

# On the recursive sequence $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-(4k+3)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{n-(k+1)t-k}}$

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**Abstract.** In this paper a solution of the following difference equation was investigated

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-(4k+3)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{n-(k+1)t-k}}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $x_{-(4k+3)}, x_{-(4k+2)}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0 \in (0, \infty)$  and  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

**2010 MSC.** 39A10, 39A14, 39A20.

**Key words and phrases.** Difference equation, period  $4k+4$  solution.

## 1. Introduction

Difference equations appear naturally as discrete analogues and as numerical solutions of differential and delay differential equations having applications in biology, ecology, physics, etc [26].

Recently there has been a lot of interest in studying the periodic nature of nonlinear difference equations. For some recent result concerning among other problems, the periodic nature of scalar nonlinear difference equations see, for examples [1–26].

Cinar, studied the following problems with positive initial values

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{1 + ax_n x_{n-1}}$$
$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{-1 + ax_n x_{n-1}}$$
$$x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_{n-1}}{1 + bx_n x_{n-1}}$$

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Received 28.08.2016

for  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , in  $[2, 3, 4]$ , respectively.

In [18] Stevic assumed that  $\beta = 1$  and solved the following problem

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{1 + x_n} \text{ for } n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $x_{-1}, x_0 \in (0, \infty)$ . Also, this result was generalized to the equation of the following form:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-1}}{g(x_n)} \text{ for } n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $x_{-1}, x_0 \in (0, \infty)$ .

In [19, 20, 21] studied the following problems with positive initial values:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-3}}{1 + x_{n-1}},$$

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-5}}{1 + x_{n-2}},$$

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-5}}{1 + x_{n-1}x_{n-3}}$$

for  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , respectively.

In this paper we investigate the following nonlinear difference equation

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{x_{n-(4k+3)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{n-(k+1)t-k}} \text{ for } n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (1)$$

where  $x_{-(4k+3)}, x_{-(4k+2)}, \dots, x_{-1}, x_0$  and  $k = 0, 1, \dots$

## 2. Main result

**Theorem 2.1.** *Consider the difference equation (1). Then the following statements are true.*

**a)** *The sequences  $(x_{(4k+4)n-(4k+3)}), (x_{(4k+4)n-(4k+2)}), \dots, (x_{(4k+4)n})$  are decreasing and there exists  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{4k+4} \geq 0$  such that*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n-(4k+3)+t} = a_{1+t}, \quad t = 0, 1, \dots, (4k+3).$$

**b)**  *$(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{4k+4}, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{4k+4}, \dots)$  is a solution of equation (1) of period  $4k+4$ .*

**c)**  *$\prod_{t=0}^3 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n-(k+1)t-k} = 0, \dots, \prod_{t=0}^3 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n-(k+1)t} = 0$  or*

$$\prod_{t=0}^3 a_{(k+1)t+1} = 0, \dots, \prod_{t=1}^4 a_{(k+1)t} = 0.$$

**d)** If there exists  $n_0 \in N$  such that

$$\prod_{t=0}^2 x_{n-(k+1)t-k} \geq x_{n+1} \prod_{t=0}^1 x_{n-(k+1)t-k}$$

for all  $n \geq n_0$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0.$$

**e)** The following formulas

$$\begin{aligned} & x_{(4k+4)n+r(k+1)+s+1} \\ &= x_{(r-4)(k+1)+s+1} \left( 1 - \frac{\left( \prod_{m=1}^4 x_{-(mk+m-1)+s} \right) / x_{(r-4)(k+1)+s+1}}{1 + \left( \prod_{m=1}^3 x_{-(mk+m-1)+s} \right)} \right. \\ & \quad \left. \times \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+r} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{m=1}^3 x_{(k+1)i-(mk+m-1)+s}} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $r = 0, 1, 2, 3$  and  $s = 0, 1, \dots, k$  hold.

**f)** If  $x_{(4k+4)n+(t-1)k+t} \rightarrow a_t \neq 0$ , ( $t = 1, 2, 3$ ) then  $x_{(4k+4)n+3k+4} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty, \dots$ . If  $x_{(4k+4)n+tk+t} \rightarrow a_{tk+t} \neq 0$ , ( $t = 1, 2, 3$ ) then  $x_{(4k+4)n+4k+4} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

*Proof.* **a)** Firstly, from the equation (1), we obtain

$$x_{n+1}(1 + x_{n-k}x_{n-(2k+1)}x_{n-(3k+2)}) = x_{n-(4k+3)}.$$

If  $x_{n-k}, x_{n-(2k+1)}, x_{n-(3k+2)} \in (0, +\infty)$ , then

$$(1 + x_{n-k}x_{n-(2k+1)}x_{n-(3k+2)}) \in (1, +\infty).$$

Since  $x_{n+1} < x_{n-(4k+3)}$ ,  $n \in N$ , we obtain that there exist

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n-(4k+3)+t} = a_{1+t}, t = 0, 1, \dots, (4k+3).$$

**b)**  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{4k+4}, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{4k+4}, \dots)$  is a solution of equation (1) of period  $4k+4$ .

c) In view of the equation (1), we obtain

$$x_{(4k+4)n+1} = \frac{x_{(4k+4)n-(4k+3)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(4k+4)n-(k+1)t-k}}$$

Taking limits as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  on both sides of the above equality, we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{(4k+4)n-(4k+3)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(4k+4)n-(k+1)t-k}}$$

Then

$$\prod_{t=0}^3 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n-(k+1)t-k} = 0 \text{ or } \prod_{t=0}^3 a_{(k+1)t+1} = 0.$$

Similarly,

$$\prod_{t=0}^3 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n-(k+1)t} = 0 \text{ or } \prod_{t=1}^4 a_{(k+1)t} = 0.$$

d) If there exists  $n_0 \in N$  such that  $x_{n-k}x_{n-(2k+1)}x_{n-(3k+2)} \geq x_{n+1}x_{n-k}x_{n-(2k+1)}$  for all  $n \geq n_0$ , then  $a_1 \leq a_{k+2} \leq a_{2k+3} \leq a_{3k+4} \leq a_1, \dots, a_{k+1} \leq a_{2k+2} \leq a_{3k+3} \leq a_{4k+4} \leq a_{k+1}$ . Since

$$\prod_{t=0}^3 a_{(k+1)t+1} = 0, \dots, \prod_{t=1}^4 a_{(k+1)t} = 0,$$

we obtain the result.

e) Subtracting  $x_{n-(4k+3)}$  from the left and right-hand sides in equation (1) we obtain

$$x_{n+1} - x_{n-(4k+3)} = \frac{1}{1 + x_{n-k}x_{n-(2k+1)}x_{n-(3k+2)}}(x_{n-k} - x_{n-(5k+4)}),$$

and the following formula

$$\text{for } n \geq k + 1 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{x_{(k+1)n-((k+1)^2-1)} - x_{(k+1)n-[(k+2)^2+2k]}{n-(k+1)} \\ = (x_1 - x_{-(4k+3)}) \prod_{i=1}^2 \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \frac{x_{(k+1)n-((k+1)^2-(k+1))} - x_{(k+1)n-[(k+2)^2+k]}{n-(k+1)} \\ = (x_{k+1} - x_{-(3k+3)}) \prod_{i=1}^2 \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}} \end{array} \right. \quad (2)$$

holds. Replacing  $n$  by  $4j$  in (2) and summing from  $j = 0$  to  $j = n$  we obtain

$$x_{(4k+4)n+1} - x_{-(4k+3)} = (x_1 - x_{-(4k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \tag{3}$$

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$$x_{(4k+4)n+k+1} - x_{-(3k+3)} = (x_{k+1} - x_{-(3k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}$$

Also, replacing  $n$  by  $4j + 1$  in (2) and summing from  $j = 0$  to  $j = n$  we obtain

$$x_{(4k+4)n+k+2} - x_{-(3k+2)} = (x_1 - x_{-(4k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}, \tag{4}$$

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$$x_{(4k+4)n+2k+2} - x_{-(2k+2)} = (x_{k+1} - x_{-(3k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}$$

Also, replacing  $n$  by  $4j + 2$  in (2) and summing from  $j = 0$  to  $j = n$  we obtain

$$x_{(4k+4)n+2k+3} - x_{-(2k+1)} = (x_1 - x_{-(4k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}, \tag{5}$$

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$$x_{(4k+4)n+3k+3} - x_{-(k+1)} = (x_{k+1} - x_{-(3k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}$$

Also, replacing  $n$  by  $4j + 3$  in (2) and summing from  $j = 0$  to  $j = n$  we obtain

$$x_{(4k+4)n+3k+4} - x_{-(k)} = (x_1 - x_{-(4k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}},$$

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$$x_{(4k+4)n+4k+4} - x_0 = (x_{k+1} - x_{-(3k+3)}) \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}.$$

Now, we obtained of the above formulas;

$$x_{(4k+4)n+r(k+1)+s+1} = x_{(r-4)(k+1)+s+1} \left( 1 - \frac{\left( \prod_{m=1}^4 x_{-(mk+m-1)+s} \right) / x_{(r-4)(k+1)+s+1}}{1 + \left( \prod_{m=1}^3 x_{-(mk+m-1)+s} \right)} \right) \times \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+r} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{m=1}^3 x_{(k+1)i-(mk+m-1)+s}}$$

where  $r = 0, 1, 2, 3$  and  $s = 0, 1, \dots, k$  hold.

f) Suppose that  $a_1 = a_{k+2} = a_{2k+3} = a_{3k+4} = 0$ . By (e) we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{-(4k+3)} \left( 1 - \frac{\prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} \right) \times \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}.$$

$$a_1 = x_{-(4k+3)} \left( 1 - \frac{\prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \right),$$

$$a_1 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}. \quad (7)$$

Similarly,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n+k+2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{-(3k+2)} \left( 1 - \frac{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-(3k+2)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} \right. \\ \left. \times \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \right).$$

$$a_{k+2} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-(3k+2)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}. \quad (8)$$

Similarly,

$$a_{2k+3} = x_{-(2k+1)} \left( 1 - \frac{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-(2k+1)}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} \right. \\ \left. \times \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \right),$$

$$a_{2k+3} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-(2k+1)}}$$

$$= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}. \tag{9}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{(4k+4)n+3k+4} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{-(k)} \left( 1 - \frac{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-k}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \sum_{j=0}^n \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \right) \\ a_{3k+4} &= x_{-(k)} \left( 1 - \frac{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-k}}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \right), \\ a_{3k+4} = 0 &\Rightarrow \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left( \prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k} \right) / x_{-k}} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}. \tag{10} \end{aligned}$$

From the equation (7) and (8),

$$\frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \tag{11}$$



$$> \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k}\right)/x_{-(3k+2)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}$$

thus  $x_{-(4k+3)} > x_{-(3k+2)}$ .

From the equation (8) and (9),

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k}\right)/x_{-(3k+2)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \\
 & > \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k}\right)/x_{-(2k+1)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}}, \quad (12)
 \end{aligned}$$

thus,  $x_{-(3k+2)} > x_{-(2k+1)}$ .

From the equation (9) and (10),

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k}\right)/x_{-(2k+1)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \\
 & > \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t-k}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t-k}\right)/x_{-k}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t-k}} \quad (13)
 \end{aligned}$$

thus,  $x_{-(2k+1)} > x_{-k}$ ,  $x_{-(4k+3)} > x_{-(3k+2)} > x_{-(2k+1)} > x_{-k}$ . We arrive at a contradiction.

Suppose that  $a_{k+1} = a_{2k+2} = a_{3k+3} = a_{4k+4} = 0$ .

From that the equation (14) in (e) follows, Proof of the equation (11) is similar and will be omitted.

$$\frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}}{\prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&> \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t}\right)/x_{-(2k+2)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}, \quad (14)
\end{aligned}$$

thus,  $x_{-(3k+3)} > x_{-(2k+2)}$ .

From that the equation (15) in (e) follows, the proof of the equation (12) is similar and will be omitted.

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t}\right)/x_{-(2k+2)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+1} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}} \\
&> \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t}\right)/x_{-(k+1)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}}, \quad (15)
\end{aligned}$$

thus,  $x_{-(2k+2)} > x_{-(k+1)}$ .

From that the equation (16) in (e) follows, the proof of the equation (13) is similar and will be omitted.

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t}\right)/x_{-(k+1)}} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+2} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}} \\
&> \frac{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{-(k+1)t}}{\left(\prod_{t=0}^3 x_{-(k+1)t}\right)/x_0} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^{4j+3} \frac{1}{1 + \prod_{t=0}^2 x_{(k+1)i-(k+1)t}} \quad (16)
\end{aligned}$$

thus,  $x_{-(k+1)} > x_0$ ,  $x_{-(3k+3)} > x_{-(2k+2)} > x_{-(k+1)} > x_0$ . We arrive at a contradiction which completes the proof of theorem.  $\square$

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