}, & x_2^S &= \frac{-(\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega)x_1^S + (\Xi_2 \Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2) \Omega}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2) \Omega}, \\ y^S &= \frac{[e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) \Gamma_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)]x_1^S + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) (\Upsilon_2 - \Xi_2 \Gamma_2)}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2) \Omega}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

and  $b, c$  are defined in (4.8) and (4.9). The existence of equilibrium  $P_9$  is obvious if the conditions (I') – (III') are satisfied

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(I')} & b < 0, \quad c > 0, \quad b^2 \geq 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} c, \quad \text{(II')} \quad (\Xi_2 \Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2) \Omega > (\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega)x_1^S, \\ \text{(III')} & [e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) \Gamma_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)]x_1^S + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) (\Upsilon_2 - \Xi_2 \Gamma_2) > 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

**Remark 4.1.** Model (2.2) has only a unique interior equilibrium  $P^*(x_1^*, x_2^*, y^*)$  if the following conditions (I''), (III''), (IV'') or (II''), (III''), (IV'') are satisfied

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(I'')} & b \geq 0, \quad c < 0, \quad \text{(II'')} \quad b = -2\sqrt{\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} c}, \quad c > 0, \quad \text{(III'')} \quad (\Xi_2 \Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2) \Omega > (\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega)x_1^*, \\ \text{(IV'')} & [e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) \Gamma_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)]x_1^* + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) (\Upsilon_2 - \Xi_2 \Gamma_2) > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} x_1^* &= \frac{-b}{2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}}, & x_2^* &= \frac{-(\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega)x_1^* + (\Xi_2 \Lambda_2 + \Upsilon_2) \Omega}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2) \Omega}, \\ y^* &= \frac{[e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) \Gamma_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)]x_1^* + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) (\Upsilon_2 - \Xi_2 \Gamma_2)}{(\Lambda_2 + \Gamma_2) \Omega}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

## 5. Stability analysis

In this section, by applying Jacobian matrix we analyze the local stability of all biological equilibria, and then investigate interior equilibrium  $P_8$  is globally stable through constructing Lyapunov functions. Here, the notations in (4.1) are also used in this part.

### 5.1. Local stability

The Jacobian matrix of model (2.2) is given by

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} M_{11} & -\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 & -c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 \\ -\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 & M_{22} & -c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 \\ e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y & e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y & M_{33} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5.1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} M_{11} &= r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - 2r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p} \frac{x_1}{K_1} - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y - 3\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 - q_1 E_1, \\ M_{22} &= r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - 2r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p} \frac{x_2}{K_2} - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y - q_2 E_2, \\ M_{33} &= -d_l^p d_u^{1-p} - 2s_l^p s_u^{1-p} y + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1 + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2 - 2\gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p} y. \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

We analyze the local stability conditions of all biological equilibria displayed in Section 4.

**Theorem 5.1.** Assume that all equilibria exist, the following conclusions are true:

(1) Trivial equilibrium  $P_1(0, 0, 0)$  is locally asymptotically stable under the following circumstances

$$(BTP)_{x_1} - E_1 < 0 \text{ and } (BTP)_{x_2} - E_2 < 0. \quad (5.3)$$

(2) Axial equilibrium  $P_2(x_1^\theta, 0, 0)$  is locally asymptotically stable when

$$(BTP)_{x_2} - E_2 < \frac{\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p}}{q_2} x_1^\theta < \frac{\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Xi_1}{q_2}. \quad (5.4)$$

(3) Axial equilibrium  $P_3(0, x_2^\psi, 0)$  is locally asymptotically stable in case of

$$(BTP)_{x_1} - E_1 < \frac{\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p}}{q_1} x_2^\psi < \frac{\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Xi_2}{q_1}. \quad (5.5)$$

(4) Axial equilibrium  $P_4(x_1^\xi, 0, y^\xi)$  is locally asymptotically stable in the situation that

$$(BTP)_{x_2} - E_2 < \frac{\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1^\xi + c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y^\xi}{q_2}. \quad (5.6)$$

(5) Axial equilibrium  $P_5(0, x_2^\eta, y^\eta)$  is locally asymptotically stable provided that

$$(BTP)_{x_1} - E_1 < \frac{\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2^\eta + c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y^\eta}{q_1}. \quad (5.7)$$

(6) Axial equilibrium  $P_6(x_1^\gamma, x_2^\gamma, 0)$  is locally asymptotically stable on condition that

$$e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1^\gamma + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2^\gamma < d_l^p d_u^{1-p} \quad (5.8)$$

and  $P_7(x_1^t, x_2^t, 0)$  is unstable.

(7) Interior equilibrium  $P_8(x_1^\theta, x_2^\theta, y^\theta)$  is locally asymptotically stable supposing that

$$\vartheta_1 \vartheta_2 > \vartheta_3, \quad (5.9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta_1 &= (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) x_1^\theta + \Gamma_2 x_2^\theta + \Omega y^\theta, \\ \vartheta_2 &= [\Gamma_2 (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) - \Psi] x_1^\theta x_2^\theta + [(\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) + \Lambda_1] \Omega x_1^\theta y^\theta + (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) \Omega x_2^\theta y^\theta, \\ \vartheta_3 &= [(\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) \Omega + \Gamma_2 \Lambda_1 \Omega - (\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Phi_1 + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Phi_2) - \Psi \Omega] x_1^\theta x_2^\theta y^\theta, \end{aligned} \quad (5.10)$$

and  $P_9(x_1^s, x_2^s, y^s)$  is unstable.

*Proof.* (1) Three eigenvalues of the variational matrix  $M(0, 0, 0)$  represent as follows

$$\lambda_1^1 = -d_l^p d_u^{1-p} < 0, \quad \lambda_1^2 = r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - q_1 E_1 \text{ and } \lambda_1^3 = r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - q_2 E_2,$$

then  $P_1$  is locally asymptotically stable under the circumstances

$$r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - q_1 E_1 < 0 \text{ and } r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - q_2 E_2 < 0,$$



i.e.,

$$(BTP)_{x_1} - E_1 < 0 \text{ and } (BTP)_{x_2} - E_2 < 0.$$

We omit the proofs of (2), (3), (4) and (5) which are similar to that of (1).

(6) One eigenvalue of variational matrix  $M(x_1^y, x_2^y, 0)$  is expressed as

$$\lambda_6^1 = -d_1^p d_u^{1-p} + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1^y + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2^y.$$

Other two eigenvalues of variational matrix  $M(x_1^y, x_2^y, 0)$  are two roots of quadratic equation

$$\lambda^2 + [(\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^y) x_1^y + \Gamma_2 x_2^y] \lambda + [\Gamma_2 (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^y) - \Psi] x_1^y x_2^y = 0, \quad (5.11)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} &(\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^y) x_1^y + \Gamma_2 x_2^y > 0, \\ &\Gamma_2 (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^y) - \Psi = \sqrt{(\Psi - \Gamma_1 \Gamma_2)^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2 (\Upsilon_1 \Gamma_2 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Upsilon_2)} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

By Routh-Hurwitz condition  $P_6$  is locally asymptotically stable provided that

$$e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1^y + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2^y < d_1^p d_u^{1-p}.$$

Analogously, we proof  $P_7(x_1^t, x_2^t, 0)$  is unstable.

(7) By simple calculation, we get the following determinant

$$|\lambda E - M| = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda - M_{11} & \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 & c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 \\ \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 & \lambda - M_{22} & c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 \\ -e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y & -e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y & \lambda - M_{33} \end{vmatrix}. \quad (5.12)$$

Then substituting interior equilibrium  $P_8(x_1^\theta, x_2^\theta, y^\theta)$  of model (2.2) and simplifying  $M_{11}$ ,  $M_{22}$  and  $M_{33}$ , it yields that

$$|\lambda E - M(x_1^\theta, x_2^\theta, y^\theta)| = \begin{vmatrix} \lambda + (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) x_1^\theta & \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta & c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1^\theta \\ \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2^\theta & \lambda + \Gamma_2 x_2^\theta & c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2^\theta \\ -e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y^\theta & -e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y^\theta & \lambda + \Omega y^\theta \end{vmatrix}.$$

The form of characteristic equation is written as

$$\lambda^3 + \vartheta_1 \lambda^2 + \vartheta_2 \lambda + \vartheta_3 = 0,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta_1 &= (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) x_1^\theta + \Gamma_2 x_2^\theta + \Omega y^\theta > 0, \\ \vartheta_2 &= [\Gamma_2 (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) - \Psi] x_1^\theta x_2^\theta + [(\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) + \Lambda_1] \Omega x_1^\theta y^\theta + (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) \Omega x_2^\theta y^\theta, \\ \vartheta_3 &= [(\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) (\Gamma_1 + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) \Omega + \Gamma_2 \Lambda_1 \Omega - (\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Phi_1 + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \Phi_2) - \Psi \Omega] x_1^\theta x_2^\theta y^\theta \\ &= \sqrt{b^2 - 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} c (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) \Omega x_1^\theta x_2^\theta y^\theta} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Routh-Hurwitz condition  $P_8(x_1^\theta, x_2^\theta, y^\theta)$  is locally asymptotically stable if  $\vartheta_1 \vartheta_2 > \vartheta_3$ . Also, we demonstrate the unstability of  $P_9(x_1^s, x_2^s, y^s)$  with the same method.  $\square$

## 5.2. Global stability

Next, let us consider the global stability of nontrivial equilibrium  $P_8$ . The appropriate Lyapunov function is constructed as follows

$$V(x_1, x_2, y) = x_1 - x_1^\theta - x_1^\theta \ln\left(\frac{x_1}{x_1^\theta}\right) + l_1\left[x_2 - x_2^\theta - x_2^\theta \ln\left(\frac{x_2}{x_2^\theta}\right)\right] + l_2\left[y - y^\theta - y^\theta \ln\left(\frac{y}{y^\theta}\right)\right]. \quad (5.13)$$

Obviously  $x_i - x_i^\theta - x_i^\theta \ln\left(\frac{x_i}{x_i^\theta}\right) \geq 0$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) and  $y - y^\theta - y^\theta \ln\left(\frac{y}{y^\theta}\right) \geq 0$ , therefore we have  $V \geq 0$ . Differentiating two sides of (5.13) with respect to  $t$ , we derive that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV}{dt} &= \frac{x_1 - x_1^\theta}{x_1} \frac{dx_1}{dt} + \frac{l_1(x_2 - x_2^\theta)}{x_2} \frac{dx_2}{dt} + \frac{l_2(y - y^\theta)}{y} \frac{dy}{dt} \\ &= -\{[\Gamma_1 + \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}(x_1 + x_1^\theta)](x_1 - x_1^\theta)^2 + (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} + l_1 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})(x_1 - x_1^\theta)(x_2 - x_2^\theta) \\ &\quad + (c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} - l_2 e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p)(1 - m_1)(x_1 - x_1^\theta)(y - y^\theta) + l_1 \Gamma_2 (x_2 - x_2^\theta)^2 \\ &\quad + (l_1 c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} - l_2 e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p)(1 - m_2)(x_2 - x_2^\theta)(y - y^\theta) + l_2 \Omega (y - y^\theta)^2\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.14)$$

We choose  $l_1 = c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p / (c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p)$  and  $l_2 = c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} / (e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p)$ , then (5.14) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dV}{dt} &= -\{[\Gamma_1 + \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}(x_1 + x_1^\theta)](x_1 - x_1^\theta)^2 + l_1 \Gamma_2 (x_2 - x_2^\theta)^2 + l_2 \Omega (y - y^\theta)^2 \\ &\quad + (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} + l_1 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})(x_1 - x_1^\theta)(x_2 - x_2^\theta)\} \\ &= -Y^T B Y, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$Y^T = [(x_1 - x_1^\theta), (x_2 - x_2^\theta), (y - y^\theta)]$$

and

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_1 + \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}(x_1 + x_1^\theta) & (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} + l_1 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})/2 & 0 \\ (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} + l_1 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})/2 & l_1 \Gamma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & l_2 \Omega \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus  $\frac{dV}{dt} < 0$  if  $4l_1 \Gamma_2 (\Gamma_1 + \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^\theta) > (\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} + l_1 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p})^2$ , then  $P_8(x_1^\theta, x_2^\theta, y^\theta)$  is globally asymptotically stable.

## 6. Bionomic equilibria

The biological equilibrium is provided by  $\frac{dx_1}{dt} = 0$ ,  $\frac{dx_2}{dt} = 0$  and  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0$  while the economic equilibrium means that the total revenue is equal to the total expenses. Combine biological equilibrium and economic equilibrium to form bionomic equilibrium, we will investigate all possible bionomic equilibria in different cases for model (2.2) in this section.

Suppose  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are the unit fishing cost for preys  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , and  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  say the unit biomass price for preys  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , respectively. Therefore economic rent ( $\pi$ ) is yield to  $\pi(x_1, x_2, y, E_1, E_2) = \pi_1 + \pi_2$ , where

$$\pi_1 = (p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1) E_1, \quad \pi_2 = (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2) E_2. \quad (6.1)$$

The bionomic equilibria are constant solutions of the following equations

$$\begin{cases} r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p x_1 - r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p} \frac{x_1^2}{K_1} - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 y - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^3 - q_1 E_1 x_1 = 0, \\ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p x_2 - r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p} \frac{x_2^2}{K_2} - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 x_2 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 y - q_2 E_2 x_2 = 0, \\ -d_l^p d_u^{1-p} y - s_l^p s_u^{1-p} y^2 + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1 y + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2 y - \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p} y^2 = 0, \\ \pi = (p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1) E_1 + (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2) E_2 = 0. \end{cases} \tag{6.2}$$

The notations  $\Psi, \Omega, \Xi_1, \Xi_2, \Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2$  used here are given in (4.1). Similar to the methods in [33], we discuss possible bionomic equilibria in different cases.

**Case 1.** If  $C_2 > p_2 q_2 x_2$ , i.e., the fishing cost is higher than the earning for prey  $x_2$ . Thus we have to stop fishing prey  $x_2$  ( $E_{2\infty} = 0$ ) and maintain the fishing of prey  $x_1$  ( $C_1 < p_1 q_1 x_1$ ). Based on  $x_{1\infty} = \frac{C_1}{p_1 q_1}$  and  $E_{2\infty} = 0$ , let us divide into the following four situations to investigate the values of  $x_{2\infty}, y_\infty$  and  $E_{1\infty}$ .

*Situation 1.* If  $x_{2\infty} = 0$  and  $y_\infty = 0$ , solving the first equation of (6.2) yields

$$E_{1\infty} = (r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 - \Gamma_1 x_{1\infty}) / q_1, \tag{6.3}$$

which is positive provided that  $r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 + \Gamma_1 x_{1\infty}$ .

*Situation 2.* If  $x_{2\infty} = 0$ , we solve the first and third equation of (6.2) and obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} y_\infty &= e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) (x_{1\infty} - \Xi_1) / \Omega, \\ E_{1\infty} &= [r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 - (\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1) x_{1\infty} + \Lambda_1 \Xi_1] / q_1, \end{aligned} \tag{6.4}$$

which are positive provided that  $r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 + (\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1) x_{1\infty} - \Lambda_1 \Xi_1$  and  $x_{1\infty} > \Xi_1$ .

*Situation 3.* If  $y_\infty = 0$ , calculating the first and second equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} x_{2\infty} &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}}{\Gamma_2}, \\ E_{1\infty} &= \frac{r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p \Gamma_2 - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \Gamma_2 x_{1\infty}^2 + (\Psi - \Gamma_1 \Gamma_2) x_{1\infty} - r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p}}{q_1 \Gamma_2}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.5}$$

which are positive if  $r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 - (\frac{\Psi}{\Gamma_2} - \Gamma_1) x_{1\infty} + \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p}}{\Gamma_2}$  and  $r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}$ .

*Situation 4.* By a tedious calculation, it follows from the first three equations that

$$\begin{aligned} x_{2\infty} &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p \Omega + (\Phi_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \Omega) x_{1\infty} + c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} d_l^p d_u^{1-p} (1 - m_2)}{(\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) \Omega}, \\ y_\infty &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) + [\Gamma_2 e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)] x_{1\infty} - \Gamma_2 d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{(\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) \Omega}, \\ E_{1\infty} &= \frac{r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 - \Gamma_1 x_{1\infty} - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_{2\infty} - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y_\infty}{q_1}, \end{aligned} \tag{6.6}$$

if  $r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 + \Gamma_1 x_{1\infty} + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_{2\infty} + c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y_\infty$  and  $r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p > \max\left\{ \left( \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} - \frac{\Phi_2}{\Omega} \right) x_{1\infty} - \Lambda_2 \Xi_2, \left[ \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} - \frac{\Gamma_2 e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)}{e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)} \right] x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2 \Xi_2 \right\}$  are satisfied.

**Case 2.** If  $C_1 > p_1 q_1 x_1$ , i.e., the fishing cost is greater than the revenue for prey  $x_1$ . Then prey  $x_1$  is not fit to be fished ( $E_{1\infty} = 0$ ). Only prey  $x_2$  keeps normal capture, i.e.,  $p_2 q_2 x_2 < C_2$ . According to  $x_{2\infty} = \frac{C_2}{p_2 q_2}$  and  $E_{1\infty} = 0$ , we consider four situations as follows:

*Situation 1.* If  $x_{1\infty} = 0, y_\infty = 0$ , solving the second equation of (6.2) obtains

$$E_{2\infty} = (r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty}) / q_2, \quad (6.7)$$

which is positive provided that  $r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p > \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty}$ .

*Situation 2.* If  $x_{1\infty} = 0$  holds,  $y_\infty$  and  $E_{2\infty}$  can be calculated through the second and third equation of (6.2)

$$\begin{aligned} y_\infty &= e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) (x_{2\infty} - \Xi_2) / \Omega, \\ E_{2\infty} &= [r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) x_{2\infty} + \Lambda_2 \Xi_2] / q_2, \end{aligned} \quad (6.8)$$

which are positive if  $r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p > (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2) x_{2\infty} - \Lambda_2 \Xi_2$  and  $x_{2\infty} > \Xi_2$ .

*Situation 3.* If  $y_\infty = 0$ , it follows from the first and second equation that

$$\begin{aligned} x_{1\infty} &= \frac{-\Gamma_1 + \sqrt{\Gamma_1^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} (r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_{2\infty})}}{2r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p}, \\ E_{2\infty} &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty} - \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty}}{q_1}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.9)$$

which are positive if  $r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p > \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_{2\infty}$  and  $r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty}$  are satisfied.

*Situation 4.* By a careful calculation, we obtain the results as follows

$$\begin{aligned} x_{1\infty} &= \frac{-(\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1) + \sqrt{(\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1)^2 + 4\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} \left[ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p + \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega} - \left( \frac{\Phi_1}{\Omega} + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \right) x_{2\infty} \right]}}{2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}}, \\ y_\infty &= \frac{e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_{1\infty} + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_{2\infty} - d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega}, \\ E_{2\infty} &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty} - \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty} - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y_\infty}{q_2}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.10)$$

which are positive provided that  $r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p > \left( \frac{\Phi_1}{\Omega} + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \right) x_{2\infty} - \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega}$ ,  $r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty} + c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y_\infty$  and  $e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_{1\infty} + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_{2\infty} > d_l^p d_u^{1-p}$ .

**Case 3.** If  $C_1 > p_1 q_1 x_1$  and  $C_2 > p_2 q_2 x_2$ , the fishing cost of the preys  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are greater than the revenue. The harvesting of preys  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  are unworkable, so we cannot but stop the fishing of the preys, that is,  $E_{1\infty} = E_{2\infty} = 0$ . The existence of bionomic equilibrium is the same as that of biological equilibria in Section 4.

**Case 4.** If  $C_1 < p_1 q_1 x_1$  and  $C_2 < p_2 q_2 x_2$ , i.e., the income of both preys is greater than the capture cost, so the system will continue to be in operation. Therefore  $x_{1\infty} = \frac{C_1}{p_1 q_1}$  and  $x_{2\infty} = \frac{C_2}{p_2 q_2}$ . We substitute  $x_{1\infty}$  and  $x_{2\infty}$  into (6.2) and consider the following two situations.

*Situation 1.* If  $y_\infty = 0$ ,  $E_{1\infty}$  and  $E_{2\infty}$  can be calculated by the first and second equation of (6.2)

$$\begin{aligned} E_{1\infty} &= (r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty}^2 - \Gamma_1 x_{1\infty} - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_{2\infty}) / q_1, \\ E_{2\infty} &= (r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_{1\infty} - \Gamma_2 x_{2\infty}) / q_2, \end{aligned} \quad (6.11)$$

which are positive if  $r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + \Gamma_1x_{1\infty} + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}x_{2\infty}$  and  $r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2x_{2\infty}$  hold. *Situation 2.* According to the first three equations of (6.2), it yields that

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_\infty &= \frac{e_{1l}^{1-p}e_{1u}^p(1 - m_1)x_{1\infty} + e_{2l}^{1-p}e_{2u}^p(1 - m_2)x_{2\infty} - d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega}, \\
 E_{1\infty} &= \frac{r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p\Omega - \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}\Omega x_{1\infty}^2 - (\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1)\Omega x_{1\infty} - (\Phi_1 + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}\Omega)x_{2\infty} + d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{q_1\Omega}, \\
 E_{2\infty} &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p\Omega - (\Phi_2 + \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}\Omega)x_{1\infty} - (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2)\Omega x_{2\infty} + d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{q_2\Omega},
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{6.12}$$

exist if  $r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + (\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1)x_{1\infty} + \left(\frac{\Phi_1}{\Omega} + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}\right)x_{2\infty} - \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega}$ ,  $r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \left(\frac{\Phi_2}{\Omega} + \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}\right)x_{1\infty} + (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2)x_{2\infty} - \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega}$  and  $e_{1l}^{1-p}e_{1u}^p(1 - m_1)x_{1\infty} + e_{2l}^{1-p}e_{2u}^p(1 - m_2)x_{2\infty} > d_l^p d_u^{1-p}$  are satisfied.

**Theorem 6.1.** *The existence conditions of bionomic equilibria are displayed in Table 1:*

**Table 1.** The existence conditions of bionomic equilibria in four cases.

Theorem	Conditions
$(x_{1\infty}, 0, 0, E_{1\infty}, 0)$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + \Gamma_1x_{1\infty}$
$(x_{1\infty}, 0, y_\infty, E_{1\infty}, 0)$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + (\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1)x_{1\infty} - \Lambda_1\Xi_1, x_{1\infty} > \Xi_1$
$(x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, 0, E_{1\infty}, 0)$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 - \left(\frac{\Psi}{\Gamma_2} - \Gamma_1\right)x_{1\infty} + \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p\alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}}{\Gamma_2}, r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}$
$(x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, y_\infty, E_{1\infty}, 0)$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + \Gamma_1x_{1\infty} + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}x_{2\infty} + c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p}(1 - m_1)y_\infty,$ $r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \max\left\{\left(\alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p} - \frac{\Phi_2}{\Omega}\right)x_{1\infty} - \Lambda_2\Xi_2, \left[\alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p} - \frac{\Gamma_2 e_{1l}^{1-p}e_{1u}^p(1-m_1)}{e_{2l}^{1-p}e_{2u}^p(1-m_2)}\right]x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2\Xi_2\right\}$
$(0, x_{2\infty}, 0, 0, E_{2\infty})$	$r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \Gamma_2x_{2\infty}$
$(0, x_{2\infty}, y_\infty, 0, E_{2\infty})$	$r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2)x_{2\infty} - \Lambda_2\Xi_2, x_{2\infty} > \Xi_2$
$(x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, 0, 0, E_{2\infty})$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}x_{2\infty}, r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2x_{2\infty}$
$(x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, y_\infty, 0, E_{2\infty})$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \left(\frac{\Phi_1}{\Omega} + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}\right)x_{2\infty} - \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega}, r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2x_{2\infty} + c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p}(1 - m_2)y_\infty,$ $e_{1l}^{1-p}e_{1u}^p(1 - m_1)x_{1\infty} + e_{2l}^{1-p}e_{2u}^p(1 - m_2)x_{2\infty} > d_l^p d_u^{1-p}$
$(x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, 0, E_{1\infty}, E_{2\infty})$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + \Gamma_1x_{1\infty} + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}x_{2\infty}, r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty} + \Gamma_2x_{2\infty}$
$(x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, y_\infty, E_{1\infty}, E_{2\infty})$	$r_{1l}^{1-p}r_{1u}^p > \gamma_{1l}^p\gamma_{1u}^{1-p}x_{1\infty}^2 + (\Gamma_1 + \Lambda_1)x_{1\infty} + \left(\frac{\Phi_1}{\Omega} + \alpha_{1l}^p\alpha_{1u}^{1-p}\right)x_{2\infty} - \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega},$ $r_{2l}^{1-p}r_{2u}^p > \left(\frac{\Phi_2}{\Omega} + \alpha_{2l}^p\alpha_{2u}^{1-p}\right)x_{1\infty} + (\Gamma_2 + \Lambda_2)x_{2\infty} - \frac{d_l^p d_u^{1-p}}{\Omega},$ $e_{1l}^{1-p}e_{1u}^p(1 - m_1)x_{2\infty} + e_{2l}^{1-p}e_{2u}^p(1 - m_2)x_{2\infty} > d_l^p d_u^{1-p}$

### 7. Fuzzy optimal harvesting

Use  $r$  and  $k$  to represent the inflation and discount rates, respectively. They are often considered as fuzzy parameters since the imprecision of the environment. Therefore, let the notations  $\tilde{r}$  and  $\tilde{k}$  represent trapezoidal fuzzy number.  $\tilde{\delta}$  is the difference value of  $\tilde{r}$  and  $\tilde{k}$  standing for the fuzzy inflation net discount rate and can be also regarded as trapezoidal fuzzy number, i.e.,  $\tilde{\delta} = (\delta_1, \delta_2, \delta_3, \delta_4)$  (see Appendix B). And a continuous time stream of revenues  $\tilde{J}$  is yield to

$$\tilde{J} = \int_0^\infty e^{-\tilde{\delta}t} [(p_1q_1x_1 - C_1)E_1(t) + (p_2q_2x_2 - C_2)E_2(t)]dt.
 \tag{7.1}$$

The aim of this part is to maximize  $\tilde{J}$  yield to the state Eq (2.2). The control variables  $E_i(t)$  ( $i=1,2$ ) are subjected to the constrains  $0 \leq E_i(t) \leq E_i^{\max}$  ( $i=1,2$ ). On account of the method of Maity and Maiti [36], Sadhukhan et al. [37] and Pal and Mahapatra [33], we apply the value  $\alpha$  to cut trapezoidal fuzzy number obtaining an interval number  $[\delta_L, \delta_R]$ , where  $\delta_L = \delta_1 + \alpha(\delta_2 - \delta_1)$  and  $\delta_R = \delta_4 - \alpha(\delta_4 - \delta_3)$  ( $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ). Maximization of the  $\tilde{J}$  translate into maximization of  $[J_L, J_R]$  as follows

$$\text{Max}[J_L, J_R] = \int_0^\infty e^{-[\delta_L, \delta_R]t} [(p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1)E_1(t) + (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2)E_2(t)] dt, \quad (7.2)$$

where

$$J_L = \int_0^\infty e^{-\delta_R t} [(p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1)E_1(t) + (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2)E_2(t)] dt,$$

$$J_R = \int_0^\infty e^{-\delta_L t} [(p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1)E_1(t) + (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2)E_2(t)] dt,$$

subject to the constrains (2.2). Consider nonnegative numbers  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  meeting  $\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1$  as two weights as well as the method of weighted sum (see Appendix C), thus  $\text{Max}[J_L, J_R]$  can be written as

$$\text{Max}\tilde{J} = \text{Max}[J_L, J_R] = \text{Max}(\omega_1 J_L + \omega_2 J_R). \quad (7.3)$$

We first construct the Hamiltonian provided by

$$H = (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) [(p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1)E_1 + (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2)E_2]$$

$$+ \lambda_1 \left[ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p x_1 - r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p} \frac{x_1^2}{k_1} - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 y - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^3 - q_1 E_1 x_1 \right]$$

$$+ \lambda_2 \left[ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p x_2 - r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p} \frac{x_2^2}{k_2} - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 x_2 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 y - q_2 E_2 x_2 \right]$$

$$+ \lambda_3 [-d_l^p d_u^{1-p} y - s_l^p s_u^{1-p} y^2 + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1 y + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2 y - \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p} y^2], \quad (7.4)$$

where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  denote the adjoint variables. Based on Pontryagin's maximum principle [38], the adjoint equations are expressed as follows

$$\frac{d\lambda_1}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_1}, \quad \frac{d\lambda_2}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial x_2}, \quad \frac{d\lambda_3}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial y}. \quad (7.5)$$

Together with (7.4) and (7.5), it yields to

$$\frac{d\lambda_1}{dt} = \lambda_2 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 - \lambda_3 e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y - p_1 q_1 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) E_1$$

$$- \lambda_1 \left[ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} x_1 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y - 3 \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 - q_1 E_1 \right],$$

$$\frac{d\lambda_2}{dt} = \lambda_1 \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 - \lambda_3 e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y - p_2 q_2 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) E_2$$

$$- \lambda_2 \left[ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y - q_2 E_2 \right],$$

$$\frac{d\lambda_3}{dt} = \lambda_1 c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 + \lambda_2 c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 y$$

$$- \lambda_3 [-d_l^p d_u^{1-p} - 2 s_l^p s_u^{1-p} y + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) x_1 + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) x_2 - 2 \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p} y].$$

Introducing the interior equilibrium into (7.6), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\lambda_1}{dt} &= \lambda_1 \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) x_1 + \lambda_2 \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 - \lambda_3 e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y - p_1 q_1 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) E_1, \\ \frac{d\lambda_2}{dt} &= \lambda_1 \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 + \lambda_2 \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 - \lambda_3 e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y - p_2 q_2 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) E_2, \\ \frac{d\lambda_3}{dt} &= \lambda_1 c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 + \lambda_2 c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 + \lambda_3 (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y.\end{aligned}\tag{7.7}$$

We get a third order differential equation with respect to  $\lambda_3$  by deleting  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  in Eq (7.7)

$$(a_0 D^3 + a_1 D^2 + a_2 D + a_3) \lambda_3 = M_{3L} e^{-\delta_R t} + M_{3R} e^{-\delta_L t},\tag{7.8}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}D &= \frac{d}{dt}, \quad a_0 = 1, \quad a_1 = - \left[ \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) x_1 + \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y \right], \\ a_2 &= \left[ \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} \right] x_1 x_2 \\ &\quad + \left[ c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2)^2 + \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) \right] x_2 y \\ &\quad + \left[ (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) + c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1)^2 \right] x_1 y, \\ a_3 &= \left\{ (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) \left[ \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \right] \right. \\ &\quad + e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) \left[ \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) \right] \\ &\quad \left. + e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) \left[ \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \right] \right\} x_1 x_2 y, \\ M_{3L} &= \omega_1 \left[ p_1 q_1 \left\{ \delta_R c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 - \left[ \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) \right] x_1 x_2 \right\} E_1 \right. \\ &\quad + p_2 q_2 \left\{ - \left[ \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \right] x_1 x_2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \delta_R c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 \right\} E_2 \right], \\ M_{3R} &= \omega_2 \left[ p_1 q_1 \left\{ \delta_L c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) x_1 - \left[ \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) \right] x_1 x_2 \right\} E_1 \right. \\ &\quad + p_2 q_2 \left\{ - \left[ \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \right] x_1 x_2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \delta_L c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) x_2 \right\} E_2 \right].\end{aligned}$$

The solution of (7.8) is written as follows

$$\lambda_3 = F_1 e^{\mu_1 t} + F_2 e^{\mu_2 t} + F_3 e^{\mu_3 t} + \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t}, \quad (7.9)$$

where  $F_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$  are arbitrary constants and  $\mu_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$  are the roots of the cubic equation

$$a_0 \mu^3 + a_1 \mu^2 + a_2 \mu + a_3 = 0 \quad (7.10)$$

and

$$N_L = -(a_0 \delta_R^3 - a_1 \delta_R^2 + a_2 \delta_R - a_3) \neq 0, \quad N_R = -(a_0 \delta_L^3 - a_1 \delta_L^2 + a_2 \delta_L - a_3) \neq 0.$$

It follows from (7.9) that  $\lambda_3$  is bounded if and only if

$$\mu_i < 0 \text{ or } F_i = 0 \quad (i = 1, 2, 3).$$

The Hurwitz matrix is displayed as follows

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 1 & 0 \\ a_3 & a_2 & a_1 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

and assign

$$\Delta_1 = a_1, \quad \Delta_2 = a_1 a_2 - a_3, \quad \Delta_3 = a_3 (a_1 a_2 - a_3).$$

Thus the roots of (7.10) are negative real number or complex conjugate whose real part is negative if and only if  $\Delta_i > 0 (i = 1, 2, 3)$ . However  $\Delta_1 < 0$ , so it is hard to make sure whether  $\mu_i < 0$ , we have to take  $F_i = 0$  into account. Then (7.6) can be simplified as

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t}. \quad (7.11)$$

Analogously, we obtain that

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{M_{1L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{1R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t} \quad (7.12)$$

and

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{M_{2L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{2R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t}, \quad (7.13)$$

where



$$\begin{aligned}
M_{1L} &= \omega_1 \left[ p_2 q_2 \{ \delta_R \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 + [c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^p e_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)(1-m_2) + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p})] x_2 y \} E_2 \right. \\
&\quad - p_1 q_1 \left\{ \left[ \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) + c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^p e_{2u}^{1-p} (1-m_2)^2 \right] x_2 y \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \delta_R \left[ \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y + \delta_R \right] \right\} E_1 \right], \\
M_{1R} &= \omega_2 \left[ p_2 q_2 \{ \delta_L \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 + [c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^p e_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)(1-m_2) + \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p})] x_2 y \} E_2 \right. \\
&\quad - p_1 q_1 \left\{ \left[ \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) + c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} e_{2l}^p e_{2u}^{1-p} (1-m_2)^2 \right] x_2 y \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \delta_L \left[ \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y + \delta_L \right] \right\} E_1 \right], \\
M_{2L} &= \omega_1 \left[ p_1 q_1 \{ \delta_R \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 + [c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^p e_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)(1-m_2) + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p})] x_1 y \} E_1 \right. \\
&\quad - p_2 q_2 \left\{ \left[ c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^p e_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)^2 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \right] x_1 y \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \delta_R \left[ \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) x_1 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y + \delta_R \right] \right\} E_2 \right], \\
M_{2R} &= \omega_2 \left[ p_1 q_1 \{ \delta_L \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 + [c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^p e_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)(1-m_2) + \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p})] x_1 y \} E_1 \right. \\
&\quad - p_2 q_2 \left\{ \left[ c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} e_{1l}^p e_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)^2 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \right] x_1 y \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + \delta_L \left[ \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) x_1 + (s_l^p s_u^{1-p} + \gamma_{2l}^p \gamma_{2u}^{1-p}) y + \delta_L \right] \right\} E_2 \right].
\end{aligned}$$

The shadow prices  $\lambda_i e^{\delta L t}$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) of the three species remain bounded as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , that is it satisfies the transversality consider at  $\infty$ . The Hamiltonian should be maximized for  $E_i \in [0, E_i^{\max}]$ . Suppose that the optimal equilibrium occurs at neither  $E_i = 0$  nor  $E_i = E_i^{\max}$ , we therefore consider the singular control

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial H}{\partial E_1} &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta L t})(p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1) - \lambda_1 q_1 x_1 = 0, \\
\frac{\partial H}{\partial E_2} &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta L t})(p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2) - \lambda_2 q_2 x_2 = 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{7.14}$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_1 &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta L t})(p_1 - C_1/(q_1 x_1)), \\
\lambda_2 &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta L t})(p_2 - C_2/(q_2 x_2)).
\end{aligned} \tag{7.15}$$

Substituting the values of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  in (7.12) and (7.13) into (7.15), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
M_L^1 e^{-\delta R t} + M_R^1 e^{-\delta L t} &= C_1 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta L t}), \\
M_L^2 e^{-\delta R t} + M_R^2 e^{-\delta L t} &= C_2 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta L t}),
\end{aligned} \tag{7.16}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
M_L^1 &= \left( \omega_1 p_1 - \frac{M_{1L}}{N_L} \right) q_1 x_1, & M_R^1 &= \left( \omega_2 p_1 - \frac{M_{1R}}{N_R} \right) q_1 x_1, \\
M_L^2 &= \left( \omega_1 p_2 - \frac{M_{2L}}{N_L} \right) q_2 x_2, & M_R^2 &= \left( \omega_2 p_2 - \frac{M_{2R}}{N_R} \right) q_2 x_2.
\end{aligned} \tag{7.17}$$

By a simple calculation, (7.16) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}(M_L^1 - C_1\omega_1)e^{-(\delta_R - \delta_L)t} &= -(M_R^1 - C_1\omega_2), \\ (M_L^2 - C_2\omega_1)e^{-(\delta_R - \delta_L)t} &= -(M_R^2 - C_2\omega_2).\end{aligned}\tag{7.18}$$

The next step is to discuss two cases:

**Case 1.** If  $M_L^1 \neq C_1\omega_1$  and  $M_L^2 \neq C_2\omega_1$ , then (7.18) is equivalent to

$$(M_L^1 - C_1\omega_1)(M_R^2 - C_2\omega_2) = (M_L^2 - C_2\omega_1)(M_R^1 - C_1\omega_2).\tag{7.19}$$

**Case 2.** If  $M_L^1 = C_1\omega_1$  or  $M_L^2 = C_2\omega_1$ , one of the following equations is true

$$M_L^1 - C_1\omega_1 = M_R^1 - C_1\omega_2 = 0, \text{ or } M_L^2 - C_2\omega_1 = M_R^2 - C_2\omega_2 = 0.\tag{7.19}'$$

On account of the method in [35], differentiating both sides of the equations in (7.15) with respect to  $t$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\lambda_1}{dt} &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} x_1 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y - \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 - q_1 E_1 \right) \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \\ &\quad - (\delta_R \omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \delta_L \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \right), \\ \frac{d\lambda_2}{dt} &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y - q_2 E_2 \right) \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \\ &\quad - (\delta_R \omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \delta_L \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \right).\end{aligned}\tag{7.20}$$

Substituting (7.15) into (7.6) and eliminating  $\lambda_3$  yield

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\lambda_1}{dt} &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \right) \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 - p_1 q_1 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) E_1 \\ &\quad - (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \right) \left[ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} x_1 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y - 3 \gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 - q_1 E_1 \right] - \left( \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t} \right) e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y, \\ \frac{d\lambda_2}{dt} &= (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \right) \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 - p_2 q_2 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) E_2 \\ &\quad - (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \right) \left[ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y - q_2 E_2 \right] - \left( \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t} \right) e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y.\end{aligned}\tag{7.21}$$

Consider  $\pi_1 = (p_1 q_1 x_1 - C_1) E_1 > 0$  and  $\pi_2 = (p_2 q_2 x_2 - C_2) E_2 > 0$ . The simultaneous Eqs (7.20) and

(7.21) with  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  omitted get

$$\begin{aligned}
& -(\delta_R \omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \delta_L \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \right) \\
& = (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \right) \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2 - \frac{C_1}{q_1} (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right) \\
& - p_1 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left[ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} x_1 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y - 3\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 \right] \\
& - \left( \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t} \right) e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y, \\
& -(\delta_R \omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \delta_L \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \right) \\
& = (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left( p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \right) \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 - \frac{C_2}{q_2} (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} \\
& - p_2 (\omega_1 e^{-\delta_R t} + \omega_2 e^{-\delta_L t}) \left[ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y \right] \\
& - \left( \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e^{-\delta_R t} + \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e^{-\delta_L t} \right) e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y.
\end{aligned} \tag{7.22}$$

Dividing  $e^{-\delta_L t}$  from both sides of the above two equations and merging similar terms in (7.22) yield

$$\begin{aligned}
& e^{-(\delta_R - \delta_L)t} \left\{ -\delta_R \omega_1 A_1 - \omega_1 A_2 + \omega_1 A_3 + \omega_1 A_4 + \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y \right\} \\
& = \delta_L \omega_2 A_1 + \omega_2 A_2 - \omega_2 A_3 - \omega_2 A_4 - \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y, \\
& e^{-(\delta_R - \delta_L)t} \left\{ -\delta_R \omega_1 B_1 - \omega_1 B_2 + \omega_1 B_3 + \omega_1 B_4 + \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y \right\} \\
& = \delta_L \omega_2 B_1 + \omega_2 B_2 - \omega_2 B_3 - \omega_2 B_4 - \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y,
\end{aligned} \tag{7.23}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
A_1 & = p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1}, \quad A_2 = \left( p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2} \right) \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_2, \quad A_3 = \frac{C_1}{q_1} \left( \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} + 2\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1 \right), \\
A_4 & = p_1 \left[ r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p}}{k_1} x_1 - \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_2 - c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1 - m_1) y - 3\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p} x_1^2 \right], \\
B_1 & = p_2 - \frac{C_2}{q_2 x_2}, \quad B_2 = \left( p_1 - \frac{C_1}{q_1 x_1} \right) \alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p} x_1, \quad B_3 = \frac{C_2}{q_2} \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2}, \\
B_4 & = p_2 \left[ r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p - 2 \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p}}{k_2} x_2 - \alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p} x_1 - c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1 - m_2) y \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Analogously, consider two cases as follows:

**Case 1.** Suppose that

$$\delta_R \omega_1 A_1 + \omega_1 A_2 - \omega_1 A_3 - \omega_1 A_4 \neq \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1 - m_1) y \tag{7.24}$$

and

$$\delta_R \omega_1 B_1 + \omega_1 B_2 - \omega_1 B_3 - \omega_1 B_4 \neq \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1 - m_2) y, \tag{7.25}$$

then let us divide both sides of the first equation by that of the second equation of (7.23)

$$\frac{\delta_R \omega_1 A_1 + \omega_1 A_2 - \omega_1 A_3 - \omega_1 A_4 - \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1-m_1)y}{\delta_R \omega_1 B_1 + \omega_1 B_2 - \omega_1 B_3 - \omega_1 B_4 - \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1-m_2)y} = \frac{\delta_L \omega_2 A_1 + \omega_2 A_2 - \omega_2 A_3 - \omega_2 A_4 - \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1-m_1)y}{\delta_L \omega_2 B_1 + \omega_2 B_2 - \omega_2 B_3 - \omega_2 B_4 - \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1-m_2)y}. \quad (7.26)$$

**Case 2.** Assume that

$$\delta_R \omega_1 A_1 + \omega_1 A_2 - \omega_1 A_3 - \omega_1 A_4 = \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1-m_1)y \quad (7.27)$$

or

$$\delta_R \omega_1 B_1 + \omega_1 B_2 - \omega_1 B_3 - \omega_1 B_4 = \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1-m_2)y, \quad (7.28)$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_R \omega_1 A_1 + \omega_1 A_2 - \omega_1 A_3 - \omega_1 A_4 - \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1-m_1)y \\ = \delta_L \omega_2 A_1 + \omega_2 A_2 - \omega_2 A_3 - \omega_2 A_4 - \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1-m_1)y = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (7.29)$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_L \omega_2 B_1 + \omega_2 B_2 - \omega_2 B_3 - \omega_2 B_4 - \frac{M_{3L}}{N_L} e_{1l}^{1-p} e_{1u}^p (1-m_1)y \\ = \delta_L \omega_2 B_1 + \omega_2 B_2 - \omega_2 B_3 - \omega_2 B_4 - \frac{M_{3R}}{N_R} e_{2l}^{1-p} e_{2u}^p (1-m_2)y = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (7.29)'$$

In addition, on account of the interior equilibrium, the values of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are written as

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &= \frac{r_{1l}^{1-p} r_{1u}^p}{q_1} - \frac{r_{1l}^p r_{1u}^{1-p} x_1}{k_1 q_1} - \frac{\alpha_{1l}^p \alpha_{1u}^{1-p}}{q_2} x_2 - \frac{c_{1l}^p c_{1u}^{1-p} (1-m_1)}{q_1} y - \frac{\gamma_{1l}^p \gamma_{1u}^{1-p}}{q_1} x_1^2, \\ E_2 &= \frac{r_{2l}^{1-p} r_{2u}^p}{q_2} - \frac{r_{2l}^p r_{2u}^{1-p} x_2}{k_2 q_2} - \frac{\alpha_{2l}^p \alpha_{2u}^{1-p}}{q_2} x_1 - \frac{c_{2l}^p c_{2u}^{1-p} (1-m_2)}{q_2} y, \end{aligned} \quad (7.30)$$

then solving (7.19)(or (7.19)'), (7.26)((7.29) or (7.29)'), (7.30) together with the right side of the third equation equaling to 0 in (2.2), we get the optimal equilibrium solutions  $x_1 = x_{1\bar{\delta}}$ ,  $x_2 = x_{2\bar{\delta}}$ ,  $y = x_{\bar{\delta}}$  as well as the optimal harvesting efforts  $E_1 = E_{1\bar{\delta}}$ ,  $E_2 = E_{2\bar{\delta}}$ .

## 8. Numerical simulations

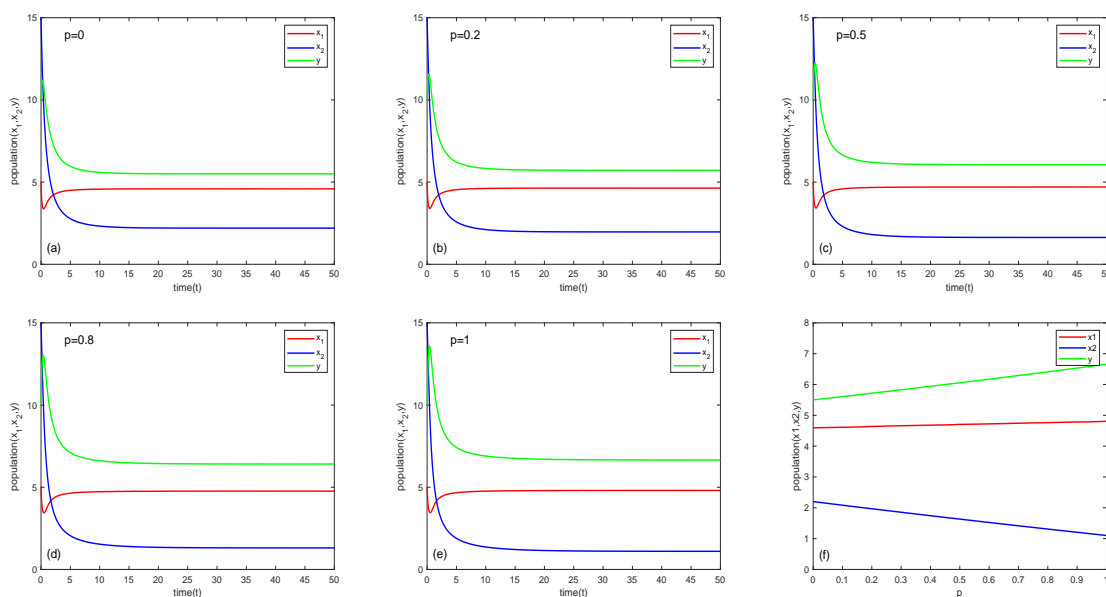
We show three numerical examples, in this section, to explain the theoretical results of model (2.2).

*Example 1.* Set the value of parameters in model (2.2) as follows:  $[r_{1l}, r_{1u}] = [9.99, 10.01]$ ,  $[r_{2l}, r_{2u}] = [3.99, 4.01]$ ,  $[\alpha_{1l}, \alpha_{1u}] = [0.09, 0.11]$ ,  $[\alpha_{2l}, \alpha_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[c_{1l}, c_{1u}] = [0.29, 0.31]$ ,  $[c_{2l}, c_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[e_{1l}, e_{1u}] = [0.29, 0.31]$ ,  $[e_{2l}, e_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[\gamma_{1l}, \gamma_{1u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[\gamma_{2l}, \gamma_{2u}] = [0.09, 0.11]$ ,  $[d_l, d_u] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[s_l, s_u] = [0.09, 0.11]$ ,  $K_1 = 100$ ,  $K_2 = 200$ ,  $m_1 = 0.20$ ,  $m_2 = 0.15$ .

**Table 2.** Equilibrium points for different  $p$ .

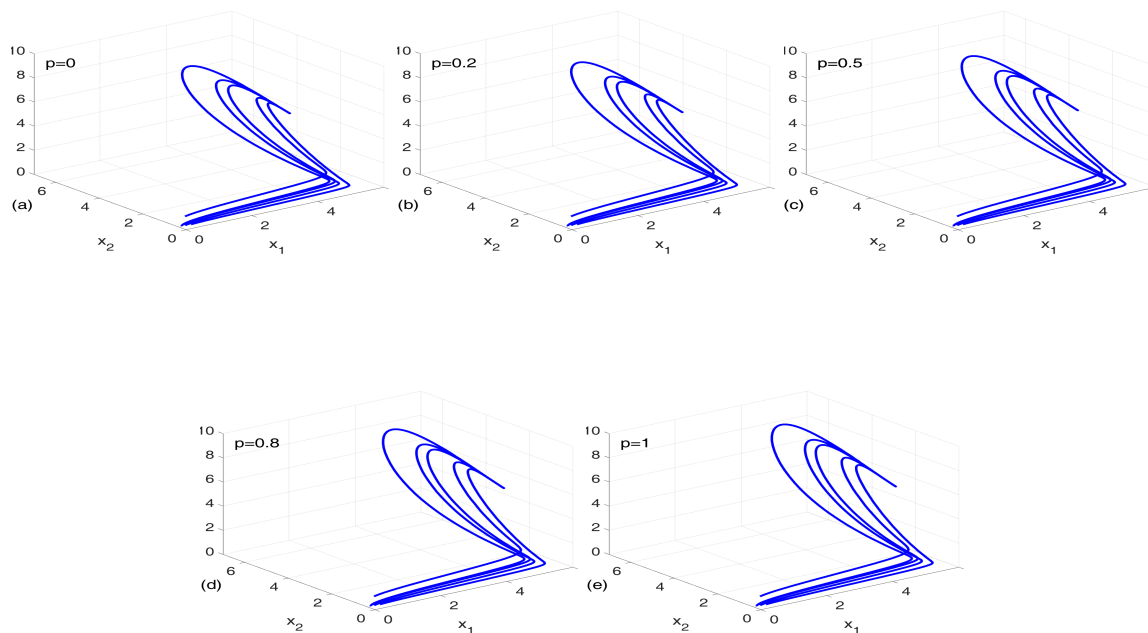
Equilibrium	0	0.2	0.5	0.8	1	$(q_1, q_2, E_1, E_2)$
$P_1$	(0,0,0)	(0,0,0)	(0,0,0)	(0,0,0)	(0,0,0)	0.7000,0.5000,20.00,10.00
$P_2$	(0.4584,0,0)	(0.4751,0,0)	(0.5002,0,0)	(0.5253,0,0)	(0.5421,0,0)	0.9900,0.3000,10.00,20.00
$P_3$	(0,0.0499,0)	(0,0.2492,0)	(0,0.5494,0)	(0,0.8509,0)	(0,1.0526,0)	0.1000,0.1000,99.90,39.89
$P_4$	(5.4569,0,4.8000)	(5.4841,0,5.1269)	(5.5224,0,5.6528)	(5.576,0,6.2239)	(5.5792,0,6.6313)	0.2000,0.2000,10.00,10.00
$P_5$	(0,20.9179,14.4011)	(0,20.2287,14.7964)	(0,19.2304,15.4039)	(0,18.2740,16.0292)	(0,17.6591,16.4564)	0.5000,0.1000,10.00,10.00
$P_6$	(4.5474,1.7482,0)	(4.5209,3.1658,0)	(4.5022,5.0333,0)	(4.5040,6.6567,0)	(4.5143,7.6328,0)	0.5000,0.3000,10.00,10.00
$P_7$	(0.7214,11.8954,0)	(0.6933,12.5451,0)	(0.6396,13.6114,0)	(0.5704,14.7933,0)	(0.5151,15.6460,0)	0.8500,0.3600,10.00,10.00
$P_8$	(4.5899,2.2009,5.5014)	(4.6354,1.9690,5.7178)	(4.7012,1.6303,6.0562)	(4.7642,1.3101,6.4111)	(4.8048,1.1017,6.6570)	0.3500,0.2000,10.00,10.00
$P_9$	(0.7764,6.2295,4.4373)	(0.5169,6.6954,4.8209)	(0.2811,6.9559,5.2697)	(0.1063,7.0356,5.6740)	(0.0093,7.0328,5.9315)	0.8000,0.2910,10.00,10.00

We show the values of nine equilibria with different  $p \in [0, 1]$  in Table 2, respectively. From Table 2,  $P_1$  is fixed at (0,0,0) with variable  $p \in [0, 1]$ . For  $P_2, P_3$  and  $P_4$ , the values of preys  $x_1, x_2$  or predator  $y$  increases and another is invariant in zero with increasing  $p$ ; For  $P_5$ , prey  $x_2$  is decreasing while predator  $y$  is increasing and prey  $x_1$  always stays at zero with increasing  $p$ ; For  $P_6$ , prey  $x_1$  decreases and then increases while prey  $x_2$  increases and predator  $y$  keeps in zero with increasing  $p$ ; For  $P_7$ , the prey  $x_1$  maintains decreasing while prey  $x_2$  increases and predator  $y$  keeps in zero with increasing  $p$ ; For  $P_8$ , prey  $x_1$  and predator  $y$  are increasing while prey  $x_2$  decreases with increasing  $p$ ; For  $P_9$ , prey  $x_1$  is decreasing while prey  $x_2$  increases and then decreases, predator  $y$  always maintains increasing.



**Figure 1.** (a)–(e) Time series diagram of three species  $(x_1, x_2, y)$  with initial values  $(5, 15, 10)$  and  $q_1 = 0.5, q_2 = 0.2, E_1 = 7, E_2 = 10$  for  $p = 0, p = 0.2, p = 0.5, p = 0.8$  and  $p = 1$ , respectively,  $t \in [0, 50]$ . (f) Variation of interior equilibrium  $P_8(x_1^p, x_2^p, y^p)$  with respect to  $p$ .

From (a)–(e) of Figure 1, we display time series of three species  $(x_1, x_2, y)$  with initial values  $(5, 15, 10)$  for different  $p$ . The initial fluctuates for all species gradually trend to a stable condition level  $P_8$  with time. Also the variation of interior equilibrium  $P_8$  with respect to  $p$  is shown in Figure 1(f), respectively. It is easily recognize that the interior equilibrium changes for different  $p$ . As  $p$



**Figure 2.** (a)–(e) Phase trajectories of preys  $x_1, x_2$  and predator  $y$  with different initial values and  $q_1 = 0.5, q_2 = 0.2, E_1 = 7, E_2 = 10$  for  $p = 0, p = 0.2, p = 0.5, p = 0.8$  and  $p = 1$ , respectively.

increases, prey  $x_1$  and predator  $y$  increase and prey  $x_2$  decreases.

The phase trajectories of preys  $x_1, x_2$  and predator  $y$  corresponding to interior equilibrium  $P_8$  with different  $p$  are shown in Figure 2, respectively. Meanwhile, the interior equilibrium  $P_8$  is also stable under different initial conditions.

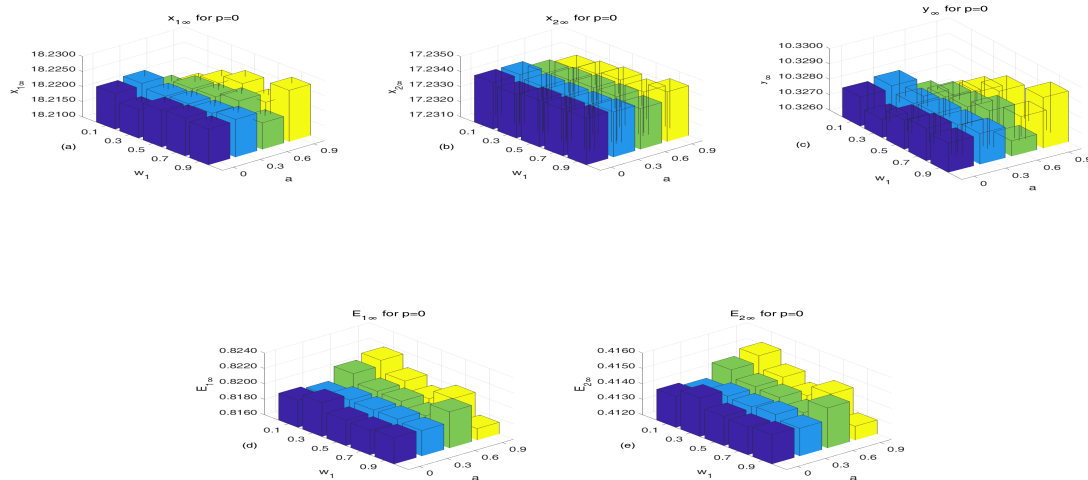
*Example 2.* Assign the value of parameters in the model (2.2) as follows:  $[r_{1l}, r_{1u}] = [4.99, 5.01]$ ,  $[r_{2l}, r_{2u}] = [7.99, 8.01]$ ,  $[\alpha_{1l}, \alpha_{1u}] = [0.29, 0.31]$ ,  $[\alpha_{2l}, \alpha_{2u}] = [0.29, 0.31]$ ,  $[c_{1l}, c_{1u}] = [0.09, 0.11]$ ,  $[c_{2l}, c_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[e_{1l}, e_{1u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[e_{2l}, e_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[\gamma_{1l}, \gamma_{1u}] = [0.09, 0.11]$ ,  $[\gamma_{2l}, \gamma_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[d_l, d_u] = [0.29, 0.31]$ ,  $[s_l, s_u] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $K_1 = 300, K_2 = 100, m_1 = 0.30, m_2 = 0.10, p_1 = 15, p_2 = 20, C_1 = 30, C_2 = 25, q_1 = 0.8, q_2 = 0.5$ .

**Table 3.** Nontrivial bionomic equilibrium for different  $p$ .

$p$	Nontrivial bionomic equilibrium ( $x_{1\infty}, x_{2\infty}, y_{\infty}, E_{1\infty}, E_{2\infty}$ )
0	(2.50, 2.50, 1.07, 4.25, 13.62)
0.2	(2.50, 2.50, 1.14, 4.30, 13.64)
0.5	(2.50, 2.50, 1.25, 4.37, 13.65)
0.8	(2.50, 2.50, 1.37, 4.44, 13.67)
1	(2.50, 2.50, 1.45, 4.49, 13.68)

We present the nontrivial bionomic equilibrium for different  $p$  in Table 3. With increasing  $p$ ,  $x_{1\infty}$  and  $x_{2\infty}$  are invariable while  $y_{\infty}$ ,  $E_{1\infty}$  and  $E_{2\infty}$  increases.

*Example 3.* Consider the following parameter values:  $[r_{1l}, r_{1u}] = [3.99, 4.01]$ ,  $[r_{2l}, r_{2u}] = [4.99, 5.01]$ ,  $[\alpha_{1l}, \alpha_{1u}] = [0.029, 0.031]$ ,  $[\alpha_{2l}, \alpha_{2u}] = [0.039, 0.041]$ ,  $[c_{1l}, c_{1u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[c_{2l}, c_{2u}] = [0.39, 0.41]$ ,  $[e_{1l}, e_{1u}] = [0.09, 0.11]$ ,  $[e_{2l}, e_{2u}] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[\gamma_{1l}, \gamma_{1u}] = [0.0009, 0.0011]$ ,  $[d_l, d_u] = [0.39, 0.41]$ ,  $[s_l, s_u] = [0.19, 0.21]$ ,  $[\gamma_{2l}, \gamma_{2u}] = [0.0039, 0.0041]$ ,  $K_1 = 50$ ,  $K_2 = 45$ ,  $m_1 = 0.4$ ,  $m_2 = 0.5$ ,  $p_1 = 5$ ,  $p_2 = 10$ ,  $C_1 = 15$ ,  $C_2 = 20$ ,  $q_1 = 0.4$ ,  $q_2 = 0.5$ ,  $\delta_1 = 0.07$ ,  $\delta_2 = 0.08$ ,  $\delta_3 = 0.09$ ,  $\delta_4 = 0.1$ .



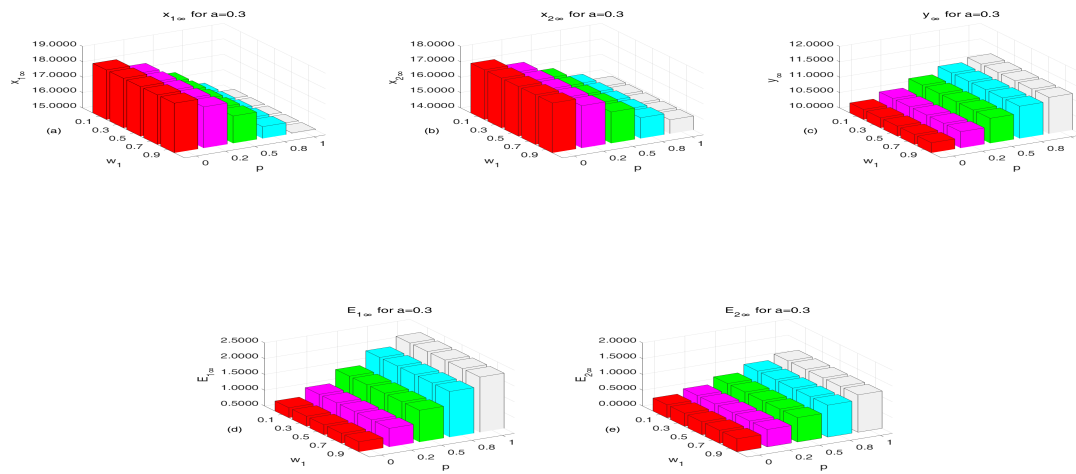
**Figure 3.** (a)–(e) Three-dimensional histogram of the optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting efforts for fixed  $p = 0$ .

**Table 4.** Optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort for  $p = 0$ .

$w_1$	$w_2$	$\alpha = 0$		$\alpha = 0.3$		$\alpha = 0.6$		$\alpha = 0.9$	
		$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$
0.1	0.9	(18.2218, 17.2341, 10.3279)	(0.8195, 0.4140)	(18.2226, 17.2341, 10.3281)	(0.8192, 0.4138)	(18.2184, 17.2337, 10.3269)	(0.8209, 0.4147)	(18.2165, 17.2335, 10.3264)	(0.8216, 0.4151)
0.3	0.7	(18.2194, 17.2339, 10.3272)	(0.8204, 0.4145)	(18.2213, 17.2339, 10.3277)	(0.8197, 0.4141)	(18.2212, 17.2338, 10.3276)	(0.8198, 0.4142)	(18.2205, 17.2337, 10.3274)	(0.8201, 0.4143)
0.5	0.5	(18.2222, 17.2341, 10.3279)	(0.8193, 0.4139)	(18.2217, 17.2339, 10.3278)	(0.8196, 0.4140)	(18.2215, 17.2339, 10.3277)	(0.8197, 0.4141)	(18.2233, 17.2339, 10.3282)	(0.8190, 0.4137)
0.7	0.3	(18.2226, 17.2341, 10.3281)	(0.8192, 0.4138)	(18.2216, 17.2339, 10.3278)	(0.8196, 0.4141)	(18.2231, 17.2339, 10.3282)	(0.8190, 0.4137)	(18.2201, 17.2337, 10.3273)	(0.8202, 0.4144)
0.9	0.1	(18.2219, 17.2341, 10.3279)	(0.8194, 0.4139)	(18.2225, 17.2340, 10.3280)	(0.8193, 0.4138)	(18.2188, 17.2337, 10.3270)	(0.8207, 0.4146)	(18.2270, 17.2343, 10.3293)	(0.8175, 0.4129)

**Table 5.** Optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort for  $p = 0.2$ .

$w_1$	$w_2$	$\alpha = 0$		$\alpha = 0.3$		$\alpha = 0.6$		$\alpha = 0.9$	
		$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$
0.1	0.9	(17.6694, 16.7450, 10.5300)	(1.0892, 0.5537)	(17.6714, 16.7450, 10.5306)	(1.0885, 0.5532)	(17.6670, 16.7447, 10.5293)	(1.0902, 0.5542)	(17.6703, 16.7449, 10.5302)	(1.0889, 0.5535)
0.3	0.7	(17.6715, 16.7451, 10.5306)	(1.0884, 0.5532)	(17.6714, 16.7450, 10.5306)	(1.0885, 0.5533)	(17.6729, 16.7450, 10.5310)	(1.0879, 0.5530)	(17.6724, 16.7449, 10.5308)	(1.0881, 0.5531)
0.5	0.5	(17.6702, 16.7450, 10.5302)	(1.0889, 0.5535)	(17.6696, 16.7448, 10.5300)	(1.0892, 0.5537)	(17.6708, 16.7449, 10.5304)	(1.0887, 0.5534)	(17.6655, 16.7445, 10.5288)	(1.0908, 0.5546)
0.7	0.3	(17.6717, 16.7451, 10.5307)	(1.0883, 0.5532)	(17.6712, 16.7450, 10.5305)	(1.0885, 0.5533)	(17.6708, 16.7449, 10.5304)	(1.0887, 0.5534)	(17.6708, 16.7448, 10.5304)	(1.0887, 0.5534)
0.9	0.1	(17.6736, 16.7453, 10.5313)	(1.0876, 0.5527)	(17.6719, 16.7451, 10.5308)	(1.0883, 0.5531)	(17.6725, 16.7451, 10.5309)	(1.0880, 0.5530)	(17.6741, 16.7451, 10.5314)	(1.0874, 0.5526)



**Figure 4.** (a)–(e) Three-dimensional histogram of the optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting efforts for fixed  $\alpha = 0.3$ .

**Table 6.** Optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort for  $p = 0.5$ .

$w_1$	$w_2$	$\alpha = 0$		$\alpha = 0.3$		$\alpha = 0.6$		$\alpha = 0.9$	
		$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$
0.1	0.9	(16.7656,16.0318,10.8083)	(1.5075,0.7747)	(16.7637,16.0315,10.8076)	(1.5083,0.7751)	(16.7640,16.0315,10.8077)	(1.5082,0.7750)	(16.7703,16.0318,10.8097)	(1.5057,0.7736)
0.3	0.7	(16.7671,16.0318,10.8087)	(1.5069,0.7744)	(16.7666,16.0316,10.8085)	(1.5072,0.7745)	(16.7666,16.0315,10.8085)	(1.5072,0.7745)	(16.7669,16.0315,10.8086)	(1.5071,0.7744)
0.5	0.5	(16.7662,16.0317,10.8084)	(1.5073,0.7746)	(16.7661,16.0316,10.8083)	(1.5074,0.7746)	(16.7670,16.0315,10.8086)	(1.5070,0.7744)	(16.7659,16.0314,10.8083)	(1.5076,0.7747)
0.7	0.3	(16.7666,16.0317,10.8085)	(1.5071,0.7745)	(16.7662,16.0316,10.8084)	(1.5073,0.7746)	(16.7636,16.0313,10.8075)	(1.5084,0.7752)	(16.7681,16.0316,10.8090)	(1.5066,0.7742)
0.9	0.1	(16.7659,16.0318,10.8084)	(1.5074,0.7746)	(16.7687,16.0318,10.8092)	(1.5063,0.7740)	(16.7651,16.0315,10.8081)	(1.5077,0.7748)	(16.7656,16.0315,10.8082)	(1.5076,0.7747)

Consider different combinations of  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \alpha$  and  $p$ , the optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort are displayed in Tables 4–8, respectively. From Tables 4–8, when  $p$  fixed, the values  $x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta}$  and  $E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta}$  fluctuate in a small range with respect to  $w_1, w_2$  and  $\alpha$ . Besides, if we fix some variables  $w_1, w_2$  and  $\alpha$ , prey  $x_{1\delta}$  and  $x_{2\delta}$  are decreasing while predator  $y_{\delta}$  and optimal harvesting efforts of two preys  $E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta}$  are increasing with the increase of  $p$ . To better support our results, we select part of the data in Tables 4–8 to draw Figures 3 and 4. In Figure 3,  $p$  is fixed at zero while  $\omega_1$  and  $\alpha$  are wandering from 0 to 1, respectively. The values of  $x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta}$  and  $E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta}$  oscillate on a small scale. Considering  $\alpha = 0.3$  in Figure 4,  $x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta}$  and  $E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta}$  fluctuate in a small range when we fix  $p$  and adjust  $\omega_1$ ;  $x_{1\delta}$  and  $x_{2\delta}$  are decreasing, but  $y_{\delta}, E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta}$  are increasing with the development of  $p$  and  $\omega_1$  fixed.

**Table 7.** Optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort for  $p = 0.8$ .

$w_1$	$w_2$	$\alpha = 0$		$\alpha = 0.3$		$\alpha = 0.6$		$\alpha = 0.9$	
		$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$
0.1	0.9	(15.7668,15.3436,11.0469)	(1.9447,1.0127)	(15.7635,15.3432,11.0458)	(1.9460,1.0135)	(15.7657,15.3433,11.0465)	(1.9452,1.0130)	(15.7681,15.3434,11.0474)	(1.9443,1.0124)
0.3	0.7	(15.7662,15.3434,11.0467)	(1.9450,1.0129)	(15.7647,15.3432,11.0461)	(1.9456,1.0132)	(15.7640,15.3430,11.0458)	(1.9459,1.0134)	(15.7689,15.3433,11.0476)	(1.9440,1.0123)
0.5	0.5	(15.7661,15.3434,11.0466)	(1.9450,1.0129)	(15.7659,15.3433,11.0466)	(1.9451,1.0129)	(15.7653,15.3431,11.0463)	(1.9454,1.0131)	(15.7623,15.3429,11.0452)	(1.9465,1.0138)
0.7	0.3	(15.7679,15.3436,11.0473)	(1.9443,1.0125)	(15.7654,15.3433,11.0464)	(1.9453,1.0131)	(15.7657,15.3432,11.0465)	(1.9452,1.0130)	(15.7645,15.3430,11.0460)	(1.9457,1.0133)
0.9	0.1	(15.7686,15.3437,11.0476)	(1.9440,1.0123)	(15.7649,15.3433,11.0463)	(1.9455,1.0131)	(15.7690,15.3435,11.0477)	(1.9439,1.0122)	(15.7625,15.3430,11.0454)	(1.9464,1.0137)



**Table 8.** Optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort for  $p = 1$ .

$w_1$	$w_2$	$\alpha = 0$		$\alpha = 0.3$		$\alpha = 0.6$		$\alpha = 0.9$	
		$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$	$(x_{1\delta}, x_{2\delta}, y_{\delta})$	$(E_{1\delta}, E_{2\delta})$
0.1	0.9	(15.0484, 14.8987, 11.1786)	(2.2472, 1.1825)	(15.0471, 14.8984, 11.1781)	(2.2477, 1.1828)	(15.0500, 14.8985, 11.1791)	(2.2467, 1.1821)	(15.0440, 14.8980, 11.1768)	(2.2490, 1.1836)
0.3	0.7	(15.0490, 14.8986, 11.1787)	(2.2470, 1.1824)	(15.0483, 14.8984, 11.1784)	(2.2473, 1.1826)	(15.0476, 14.8982, 11.1781)	(2.2476, 1.1828)	(15.0494, 14.8983, 11.1788)	(2.2470, 1.1823)
0.5	0.5	(15.0477, 14.8985, 11.1783)	(2.2475, 1.1827)	(15.0474, 14.8983, 11.1781)	(2.2477, 1.1828)	(15.0497, 14.8984, 11.1789)	(2.2468, 1.1823)	(15.0481, 14.8982, 11.1783)	(2.2475, 1.1826)
0.7	0.3	(15.0484, 14.8986, 11.1785)	(2.2472, 1.1825)	(15.0488, 14.8984, 11.1786)	(2.2472, 1.1825)	(15.0488, 14.8983, 11.1786)	(2.2472, 1.1825)	(15.0477, 14.8981, 11.1781)	(2.2476, 1.1828)
0.9	0.1	(15.0459, 14.8985, 11.1777)	(2.2482, 1.1831)	(15.0466, 14.8984, 11.1779)	(2.2479, 1.1829)	(15.0476, 14.8983, 11.1782)	(2.2476, 1.1827)	(15.0443, 14.8980, 11.1770)	(2.2489, 1.1835)

## 9. Conclusions

Biological parameters, in the ecosystem, may oscillate simultaneously with the environment. Thus some biological parameters such as intrinsic growth rate of prey ( $r$ ), interspecific competition ( $\alpha$ ), predation coefficient ( $c$ ), mortality rate ( $d$ ), intra-specific competition rate ( $s$ ) can be regarded as imprecise parameters. Furthermore, refuge may increase the survival rate of prey while toxicity often reduces the amount of population. In view of these points, we have introduced interval-valued function into a prey-predator model with prey refuges and toxicity.

Then we have researched the boundedness and positivity of the model (Theorem 3.1). Also the existence and stability of equilibria have been studied (Theorem 5.1). Table 1 has shown the existence conditions of bionomic equilibria in four cases. The highlight part in the paper is to consider the inflation net discount rate as trapezoidal fuzzy number, and solve the fuzzy optimal harvesting problem.

Numerical simulations are good methods to provide visual conclusions for the dynamic behaviors of the model. Table 2 shows the nine equilibria for different  $p$ . Figure 1 reflects local stability of interior equilibrium with different  $p$ , and the corresponding phase portraits of interior equilibrium of the model are also presented in Figure 2. Table 3 clearly displays the bioeconomic equilibria in four cases. Last but not least, Tables 4–8 and Figures 3 and 4 present the optimal equilibrium and optimal harvesting effort on the different combinations of  $\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_2$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $p$ .

In this paper, we just consider the impact of present time depicted by ordinary differential equation, while ignoring the impact of past time, the subsequent work will introduce time delay into our model to establish delay differential equation. This paper employs  $\alpha$ -cut of trapezoidal fuzzy number to describe the inflation net discount rate. But other forms of fuzzy numbers, for instance, triangular fuzzy number and normal fuzzy number, are also significant in fuzzy set theory. Future work will focus on applying these kinds of fuzzy numbers to describe imprecise parameters.

## Acknowledgments

The authors thank the editor and referees for their careful reading and valuable comments. The work is supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No.12101211) and the Program for Innovative Research Team of the Higher Education Institution of Hubei Province (No.T201812) and the Scientific Research Project of Education Department of Hubei Province (No.B2020090).

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

---

**References**

1. A. J. Lotka, *Elements of Physical Biology*, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1925.
2. V. Volterra, Variazioni e fluttuazioni del numero d'individui in specie animali conviventi, *Mem. R. Acad. Naz. dei Lincei (ser.6)*, **2** (1926), 31–113.
3. C. W. Clark, *Mathematical Bioeconomics: The Optimal Management of Renewable Resources*, Wiley, New York, 1976.
4. C. W. Clark, *Bioeconomic Modelling and Fisheries Management*, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1985.
5. T. K. Kar, K. S. Chaudhuri, Harvesting in a two-prey one-predator fishery: A bioeconomic model, *ANZIAM J.*, **45** (2004), 443–456. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S144618110001347X>
6. Z. R. He, N. Zhou, Optimal harvesting for a nonlinear hierarchical age-structured population model, *J. Sys. Sci. Math. Scis.*, **40** (2020), 2248–2263. <https://doi.org/10.12341/jssms14054>
7. Q. L. Wang, S. Q. Zhai, Q. Liu, Z. J. Liu, Stability and optimal harvesting of a predator-prey system combining prey refuge with fuzzy biological parameters, *Math. Biosci. Eng.*, **18** (2021), 9094–9120. <https://doi.org/10.3934/mbe.2021448>
8. T. G. Hallam, C. E. Clark, Non-autonomous logistic equations as models of populations in a deteriorating environment, *J. Theoret. Biol.*, **93** (1981), 303–311. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-5193\(81\)90106-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-5193(81)90106-5)
9. B. Dubey, J. Hussain, A model for the allelopathic effect on two competing species, *Ecol. Model.*, **129** (2000), 195–207. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800\(00\)00228-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800(00)00228-3)
10. T. K. Kar, K. S. Chaudhuri, On non-selective harvesting of two competing fish species in the presence of toxicity, *Ecol. Model.*, **161** (2003), 125–137. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800\(02\)00323-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800(02)00323-X)
11. J. Maynard-Smith, *Models in Ecology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1974.
12. J. Chattopadhyay, Effect of toxic substances on a two-species competitive system, *Ecol. Model.*, **84** (1996), 287–289. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-3800\(94\)00134-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-3800(94)00134-0)
13. G. F. Gause, N. P. Smaragdova, A. A. Witt, Further studies of interaction between predators and prey, *J. Anim. Ecol.*, **5** (1936), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1087>
14. E. González-Olivares, R. Ramos-Jiliberto, Dynamic consequences of prey refuges in a simple model system: more prey, fewer predators and enhanced stability, *Ecol. Model.*, **166** (2003), 135–146. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800\(03\)00131-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0304-3800(03)00131-5)
15. T. K. Kar, Stability analysis of a prey-predator model incorporating a prey refuge, *Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simul.*, **10** (2005), 681–691. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cnsns.2003.08.006>
16. W. X. Li, L. H. Huang, J. F. Wang, Global asymptotical stability and sliding bifurcation analysis of a general Filippov-type predator-prey model with a refuge, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **405** (2021), 126263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2021.126263>
17. R. J. Han, L. N. Guin, B. X. Dai, Consequences of refuge and diffusion in a spatiotemporal predator-prey model, *Nonlinear Anal. Real World Appl.*, **60** (2021), 103311. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nonrwa.2021.103311>

18. H. K. Qi, X. Z. Meng, Threshold behavior of a stochastic predator-prey system with prey refuge and fear effect, *Appl. Math. Lett.*, **113** (2021), 106846. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aml.2020.106846>
19. W. J. Lu, Y. H. Xia, Multiple periodicity in a predator-prey model with prey refuge, *Mathematics*, **10** (2022), 421. <https://doi.org/10.3390/math10030421>
20. M. Liu, C. Z. Bai, Optimal harvesting of a stochastic mutualism model with Lévy jumps, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **276** (2016), 301–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2015.11.089>
21. M. Liu, C. Z. Bai, Optimal harvesting of a stochastic mutualism model with regime-switching, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **373** (2020), 125040. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2020.125040>
22. Q. Liu, D. Q. Jiang, T. Hayat, A. Alsaedi, Dynamical behavior of stochastic predator-prey models with distributed delay and general functional response, *Stoch. Anal. Appl.*, **38** (2020), 403–426. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07362994.2019.1695628>
23. K. Qi, Z. J. Liu, L. W. Wang, Q. L. Wang, Survival and stationary distribution of a stochastic facultative mutualism model with distributed delays and strong kernels, *Math. Biosci. Eng.*, **18** (2021), 3160–3179. <https://doi.org/10.3934/mbe.2021157>
24. Y. Xie, Z. J. Liu, K. Qi, D. C. Shangguan, Q. L. Wang, A stochastic mussel-algae model under regime switching, *Math. Biosci. Eng.*, **19** (2022), 4794–4811. <https://doi.org/10.3934/mbe.2022224>
25. S. Q. Zhang, T. H. Zhang, S. L. Yuan, Dynamics of a stochastic predator-prey model with habitat complexity and prey aggregation, *Ecol. Complex.*, **45** (2021), 100889. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecocom.2020.100889>
26. S. Q. Zhang, S. L. Yuan, T. H. Zhang, A predator-prey model with different response functions to juvenile and adult prey in deterministic and stochastic environments, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **413** (2022), 126598. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2021.126598>
27. R. C. Bassanezi, L. C. Barros, A. Tonelli, Attractors and asymptotic stability for fuzzy dynamical systems, *Fuzzy Set. Syst.*, **113** (2000), 473–483. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0165-0114\(98\)00142-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0165-0114(98)00142-0)
28. M. T. Mizukoshi, L. C. Barros, R. C. Bassanezi, Stability of fuzzy dynamic systems, *Int. J. Uncertain. Fuzziness Knowl. Based Syst.*, **17** (2009), 69–83. <https://doi.org/10.1142/S0218488509005747>
29. B. Bede, S. G. Gal, Generalizations of the differentiability of fuzzy-number-valued functions with applications to fuzzy differential equations, *Fuzzy Set. Syst.*, **151** (2005), 581–599. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fss.2004.08.001>
30. M. S. Guo, X. P. Xu, R. L. Li, Impulsive functional differential inclusions and fuzzy population models, *Fuzzy Sets. Syst.*, **138** (2003), 601–615. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0165-0114\(02\)00522-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0165-0114(02)00522-5)
31. D. Pal, G. S. Mahapatra, G. P. Samanta, Optimal harvesting of prey-predator system with interval biological parameters: A bioeconomic model, *Math. Biosci.*, **241** (2013), 181–187. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mbs.2012.11.007>
32. S. Sharma, G. P. Samanta, Optimal harvesting of a two species competition model with imprecise biological parameters, *Nonlinear Dyn.*, **77** (2014), 1101–1119. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11071-014-1354-9>

33. D. Pal, G. S. Mahapatra, A bioeconomic modeling of two-prey and one-predator fishery model with optimal harvesting policy through hybridization approach, *Appl. Math. Comput.*, **242** (2014), 748–763. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amc.2014.06.018>
34. T. Das, R. N. Mukherjee, K. S. Chaudhuri, Harvesting of a prey-predator fishery in the presence of toxicity, *Appl. Math. Model.*, **33** (2009), 2282–2292. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apm.2008.06.008>
35. Q. L. Wang, Z. J. Liu, X. A. Zhang, R. A. Cheke, Incorporating prey refuge into a predator-prey system with imprecise parameter estimates, *Comput. Appl. Math.*, **36** (2017), 1067–1084. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40314-015-0282-8>
36. K. Maity, M. Maiti, A numerical approach to a multi-objective optimal inventory control problem for deteriorating multi-items under fuzzy inflation and discounting, *Comput. Math. Appl.*, **55** (2008), 1794–1807. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.camwa.2007.07.011>
37. D. Sadhukhan, L. N. Sahoo, B. Mondal, M. Maiti, Food chain model with optimal harvesting in fuzzy environment, *J. Appl. Math. Comput.*, **34** (2010), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12190-009-0301-2>
38. L. S. Pontryagin, V. G. Boltyonsku, R. V. Gamkrelidze, E. F. Mishchenko, *The Mathematical Theory of Optimal Processes*, Wiley, New York, 1962.
39. L. A. Zadeh, Fuzzy sets, *Inf. Cont.*, **8** (1965), 338–353. <https://doi.org/10.1142/10936>
40. D. Pal, G. S. Mahapatra, G. P. Samanta, Stability and bionomic analysis of fuzzy parameter based prey-predator harvesting model using UFM, *Nonlinear Dyn.*, **79** (2015), 1939–1955. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11071-014-1784-4>
41. J. Dijkman, H. Haeringen, S. DeLange, Fuzzy numbers, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, **92** (1983), 301–341. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-247X\(83\)90253-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-247X(83)90253-6)
42. S. Radhakrishnan, P. Gajivaradhan, A new approach to solve fully fuzzy linear system, *Int. J. Math. Arch.*, **5** (2014), 21–29. <https://doi.org/10.12983/ijsrk-2013-p100-105>
43. K. M. Miettinen, *Non-Linear Multi-Objective, Optimization*, Kluwer's International Series, 1999.

## Appendix

### A. Basic concept of interval number

**Definition A.1.** [31] *Interval number:* An interval number  $A$  is expressed as closed interval  $[a^n, a^m]$  and defined by  $A = [a^n, a^m] = \{x | a^n < x < a^m, x \in R\}$ , where  $R$  is the set of real numbers and  $a^n, a^m$  denote the left and right limits of the interval number, respectively. Also, every real number can be represented by the interval number  $[a, a]$ , for all  $a \in R$ .

**Definition A.2.** [31] *Interval-valued function:* Let  $a > 0, b > 0$  and consider the interval  $[a, b]$ . From a mathematical point of view, any real number can be represented on a line. Similarly, we can represent an interval by a function. If the interval is of the form  $[a, b]$ , the interval-valued function is taken as  $h(p) = a^{1-p}b^p$  for  $p \in [0, 1]$ .

For any two interval numbers  $A = [a^n, a^m]$  and  $B = [b^n, b^m]$ , we define arithmetic operations on interval-valued functions as follows:

Addition:  $A + B = [a^n, a^m] + [b^n, b^m] = [a^n + b^n, a^m + b^m]$  if  $a^n + b^n > 0$ . The interval-valued function for the interval  $A + B$  is considered as  $h(p) = (a^N)^{1-p}(a^M)^p$  where  $a^N = a^n + b^n$  and  $a^M = a^m + b^m$ .

Subtraction:  $A - B = [a^n, a^m] - [b^n, b^m] = [a^n - b^n, a^m - b^m]$  if  $a^n - b^n > 0$ . The interval-valued function for the interval  $A - B$  is taken for  $h(p) = (b^N)^{1-p}(b^M)^p$  where  $b^N = a^n - b^n$  and  $b^M = a^m - b^m$ .

Scalar multiplication:

$$\alpha A = \alpha[a^n, a^m] = \begin{cases} [\alpha a^n, \alpha a^m] & \text{if } \alpha \geq 0 \\ [\alpha a^m, \alpha a^n] & \text{if } \alpha < 0 \end{cases} \text{ if } a^n > 0.$$

The interval-valued function interval  $\alpha A$  is known as:

$$h(p) = (v^N)^{1-p}(v^M)^p \text{ if } \alpha \geq 0 \text{ and } h(p) = -(w^M)^{1-p}(w^N)^p \text{ if } \alpha < 0,$$

where  $v^N = \alpha a^n$ ,  $v^M = \alpha a^m$ ,  $w^M = |\alpha| a^m$  and  $w^N = |\alpha| a^n$ .

## B. Basic concept of fuzzy set

**Definition B.1.** [39] *Fuzzy set:* A fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$  in a universe of discourse  $X$  is defined as the following set of pairs  $\tilde{A} = \{(x, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x)) : x \in X\}$ . The mapping  $\mu_{\tilde{A}} : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is called the membership function of the fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\mu_{\tilde{A}}$  is called the membership value or degree of membership of  $x \in X$  in the fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$ .

**Definition B.2.** [40]  *$\alpha$ -cut of fuzzy set:* The  $\alpha$ -cut of a fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$  is a crisp set which is defined by  $A_\alpha = \{x : \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha\}$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ . For  $\alpha = 0$  the support of  $\tilde{A}$  is defined as  $A_0 = \text{Supp}(\tilde{A}) = \{x \in R, \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) > 0\}$ .

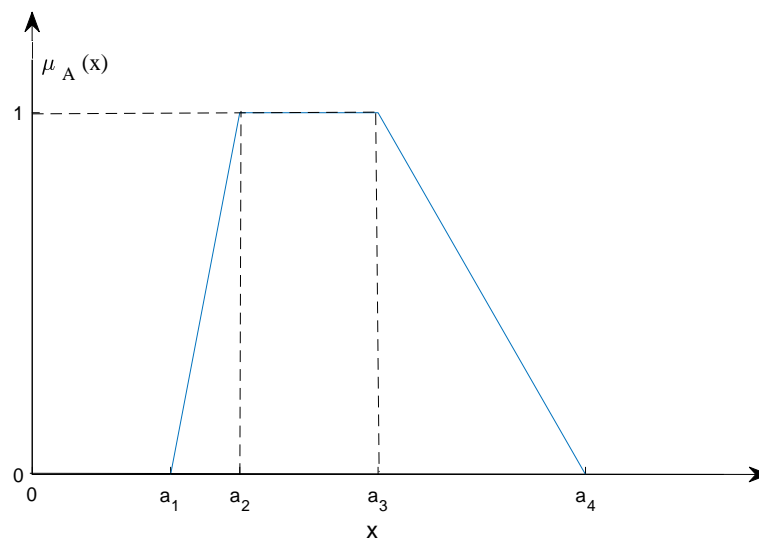
**Definition B.3.** [39] *Convex fuzzy set:* A convex fuzzy set  $\tilde{A}$  is a fuzzy set on a continuous universe satisfying that  $A_\alpha$  is a convex classical set for all  $\alpha$ .

**Definition B.4.** [41] *Fuzzy number:* A fuzzy number is a convex fuzzy set with  $X = R$ .

**Definition B.5.** [42] *Trapezoidal fuzzy number:* A fuzzy number  $\tilde{A} = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)$  is defined as a trapezoidal fuzzy number if its membership function satisfy

$$\mu_{\tilde{A}} = \begin{cases} 0, & x < a_1 \\ \frac{x-a_1}{a_2-a_1}, & a_1 \leq x \leq a_2 \\ 1, & a_2 < x < a_3 \\ \frac{a_4-x}{a_4-a_3}, & a_3 \leq x \leq a_4 \\ 0, & x > a_4 \end{cases}$$

The pictorial form of trapezoidal fuzzy number is presented by the Figure B1 given below



**Figure B1.** Trapezoidal fuzzy number  $\tilde{A} = (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4)$ .

As per definition of trapezoidal fuzzy number the  $\alpha$ -cut is a bounded closed interval  $[A_L(\alpha), A_R(\alpha)]$ , where  $A_L(\alpha) = \inf\{x : \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha\} = a_1 + \alpha(a_2 - a_1)$  and  $A_R(\alpha) = \sup\{x : \mu_{\tilde{A}}(x) \geq \alpha\} = a_4 - \alpha(a_4 - a_3)$ .

### C. Weighted sum method

Utility functions  $Y_i(J_i)$ , in weighted sum method [43], are defined for each objective according to the significance of  $J_i$  relative to the other objective functions. Then define a total or overall utility function  $Y$  as listed below:

$$p = \sum_{i=L,R} Y_i(J_i(x)). \quad (\text{C.1})$$

The solution vector  $x^*$  is obtained through maximizing the total utility  $Y(x)$  subject to constraint conditions.

Take a proper form of the equation (C.1) for maximization formulation as follows:

$$Y(x) = \sum_{i=L,R} \omega_i J_i(x), \quad \text{subject to } \sum_{i=L,R} \omega_i = 1 \quad \text{and } 0 < \omega_L, \omega_R < 1. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

Here  $\omega_L$  and  $\omega_R$  stand for the weights of the objective functions. And we choose weights and guarantee that their sum is equal to one.



AIMS Press

© 2022 the Author(s), licensee AIMS Press. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)