

**On the global behavior of**  
 $x_{n+1} = |x_n| - y_n - 1$  and  $y_{n+1} = x_n + |y_n|$

E.A. GROVE  
*Department of Mathematics,*  
*University of Rhode Island,*  
*Kingston, Rhode Island,*  
*02881-0816, USA*  
email: *grove@math.uri.edu*  
and

E. LAPIERRE<sup>2</sup>  
*Department of Mathematics,*  
*Johnson and Wales*  
*University,*  
*Providence, Rhode Island*  
*02903, USA.*  
email: *elapierre@jwu.edu*  
and

W. TIKJHA  
*Faculty of Science and*  
*Technology,*  
*Pibulsongkram Rajabhat*  
*University,*  
*Muang District, Phitsanuloke,*  
*65000, Thailand*  
email: *wirot\_tik@yahoo.com*

**ABSTRACT**

In this paper we consider the system of piecewise linear difference equations in the title, where the initial conditions  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  are real numbers. We show that there exists a unique equilibrium solution and exactly two prime period-3 solutions, and that except for the unique equilibrium solution, every solution of the system is eventually one of the two prime period-3 solutions.

**RESUMEN**

En este artículo consideramos el sistema de ecuaciones en diferencia lineales por partes indicado en el título, donde las condiciones iniciales  $x_0$  e  $y_0$  son números reales. Demostramos que existe una única solución de equilibrio y exactamente dos soluciones de período 3-primo, y que exceptuando la solución única de equilibrio, toda solución del sistema es eventualmente una de las dos soluciones de período 3-primo.

**Keywords and Phrases:** Periodic solution; systems of piecewise linear difference equations

**2010 AMS Mathematics Subject Classification:** 39A10, 65Q10.

---

<sup>2</sup> Corresponding author.

## 1 Introduction

In this paper we consider the system of piecewise linear difference equations

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = |x_n| - y_n - 1 \\ y_{n+1} = x_n + |y_n| \end{cases}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots \quad (1.1)$$

where the initial conditions  $x_0$  and  $y_0$  are arbitrary real numbers. We show that every solution of System(1.1) is either (from the beginning) the unique equilibrium point

$$(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) = \left( -\frac{2}{5}, -\frac{1}{5} \right)$$

or else is eventually one of the following period-3 cycles:

$$\mathbf{P}_3^1 = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 = 0, & y_0 = -1 \\ x_1 = 0, & y_1 = 1 \\ x_2 = -2, & y_2 = 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{P}_3^2 = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 = 0, & y_0 = -\frac{1}{3} \\ x_1 = -\frac{2}{3}, & y_1 = \frac{1}{3} \\ x_2 = -\frac{2}{3}, & y_2 = -\frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}.$$

This study of System(1.1) was motivated by Devaney's celebrated Gingerbreadman map

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = |x_n| - y_n + 1 \\ y_{n+1} = x_n \end{cases}, \quad n = 0, 1, \dots$$

See Ref. [1, 2, 3, 4].

We believe that the methods and techniques used in this paper will be useful in discovering the global behavior of similar piecewise linear systems of the form

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = |x_n| + ay_n + b \\ y_{n+1} = x_n + c|y_n| + d \end{cases}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

For another system of this form see [5].

## 2 The Global Behavior Of The Solutions Of System(1.1)

Set

$$l_1 = \{(x, y) : x \geq 0, y = 0\}$$

$$l_2 = \{(x, y) : x = 0, y \geq 0\}$$

$$l_3 = \{(x, y) : x \leq 0, y = 0\}$$

$$l_4 = \{(x, y) : x = 0, y \leq 0\}$$

$$Q_1 = \{(x, y) : x > 0, y > 0\}$$

$$Q_2 = \{(x, y) : x < 0, y > 0\}$$

$$Q_3 = \{(x, y) : x < 0, y < 0\}$$

$$Q_4 = \{(x, y) : x > 0, y < 0\}.$$

*Theorem 1.* Let  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  be a solution of System(1.1) with  $(x_0, y_0) \in \mathbf{R}^2$ . Then either  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  is the unique equilibrium  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ , or else there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  of System(1.1) is either the prime period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the prime period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

The proof of Theorem 1 is a direct consequence of the following lemmas.

*Lemma 2.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that

$$y_N = -x_N - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad y_N \geq 0.$$

Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) = (0, -1)$ , and so  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+1}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $x_N = -y_N - 1 \leq -1$ , and so

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = -x_N - (-x_N - 1) - 1 = 0$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = x_N + (-x_N - 1) = -1.$$

The proof is complete. □

*Lemma 3.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in l_2$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = 0 - y_N - 1 = -y_N - 1 < 0$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = 0 + y_N = y_N \geq 0$$

and so it follows by Lemma 2 that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .  $\square$

*Lemma 4.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $x_N = 0$  and  $y_N < -1$ . Then

(1)  $x_{N+3} = 2y_N + 2 < 0$ .

(2) If  $-\frac{3}{2} \leq y_N < -1$ , then  $y_{N+3} = -2y_N - 3 \leq 0$ .

(3) If  $y_N < -\frac{3}{2}$ , then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+4}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = -y_N - 1 > 0$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = -y_N > 0$$

$$x_{N+2} = |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = -2$$

$$y_{N+2} = x_{N+1} + |y_{N+1}| = -2y_N - 1 > 0$$

$$x_{N+3} = |x_{N+2}| - y_{N+2} - 1 = 2y_N + 2 < 0$$

$$y_{N+3} = x_{N+2} + |y_{N+2}| = -2y_N - 3.$$

If  $-\frac{3}{2} \leq y_N < -1$ , then  $y_{N+3} = -2y_N - 3 \leq 0$ . If  $y_N < -\frac{3}{2}$ , then  $y_{N+3} = -2y_N - 3 > 0$  and so by Lemma 2  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+4}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

*Lemma 5.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $x_N = 0$  and  $-1 < y_N \leq 0$ . Then

(1) If  $-\frac{1}{4} < y_N \leq 0$ , then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+5}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

(2) If  $-\frac{1}{2} < y_N \leq -\frac{1}{4}$ , then  $x_{N+5} = 8y_N + 2$ ,  $y_{N+5} = -8y_N - 3$ , and  $x_{N+6} = 0$ .

(3) If  $-1 < y_N \leq -\frac{1}{2}$ , then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+6}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+1} &= |x_N| - y_N - 1 = -y_N - 1 < 0 \\ y_{N+1} &= x_N + |y_N| = -y_N \geq 0 \\ x_{N+2} &= |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = 2y_N \leq 0 \\ y_{N+2} &= x_{N+1} + |y_{N+1}| = -2y_N - 1 \\ x_{N+3} &= |x_{N+2}| - y_{N+2} - 1 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

If  $-\frac{1}{4} < y_N \leq 0$ , then  $y_{N+2} < 0$  and  $y_{N+3} = x_{N+2} + |y_{N+2}| = 4y_N + 1 > 0$ . It follows by Lemma 3 that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+5}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ , and so Statement 1 is true.

If  $-\frac{1}{2} < y_N \leq -\frac{1}{4}$ , then  $y_{N+2} < 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} y_{N+3} &= x_{N+2} + |y_{N+2}| = 4y_N + 1 \leq 0 \\ x_{N+4} &= |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = -4y_N - 2 < 0 \\ y_{N+4} &= x_{N+3} + |y_{N+3}| = -4y_N - 1 \geq 0 \\ x_{N+5} &= |x_{N+4}| - y_{N+4} - 1 = 8y_N + 2 \leq 0 \\ y_{N+5} &= x_{N+4} + |y_{N+4}| = -8y_N - 3 \\ x_{N+6} &= |x_{N+5}| - y_{N+5} - 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so Statement 2 is true.

If  $-1 < y_N \leq -\frac{1}{2}$ , then  $y_{N+6} = x_{N+5} + |y_{N+5}| = -1$  and so  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+6}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

*Lemma 6.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in \mathfrak{L}_4$ . Then the following five statements are true:

- (1) Suppose  $-\frac{1}{3} < y_N \leq 0$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .
- (2) Suppose  $y_N = -\frac{1}{3}$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .
- (3) Suppose  $-\frac{4}{3} < y_N < -\frac{1}{3}$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .
- (4) Suppose  $y_N = -\frac{4}{3}$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .
- (5) Suppose  $y_N < -\frac{4}{3}$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

*Proof.* We have  $x_N = 0$  and  $y_N \leq 0$ .

- (1) Suppose  $-\frac{1}{3} < y_N \leq 0$ . Note that by Statement 1 of Lemma 5, that if  $-\frac{1}{4} < y_N \leq 0$ , then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+5}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

So suppose  $-\frac{1}{3} < y_N \leq -\frac{1}{4}$ . For each integer  $n \geq 1$ , let

$$a_n = \frac{-2^{2n} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n}}.$$

Observe that

$$-\frac{1}{4} = a_1 > a_2 > a_3 > \dots > -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\frac{1}{3}.$$

Thus there exists a unique integer  $K \geq 1$  such that  $y_N \in (a_{K+1}, a_K]$ . We first consider the case  $K = 1$ ; that is,  $y_N \in (-\frac{5}{16}, -\frac{1}{4}]$ . It follows from Statement 2 of Lemma 5 that  $x_{N+5} = 8y_N + 2 \leq 0$ ,  $y_{N+5} = -8y_N - 3 < 0$ , and  $x_{N+6} = 0$ . Thus  $y_{N+6} = x_{N+5} + |y_{N+5}| = 16y_N + 5 > 0$ , and so by Lemma 3 we have  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+8}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Hence without loss of generality, we may assume  $K \geq 2$ . For each integer  $m \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  be the following statement:

$$x_{N+3m+3} = 0$$

$$y_{N+3m+3} = 2^{2m+2}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0.$$

Claim:  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ .

The proof of the Claim will be by induction on  $m$ . We shall first show that  $\mathcal{P}(1)$  is true.

Recall that  $x_N = 0$  and  $y_N \in (a_{K+1}, a_K] \subset (-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{5}{16}]$ , and so by Statement 2 of Lemma 5

we have  $x_{N+5} = 8y_N + 2 < 0$  and  $y_{N+5} = -8y_N - 3 < 0$ . Then

$$x_{N+3(1)+3} = 0$$

$$y_{N+3(1)+3} = 16y_N + 5 = 2^{2(1)+2}y_N + \frac{2^{2(1)+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0$$

and so  $\mathcal{P}(1)$  is true. Thus if  $K = 2$ , then we have shown that for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true. It remains to consider the case  $K \geq 3$ . So assume that  $K \geq 3$ . Let  $m$  be an integer such that  $1 \leq m \leq K - 2$ , and suppose  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true. We shall show that  $\mathcal{P}(m+1)$  is true.

Since  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true we know

$$x_{N+3m+3} = 0$$

$$y_{N+3m+3} = 2^{2m+2}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0.$$

Recall that  $y_N \in (a_{K+1}, a_K] = \left( \frac{-2^{2(K+1)} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K+1)}}, \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} \right]$ .

Then

$$x_{N+3m+4} = |x_{N+3m+3}| - y_{N+3m+3} - 1 = -2^{2m+2}y_N - \left( \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right) - 1.$$

Note that  $x_{N+3m+4} = -y_{N+3m+3} - 1$ .

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+4} &= -2^{2m+2}y_N - \left( \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right) - 1 \\ &< -2^{2m+2} \left( \frac{-2^{2(K+1)} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K+1)}} \right) - \left( \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right) - 1 \\ &= \frac{2^{2m+2K+4}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} - \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} - \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - 1 \\ &= -\frac{2^{2m-2K}}{3} - \frac{2}{3} \\ &< 0 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$y_{N+3m+4} = x_{N+3m+3} + |y_{N+3m+3}| = 0 + |y_{N+3m+3}| = -y_{N+3m+3} \geq 0.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3m+5} &= |x_{N+3m+4}| - y_{N+3m+4} - 1 = y_{N+3m+3} + 1 - (-y_{N+3m+3}) - 1 \\
 &= 2y_{N+3m+3} \\
 &\leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+5} &= x_{N+3m+4} + |y_{N+3m+4}| = -y_{N+3m+3} - 1 + (-y_{N+3m+3}) \\
 &= -2y_{N+3m+3} - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+5} &= -2 \left( 2^{2m+2} y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right) - 1 \\
 &< -2 \left[ 2^{2m+2} \left( \frac{-2^{2(K+1)} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K+1)}} \right) + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right] - 1 \\
 &= \frac{2^{2m+2K+5}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} - \frac{2^{2m+3}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} - \frac{2^{2m+3}}{3} + \frac{2}{3} - 1 \\
 &= -\frac{2^{2m-2K+1}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &< 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(m+1)+3} &= x_{N+3m+6} \\
 &= |x_{N+3m+5}| - y_{N+3m+5} - 1 \\
 &= -2y_{N+3m+3} - (-2y_{N+3m+3} - 1) - 1 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$



and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3(m+1)+3} &= y_{N+3m+6} \\
 &= x_{N+3m+5} + |y_{N+3m+5}| \\
 &= 2y_{N+3m+3} + 2y_{N+3m+3} + 1 \\
 &= 4y_{N+3m+3} + 1 \\
 &= 2^2 \left( 2^{2m+2} y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right) + 1 \\
 &= 2^{2m+4} y_N + \frac{2^{2m+4} - 4}{3} + 1 \\
 &= 2^{2(m+1)+2} y_N + \frac{2^{2(m+1)+2} - 1}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3(m+1)+3} &\leq 2^{2(m+1)+2} \left( \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} \right) + \frac{2^{2(m+1)+2} - 1}{3} \\
 &= -\frac{2^{2m+2K+4}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} + \frac{2^{2m+4}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} + \frac{2^{2m+4}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{3} (1 - 2^{2m-2K+4}) \\
 &\leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{P}(m+1)$  is true. Thus the proof of the Claim is complete. That is,  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K-1$ . Specifically,  $\mathcal{P}(K-1)$  is true, and so

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(K-1)+3} &= x_{N+3K} = 0 \\
 y_{N+3(K-1)+3} &= y_{N+3K} = 2^{2K} y_N + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} < 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+2} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} < y_{N+3K} \leq 2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3}.$$

So as

$$2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+2} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} = \frac{-2^{4K+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} + \frac{2^{2K}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+2}} + \frac{2^{2K}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1}{2^2} - 1 \right) = -\frac{1}{4}$$

and

$$2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} = \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3} + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} = 0$$

we have

$$-\frac{1}{4} < y_{N+3K} \leq 0$$

and so it follows from Statement 1 of Lemma 5 that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3K+5}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

(2) Suppose  $y_n = -\frac{1}{3}$ . Note that  $(0, -\frac{1}{3}) \in \mathbf{P}_3^1$  and so  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

(3) Suppose  $-\frac{4}{3} < y_N \leq -\frac{1}{3}$ .

We shall first consider the case where  $-\frac{4}{3} < y_N \leq -1$ .

So suppose  $-\frac{4}{3} < y_N \leq -1$ . For each integer  $n \geq 0$ , let

$$b_n = \frac{-2^{2n+2} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n}}.$$

Observe that

$$-1 = b_0 > b_1 > b_2 > \dots > -\frac{4}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = -\frac{4}{3}.$$

Thus there exists a unique integer  $K \geq 1$  such that  $y_N \in (b_K, b_{K-1}]$ . We first consider the case  $K = 1$ ; that is,  $y_N \in (-\frac{5}{4}, -1]$ . Note that if  $y_N = -1$  then  $(x_N, y_N) = (0, -1)$  and  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ . So assume  $y_N \in (-\frac{5}{4}, -1)$ . By Statements 1 and 2 of Lemma 4, we have  $x_{N+3} = 2y_N + 2 < 0$  and  $y_{N+3} = -2y_N - 3 \leq 0$ . Then

$$x_{N+4} = |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = 0$$

$$y_{N+4} = x_{N+3} + |y_{N+3}| = 4y_N + 5 > 0$$

and so it follows by Lemma 3 that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+6}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Hence without loss of generality, we may assume  $K \geq 2$ . For each integer  $m \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{Q}(m)$  be the following statement:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+1} &= 0 \\ y_{N+3m+1} &= 2^{2m}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Claim:  $\mathcal{Q}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ .

The proof of the Claim will be by induction on  $m$ . We shall first show that  $\mathcal{Q}(1)$  is true.

Recall that  $x_N = 0$  and  $y_N \in (b_K, b_{K-1}] \subset (-\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{5}{4}]$ , and so by Statements 1 and 2 of Lemma 4 we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3} &= 2y_N + 2 < 0 \\ y_{N+3} &= -2y_N - 3 < 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3(1)+1} &= |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = 0 \\ y_{N+3(1)+1} &= x_{N+3} + |y_{N+3}| \\ &= 4y_N + 5 \leq 0 \\ &= 2^{2(1)}y_N + \frac{2^{2(1)+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{Q}(1)$  is true. Thus if  $K = 2$ , then we have shown that for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{Q}(m)$  is true. It remains to consider the case  $K \geq 3$ . So assume that  $K \geq 3$ . Let  $m$  be an integer such that  $1 \leq m \leq K - 2$ , and suppose  $\mathcal{Q}(m)$  is true. We shall show that  $\mathcal{Q}(m+1)$  is true.

Since  $\mathcal{Q}(m)$  is true we know

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+1} &= 0 \\ y_{N+3m+1} &= 2^{2m}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$x_{N+3m+2} = |x_{N+3m+1}| - y_{N+3m+1} - 1 = 0 - y_{N+3m+1} - 1.$$

Recall that  $y_N \in (b_K, b_{K-1}] = \left( \frac{-2^{2K+2} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}}, \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-2}} \right]$ .

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3m+2} &= -2^{2m}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2m+2}-1}{3}\right) - 1 \\
 &< -2^{2m} \left(\frac{-2^{2K+2}+1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}}\right) - \left(\frac{2^{2m+2}-1}{3}\right) - 1 \\
 &= \frac{2^{2K+2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} - \frac{2^{2m}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} - \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - 1 \\
 &= -\frac{1}{3}(2^{2m-2K+2} + 2) \\
 &< 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$y_{N+3m+2} = x_{N+3m+1} + |y_{N+3m+1}| = 0 - y_{N+3m+1} \geq 0.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3m+3} &= |x_{N+3m+2}| - y_{N+3m+2} - 1 = y_{N+3m+1} + 1 - (-y_{N+3m+1}) - 1 \\
 &= 2y_{N+3m+1} \\
 &\leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+3} &= x_{N+3m+2} + |y_{N+3m+2}| = -y_{N+3m+1} - 1 + (-y_{N+3m+1}) \\
 &= -2y_{N+3m+1} - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+3} &= -2 \left[ 2^{2m} y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right] - 1 \\
 &< -2 \left[ 2^{2m} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+2} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} \right) + \frac{2^{2m+2} - 1}{3} \right] - 1 \\
 &= \frac{2^{2K+2m+3}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} - \frac{2^{2m+1}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} - \frac{2^{2m+3}}{3} + \frac{2}{3} - 1 \\
 &= -\frac{1}{3} (2^{2m-2K+1} + 1) \\
 &< 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(m+1)+1} &= x_{N+3m+4} \\
 &= |x_{N+3m+3}| - y_{N+3m+1} - 1 \\
 &= -2y_{N+3m+1} - (-2y_{N+3m+1} - 1) - 1 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3(m+1)+1} &= y_{N+3m+4} \\
 &= x_{N+3m+3} + |y_{N+3m+3}| \\
 &= 2y_{N+3m+1} + 2y_{N+3m+1} + 1 \\
 &= 4y_{N+3m+1} + 1 \\
 &= 2^{2(m+1)} y_N + \frac{2^{2(m+1)+2} - 1}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$y_{N+3(m+1)+1} \leq 2^{2m+2} \left( \frac{-2^{2K} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-2}} \right) + \frac{2^{2m+4} - 1}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\frac{2^{2K+2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-2}} + \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-2}} + \frac{2^{2m+4}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} (2^{2m-2K+4} - 1) \\
 &\leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{Q}(m+1)$  is true. Thus the proof of the Claim is complete. That is,  $\mathcal{Q}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K-1$ . Specifically,  $\mathcal{Q}(K-1)$  is true, and so

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(K-1)+1} &= 0 \\
 y_{N+3(K-1)+1} &= 2^{2(K-1)} y_N + \frac{2^{2(K-1)+2} - 1}{3} \leq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 \geq y_{N+3(K-1)+1} &> 2^{2(K-1)} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+2} + 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} \\
 &= -\frac{2^{4K}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} + \frac{2^{2K-2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K}} + \frac{2^{2K}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1}{4} - 1 \right) \\
 &= -\frac{1}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

and so it follows by Statement 1 of Lemma 5 that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3K+3}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Suppose  $-1 < y_N < -\frac{1}{2}$ . By Statement 3 of Lemma 5 we have  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

To complete the proof of Statement 3 we shall now suppose that  $-\frac{1}{2} \leq y_N < -\frac{1}{3}$ . For each integer  $n \geq 1$ , let

$$\alpha_n = \frac{-2^{2n-1} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n-1}}.$$

Observe that

$$-\frac{1}{2} = \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \alpha_3 < \dots < -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = -\frac{1}{3}.$$

Thus there exists a unique integer  $K \geq 1$  such that  $y_N \in [\alpha_K, \alpha_{K+1})$ . We first consider the case  $K = 1$ ; that is,  $y_N \in [-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{8})$ . By Statement 2 of Lemma 5 we have  $x_{N+5} = 8y_N + 2 \leq 0$ ,  $y_{N+5} = -8y_N - 3 > 0$ , and so it follows by Lemma 2 that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+6}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ . Without loss of generality we may assume  $K \geq 2$ . For each integer  $m \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{R}(m)$  be the following statement:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+2} &= 2^{2m+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+1} - 2}{3} < 0 \\ y_{N+3m+2} &= -2^{2m+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2m+1} + 1}{3}\right) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Claim:  $\mathcal{R}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ .

The proof of the Claim will be by induction on  $m$ . We shall first show that  $\mathcal{R}(1)$  is true. Recall that  $x_N = 0$  and  $y_N \in [\alpha_K, \alpha_{K+1}) \subset [-\frac{3}{8}, -\frac{1}{3})$ , and so it follows from Statement 2 of Lemma 5 that

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3(1)+2} &= 8y_N + 2 = 2^{2(1)+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2(1)+1} - 2}{3} < 0 \\ y_{N+3(1)+2} &= -8y_N - 3 = -2^{2(1)+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2(1)+1} + 1}{3}\right) \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{R}(1)$  is true. Thus if  $K = 2$ , then we have shown that for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{R}(m)$  is true. It remains to consider the case  $K \geq 3$ . So assume that  $K \geq 3$ . Let  $m$  be an integer such that  $1 \leq m \leq K - 2$ , and suppose  $\mathcal{R}(m)$  is true. We shall show that  $\mathcal{R}(m+1)$  is true.

Since  $\mathcal{R}(m)$  is true we know

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+2} &= 2^{2m+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+1} - 2}{3} < 0 \\ y_{N+3m+2} &= -2^{2m+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2m+1} + 1}{3}\right) \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+3} &= |x_{N+3m+2}| - y_{N+3m+2} - 1 \\ &= -2^{2m+1}y_N - \frac{2^{2m+1} - 2}{3} - \left(-2^{2m+1}y_N - \frac{2^{2m+1} + 1}{3}\right) - 1 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+3} &= x_{N+3m+2} + |y_{N+3m+2}| \\
 &= 2^{2m+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+1}-2}{3} + 2^{2m+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+1}+1}{3} \\
 &= 2^{2m+2}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+2}-1}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $y_N \in [\alpha_K, \alpha_{K+1}) = \left[ \frac{-2^{2K-1}-1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}}, \frac{-2^{2(K+1)-1}-1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K+1)-1}} \right)$ .

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+3} &< 2^{2m+2} \left( \frac{-2^{2(K+1)-1}-1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K+1)-1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2m+2}-1}{3} \\
 &= -\frac{2^{2K+2m+3}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} - \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} + \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{3} (1 + 2^{2m-2K+1}) \\
 &< 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$x_{N+3m+4} = |x_{N+3m+3}| - y_{N+3m+3} - 1 = 0 - y_{N+3m+3} - 1 = -y_{N+3m+3} - 1.$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3m+4} &= -2^{2m+2}y_N - \frac{2^{2m+2}-1}{3} - 1 \\
 &\leq -2^{2m+2} \left( \frac{-2^{2K-1}-1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} \right) - \left( \frac{2^{2m+2}-1}{3} \right) - 1 \\
 &= \frac{2^{2m+2K+1}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} + \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} - \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3} + \frac{1}{3} - 1 \\
 &= -\frac{2}{3} (1 - 2^{2m-2K+2}) \\
 &< 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$y_{N+3m+4} = x_{N+3m+3} + |y_{N+3m+3}| = 0 + (-y_{N+3m+3}) = -y_{N+3m+3} > 0.$$



Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(m+1)+2} &= x_{N+3m+5} \\
 &= |x_{N+3m+4}| - y_{N+3m+4} - 1 \\
 &= y_{N+3m+3} + 1 - (-y_{N+3m+3}) - 1 \\
 &= 2y_{N+3m+3} < 0 \\
 &= 2^{2(m+1)+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2(m+1)+1} - 2}{3} < 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3(m+1)+2} &= y_{N+3m+5} \\
 &= x_{N+3m+4} + |y_{N+3m+4}| \\
 &= -y_{N+3m+3} - 1 + (-y_{N+3m+3}) \\
 &= -2y_{N+3m+3} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{2(m+1)+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2(m+1)+1} + 1}{3}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3(m+1)+2} &\leq -2^{2m+3} \left(\frac{-2^{2K-1} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}}\right) - \left(\frac{2^{2m+3} + 1}{3}\right) \\
 &= \frac{2^{2m+2K+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} + \frac{2^{2m+3}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} - \frac{2^{2m+3}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} (2^{2m-2K+4} - 1) \\
 &\leq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{R}(m+1)$  is true. Thus the proof of the Claim is complete. That is,  $\mathcal{R}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K-1$ . Specifically,  $\mathcal{R}(K-1)$  is true, and so

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(K-1)+2} &= 2^{2(K-1)+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2(K-1)+1} - 2}{3} < 0 \\
 y_{N+3(K-1)+2} &= -2^{2(K-1)+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2(K-1)+1} + 1}{3}\right) \leq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3K} &= x_{N+3(K-1)+3} \\
 &= |x_{N+3(K-1)+2}| - y_{N+3(K-1)+2} - 1 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3K} &= y_{N+3(K-1)+3} \\
 &= x_{N+3(K-1)+2} + |y_{N+3(K-1)+2}| \\
 &= 2^{2K} y_N + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K-1} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} \leq y_{N+3K} < 2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+1} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3}.$$

So as

$$2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K-1} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} = \frac{-2^{4K-1}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} + \frac{2^{2K}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} + \frac{2^{2K}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{3} = -1$$

and

$$2^{2K} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+1} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K} - 1}{3} = \frac{-2^{4K+1}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} + \frac{2^{2K}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

we have

$$-1 \leq y_{N+3K} < -\frac{1}{2}$$

and so it follows by Statement 3 of Lemma 5 and the fact  $(0, -1) \in \mathbf{P}_3^1$  that the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3K+3}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

- (4) Suppose  $y_N = -\frac{4}{3}$ . By direct computations we have  $(x_{N+3}, y_{N+3}) = (-\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}) \in \mathbf{P}_3^2$ , and so  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

(5) Suppose  $y_N < -\frac{4}{3}$ .

First consider the case  $-\frac{3}{2} \leq y_N < -\frac{4}{3}$ . For each integer  $n \geq 0$ , let

$$\beta_n = \frac{-2^{2n+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n+1}}.$$

Observe that

$$-\frac{3}{2} = \beta_0 < \beta_1 < \beta_2 < \dots < -\frac{4}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n = -\frac{4}{3}.$$

Thus there exists a unique integer  $K \geq 1$  such that  $y_N \in [\beta_{K-1}, \beta_K)$ . We first consider the case  $K = 1$ ; that is,  $y_N \in [-\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{11}{8})$ . By Statements 1 and 2 of Lemma 4 we have

$$x_{N+3} = 2y_N + 2 < 0$$

$$y_{N+3} = -2y_N - 3 \leq 0$$

and so

$$x_{N+4} = |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = 0$$

$$y_{N+4} = x_{N+3} + |y_{N+3}| = 4y_N + 5 < 0.$$

In particular,  $-1 \leq y_{N+4} < -\frac{1}{2}$ . It follows by Statement 3 of Lemma 5 that the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+7}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Thus without loss of generality, we may assume that  $K \geq 2$ . For each integer  $m \geq 1$ , let  $\mathcal{S}(m)$  be the following statement:

$$x_{N+3m+3} = 2^{2m+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} < 0$$

$$y_{N+3m+3} = -2^{2m+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3}\right) - 1 \leq 0.$$

Claim:  $\mathcal{S}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ .

The proof of the Claim will be by induction on  $m$ . We shall first show that  $\mathcal{S}(1)$  is true.

Recall that  $x_N = 0$  and  $y_N \in [\beta_{K-1}, \beta_K) \subset [-\frac{11}{8}, -\frac{4}{3})$ , and so by Statements 1 and 2 of Lemma 4 we have

$$x_{N+3} = 2y_N + 2 < 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3} &= -2y_N - 3 < 0 \\
 x_{N+4} &= |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = 0 \\
 y_{N+4} &= x_{N+3} + |y_{N+3}| = 4y_N + 5 < 0 \\
 x_{N+5} &= |x_{N+4}| - y_{N+4} - 1 = -4y_N - 6 < 0 \\
 y_{N+5} &= x_{N+4} + |y_{N+4}| = -4y_N - 5 > 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(1)+3} &= x_{N+6} = |x_{N+5}| - y_{N+5} - 1 = 8y_N + 10 < 0 \\
 y_{N+3(1)+3} &= y_{N+6} = x_{N+5} + |y_{N+5}| = -8y_N - 11 \leq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $\mathcal{S}(1)$  is true. Thus if  $K = 2$ , then we have shown that for  $1 \leq m \leq K - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{S}(m)$  is true. It remains to consider the case  $K \geq 3$ . So assume that  $K \geq 3$ . Let  $m$  be an integer such that  $1 \leq m \leq K - 2$ , and suppose  $\mathcal{S}(m)$  is true. We shall show that  $\mathcal{S}(m+1)$  is true.

Since  $\mathcal{S}(m)$  is true, we know

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3m+3} &= 2^{2m+1}y_N + \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} < 0 \\
 y_{N+3m+3} &= -2^{2m+1}y_N - \left(\frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3}\right) - 1 \leq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $y_{N+3m+3} = -x_{N+3m+3} - 1$ , and so  $-1 \leq x_{N+3m+3} < 0$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3m+4} &= |x_{N+3m+3}| - y_{N+3m+3} - 1 \\
 &= -x_{N+3m+3} - (-x_{N+3m+3} - 1) - 1 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y_{N+3m+4} &= x_{N+3m+3} + |y_{N+3m+3}| \\ &= x_{N+3m+3} + x_{N+3m+3} + 1 \\ &= 2x_{N+3m+3} + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $y_N \in [\beta_{K-1}, \beta_K) = \left[ \frac{-2^{2(K-1)+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K-1)+1}}, \frac{-2^{2K+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} \right)$ .

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} y_{N+3m+4} &= 2 \left[ 2^{2m+1} y_N + \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} \right] + 1 \\ &< 2 \left[ 2^{2m+1} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} \right] + 1 \\ &= -\frac{2^{2K+2m+5}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} - \frac{2^{2m+2}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} + \frac{2^{2m+4}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\ &= -\frac{1}{3} (2^{2m-2K+1} + 1) \\ &< 0. \end{aligned}$$

Also note that  $-1 < x_{N+3m+3} < -\frac{1}{2}$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3m+5} &= |x_{N+3m+4}| - y_{N+3m+4} - 1 \\ &= 0 - (2x_{N+3m+3} + 1) - 1 \\ &= -2x_{N+3m+3} - 2 \\ &< 0 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3m+5} &= x_{N+3m+4} + |y_{N+3m+4}| \\
 &= 0 + (-2x_{N+3m+3} - 1) \\
 &= -2x_{N+3m+3} - 1 \\
 &> 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{N+3(m+1)+3} &= x_{N+3m+6} \\
 &= |x_{N+3m+5}| - y_{N+3m+5} - 1 \\
 &= 2x_{N+3m+3} + 2 - (-2x_{N+3m+3} - 1) - 1 \\
 &= 4x_{N+3m+3} + 2 < 0 \\
 &= 4 \left[ 2^{2m+1} y_N + \left( \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} \right) \right] + 2 < 0 \\
 &= 2^{2(m+1)+1} y_N + \left( \frac{2^{2(m+1)+3} - 2}{3} \right) + 2 < 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{N+3(m+1)+3} &= y_{N+3m+6} \\
 &= x_{N+3m+5} + |y_{N+3m+5}| \\
 &= -2x_{N+3m+3} - 2 + (-2x_{N+3m+3} - 1) \\
 &= -4x_{N+3m+3} - 3 \\
 &= -4 \left[ 2^{2m+1} y_N + \left( \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} \right) \right] - 3 \\
 &= -2^{2(m+1)+1} y_N - \left( \frac{2^{2(m+1)+3} - 2}{3} \right) - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} y_{N+3m+6} &\leq -4 \left[ 2^{2m+1} \left( \frac{-2^{2(K-1)+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K-1)+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2m+3} - 2}{3} \right] - 3 \\ &= \frac{2^{2K+2m+4}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} + \frac{2^{2m+3}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} - \frac{2^{2m+5}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (2^{2m-2K+4} - 1) \\ &< 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{S}(m+1)$  is true. Thus the proof of the Claim is complete. That is,  $\mathcal{S}(m)$  is true for  $1 \leq m \leq K-1$ . Specifically,  $\mathcal{S}(K-1)$  is true, and so

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3(K-1)+3} = x_{N+3K} &= 2^{2K-1} y_N + \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} < 0 \\ y_{N+3(K-1)+3} = y_{N+3K} &= -2^{2K-1} y_N - \left( \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} \right) - 1 < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $y_{N+3K} = -x_{N+3K} - 1$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+3K+1} &= |x_{N+3K}| - y_{N+3K} - 1 \\ &= -x_{N+3K} - (-x_{N+3K} - 1) - 1 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y_{N+3K+1} &= x_{N+3K} + |y_{N+3K}| \\ &= x_{N+3K} + x_{N+3K} + 1 \\ &= 2x_{N+3K} + 1 \\ &= 2 \left( 2^{2K-1} y_N + \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} \right) + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \left[ 2^{2K-1} \left( \frac{-2^{2(K-1)+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K-1)+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} \right] + 1 &\leq y_{N+3K+1} \\ &< 2 \left[ 2^{2K-1} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} \right] + 1. \end{aligned}$$

So as

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \left[ 2^{2K-1} \left( \frac{-2^{2(K-1)+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2(K-1)+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} \right] + 1 &= \frac{-2^{4K+1}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} - \frac{2^{2K}}{3 \cdot 2^{2K-1}} + \frac{2^{2K+2}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\ &= -\frac{1}{3}(2+1) = -1 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \left[ 2^{2K-1} \left( \frac{-2^{2K+3} - 1}{3 \cdot 2^{2K+1}} \right) + \frac{2^{2K+1} - 2}{3} \right] + 1 &= \frac{-2^{2K+3}}{3 \cdot 2} - \frac{1}{6} + \frac{2^{2K+2}}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \\ &= -\frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{3} = -\frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$-1 \leq y_{N+3K+1} < -\frac{1}{2}$$

and hence it follows from case 3 of this Lemma and the fact that  $(0, -1) \in \mathbf{P}_3^1$  that the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+3K+5}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Finally, suppose  $y_N < -\frac{3}{2}$ . Then by Statement 3 of Lemma 4 the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+4}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

□

*Lemma 7.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in Q_1$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .



*Proof.* We have

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = x_N - y_N - 1$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = x_N + y_N > 0.$$

If  $x_{N+1} \geq 0$  then

$$x_{N+2} = |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = -2y_N - 2 < 0$$

$$y_{N+2} = x_{N+1} + |y_{N+1}| = 2x_N - 1 > 0$$

$$x_{N+3} = |x_{N+2}| - y_{N+2} - 1 = -2x_N + 2y_N + 2 \leq 0$$

$$y_{N+3} = x_{N+2} + |y_{N+2}| = 2x_N - 2y_N - 3$$

$$x_{N+4} = |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = 0$$

and so  $(x_{N+4}, y_{N+4}) \in l_2 \cup l_4$ . By Lemmas 3 and 6, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

If  $x_{N+1} < 0$  then

$$x_{N+2} = |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = -2x_N < 0$$

$$y_{N+2} = x_{N+1} + |y_{N+1}| = 2x_N - 1$$

$$x_{N+3} = |x_{N+2}| - y_{N+2} - 1 = 0$$

and so  $(x_{N+3}, y_{N+3}) \in l_2 \cup l_4$ . By Lemmas 3 and 6, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .  $\square$

*Lemma 8.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in Q_2$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = -x_N - y_N - 1$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = x_N + y_N.$$

Case 1: Suppose  $y_{N+1} \geq 0$ . Then by Lemma 2, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Case 2: Suppose  $y_{N+1} < 0$  and  $x_{N+1} \leq 0$ . Then  $x_{N+2} = |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = 0$  and so  $(x_{N+2}, y_{N+2}) \in \mathfrak{l}_2 \cup \mathfrak{l}_4$ . By Lemmas 3 and 6, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

Case 3: Suppose  $y_{N+1} < 0$  and  $x_{N+1} > 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+2} &= |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = -2x_N - 2y_N - 2 > 0 \\ y_{N+2} &= x_{N+1} + |y_{N+1}| = -2x_N - 2y_N - 1 > 0 \\ x_{N+3} &= |x_{N+2}| - y_{N+2} - 1 = -2 \\ y_{N+3} &= x_{N+2} + |y_{N+2}| = -4x_N - 4y_N - 3 > 0 \\ x_{N+4} &= |x_{N+3}| - y_{N+3} - 1 = 4x_N + 4y_N + 4 < 0 \\ y_{N+4} &= x_{N+3} + |y_{N+3}| = -4x_N - 4y_N - 5 \\ x_{N+5} &= |x_{N+4}| - y_{N+4} - 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $(x_{N+5}, y_{N+5}) \in \mathfrak{l}_2 \cup \mathfrak{l}_4$ . By Lemmas 3 and 6, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .  $\square$

*Lemma 9.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in Q_4$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} x_{N+1} &= |x_N| - y_N - 1 = x_N - y_N - 1 \\ y_{N+1} &= x_N + |y_N| = x_N - y_N > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Case 1: Suppose  $x_{N+1} > 0$ . Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) \in Q_1$  and so by Lemma 7, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^{\infty}$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

Case 2: Suppose  $x_{N+1} = 0$ . Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) \in \mathfrak{l}_2$  and so by Lemma 3, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+4}^{\infty}$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Case 3: Suppose  $x_{N+1} < 0$ . Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) \in Q_2$  and so by Lemma 8, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+1}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ . □

*Lemma 10.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in l_1$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = x_N - 1$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = x_N$$

Case 1: Suppose  $x_N = 0$ . Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) = (-1, 0)$ , and so  $(x_{N+2}, y_{N+2}) = (0, -1)$ . Hence the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Case 2: Suppose  $0 < x_N \leq 1$ . Then  $x_{N+1} \leq 0$  and  $y_{N+1} > 0$ . Thus  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) \in Q_2 \cup l_2$ , and hence by Lemmas 3 and 8, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+1}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

Case 3: Suppose  $x_N > 1$ . Then  $x_{N+1} > 0$  and  $y_{N+1} > 0$ . Thus  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) \in Q_1$  and by Lemma 7, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+1}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ . □

*Lemma 11.* Suppose there exists a non-negative integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $(x_N, y_N) \in l_3$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

*Proof.* We have

$$x_{N+1} = |x_N| - y_N - 1 = -x_N - 1$$

$$y_{N+1} = x_N + |y_N| = x_N < 0.$$

Case 1: Suppose  $-1 < x_N \leq 0$ . Then  $x_{N+2} = |x_{N+1}| - y_{N+1} - 1 = 0$ , and so  $(x_{N+2}, y_{N+2}) \in l_2 \cup l_4$ . It follows by Lemmas 3 and 6, that the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

Case 2: Suppose  $x_N = -1$ . Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) = (0, -1) \in \mathbf{P}_3^1$ , and so the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+1}^\infty$  is the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$ .

Case 3: Suppose  $x_N < -1$ . Then  $(x_{N+1}, y_{N+1}) \in Q_4 \cup l_1$ . It follows by Lemmas 9 and 10, the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N+2}^\infty$  is eventually the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ . □

To complete the proof of Theorem 2.1 it remains to consider the case where the initial condition  $(x_0, y_0) \in Q_3$ .

*Lemma 12.* Suppose  $(x_0, y_0) \in Q_3$ . Then  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is the unique equilibrium solution  $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) = (-\frac{2}{5}, -\frac{1}{5})$ , or else is eventually either the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

*Proof.* If  $(x_0, y_0) = (-\frac{2}{5}, -\frac{1}{5})$ , then the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=0}^\infty$  is the equilibrium. So suppose  $(x_0, y_0) \in Q_3 \setminus \{(-\frac{2}{5}, -\frac{1}{5})\}$ . It suffices to show that there exists an integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is either the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ .

For the sake of contradiction, assume that it is false that there exists an integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=N}^\infty$  is either the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$ . It follows from the previous lemmas that  $x_n < 0$  and  $y_n < 0$  for every integer  $n \geq 0$ .

Case 1: Suppose  $x_0 \leq -2$  and  $y_0 < 0$ . Then

$$x_1 = |x_0| - y_0 - 1 = -x_0 - y_0 - 1 > 0$$

which is a contradiction, and the proof is complete.

Case 2: Suppose  $-2 < x_0 < 0$  and  $y_0 \leq -1$ . Then

$$x_1 = |x_0| - y_0 - 1 = -x_0 - y_0 - 1 > 0$$

which is a contradiction, and the proof is complete.

Case 3: It remains to consider the case  $(x_0, y_0) \in (-2, 0) \times (-1, 0)$ . For each integer  $n \geq 0$ , let

$$a_n = \frac{-2^{4n-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4n-3}}, \quad b_n = \frac{-2^{4n} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4n-1}}, \quad c_n = \frac{-2^{4n-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4n-2}}, \quad d_n = \frac{-2^{4n} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4n}} \quad \text{and} \quad D_n = \frac{2^{4n} - 1}{5}.$$

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} -2 = a_0 < a_1 < a_2 < \dots < -\frac{2}{5} & \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\frac{2}{5} \\ 0 = b_0 > b_1 > b_2 > \dots > -\frac{2}{5} & \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = -\frac{2}{5} \\ -1 = c_0 < c_1 < c_2 < \dots < -\frac{1}{5} & \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = -\frac{1}{5} \\ 0 = d_0 > d_1 > d_2 > \dots > -\frac{1}{5} & \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d_n = -\frac{1}{5}. \end{aligned}$$

There exists a unique integer  $K \geq 0$  such that

$$(x_0, y_0) \in [a_K, b_K] \times [c_K, d_K] \setminus [a_{K+1}, b_{K+1}] \times [c_{K+1}, d_{K+1}].$$

We first consider the case  $K = 0$ ; that is,  $(x_0, y_0) \in [-2, 0] \times [-1, 0] \setminus [-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{8}] \times [-\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{3}{16}]$ . Note that by Lemmas 6 and 11, and by Case 1 and Case 2 of this lemma, we know that the solution  $\{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  is eventually either the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^1$  or the period-3 cycle  $\mathbf{P}_3^2$  when  $(x_0, y_0)$  is an element of the outer boundaries of  $[-2, 0] \times [-1, 0]$ .

Recall by assumption that  $x_n < 0$  and  $y_n < 0$  for every integer  $n \geq 0$ .

So suppose  $(x_0, y_0) \in (-2, 0) \times (-1, 0) \setminus [-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{8}] \times [-\frac{1}{4}, -\frac{3}{16}]$ . Then

$$x_1 = |x_0| - y_0 - 1 = -x_0 - y_0 - 1$$

$$y_1 = x_0 + |y_0| = x_0 - y_0$$

$$x_2 = |x_1| - y_1 - 1 = (x_0 + y_0 + 1) - (x_0 - y_0) - 1 = 2y_0$$

$$y_2 = x_1 + |y_1| = (-x_0 - y_0 - 1) + (-x_0 + y_0) = -2x_0 - 1.$$

If  $-2 < x_0 < -\frac{1}{2}$ , then  $y_2 > 0$  which is a contradiction.

Thus  $-\frac{1}{2} \leq x_0 < 0$ . Then

$$x_3 = |x_2| - y_2 - 1 = (-2y_0) - (-2x_0 - 1) - 1 = 2x_0 - 2y_0$$

$$y_3 = x_2 + |y_2| = (2y_0) + (2x_0 + 1) = 2x_0 + 2y_0 + 1$$

$$x_4 = |x_3| - y_3 - 1 = (-2x_0 + 2y_0) - (2x_0 + 2y_0 + 1) - 1 = -4x_0 - 2$$

$$y_4 = x_3 + |y_3| = (2x_0 - 2y_0) + (-2x_0 - 2y_0 - 1) = -4y_0 - 1.$$

If  $-1 < y_0 < -\frac{1}{4}$ , then  $y_4 > 0$  which is a contradiction.

Hence  $-\frac{1}{4} \leq y_0 < 0$ . Then

$$x_5 = |x_4| - y_4 - 1 = (4x_0 + 2) - (-4y_0 - 1) - 1 = 4x_0 + 4y_0 + 2$$

$$y_5 = x_4 + |y_4| = (-4x_0 - 2) + (4y_0 + 1) = -4x_0 + 4y_0 - 1$$

$$x_6 = |x_5| - y_5 - 1 = (-4x_0 - 4y_0 - 2) - (-4x_0 + 4y_0 - 1) - 1 = -8y_0 - 2$$

$$y_6 = x_5 + |y_5| = (4x_0 + 4y_0 + 2) + (4x_0 - 4y_0 + 1) = 8x_0 + 3.$$

If  $-\frac{3}{8} < x_0 < 0$ , then  $y_6 > 0$  which is a contradiction.

Hence  $-\frac{1}{2} < x_0 \leq -\frac{3}{8}$ . Thus

$$x_7 = |x_6| - y_6 - 1 = (8y_0 + 2) - (8x_0 + 3) - 1 = -8x_0 + 8y_0 - 2$$

$$y_7 = x_6 + |y_6| = (-8y_0 - 2) + (-8x_0 - 3) = -8x_0 - 8y_0 - 5$$

$$x_8 = |x_7| - y_7 - 1 = (8x_0 - 8y_0 + 2) - (-8x_0 - 8y_0 - 5) - 1 = 16x_0 + 6$$

$$y_8 = x_7 + |y_7| = (-8x_0 + 8y_0 - 2) + (8x_0 + 8y_0 + 5) = 16y_0 + 3 > 0,$$

which is a contradiction. Thus the case  $K = 0$  is complete.

Next consider the case  $K \geq 1$ . Recall that  $x_n < 0$  and  $y_n < 0$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

For each integer  $m$  such that  $0 \leq m \leq K - 1$ , let  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  be the following proposition:

$$x_{8m+1} = -2^{4m}x_0 - 2^{4m}y_0 - 3D_m - 1$$

$$y_{8m+1} = 2^{4m}x_0 - 2^{4m}y_0 + D_m$$

$$x_{8m+2} = 2^{4m+1}y_0 + 2D_m$$

$$y_{8m+2} = -2^{4m+1}x_0 - 4D_m - 1$$

$$x_{8m+3} = 2^{4m+1}x_0 - 2^{4m+1}y_0 + 2D_m$$

$$y_{8m+3} = 2^{4m+1}x_0 + 2^{4m+1}y_0 + 6D_m + 1$$

$$x_{8m+4} = -2^{4m+2}x_0 - 8D_m - 2$$

$$y_{8m+4} = -2^{4m+2}y_0 - 4D_m - 1$$

$$x_{8m+5} = 2^{4m+2}x_0 + 2^{4m+2}y_0 + 12D_m + 2$$

$$y_{8m+5} = -2^{4m+2}x_0 + 2^{4m+2}y_0 - 4D_m - 1$$

$$x_{8m+6} = -2^{4m+3}y_0 - 8D_m - 2$$

$$y_{8m+6} = 2^{4m+3}x_0 + 16D_m + 3$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{8m+7} &= -2^{4m+3}x_0 + 2^{4m+3}y_0 - 8D_m - 2 \\ y_{8m+7} &= -2^{4m+3}x_0 - 2^{4m+3}y_0 - 24D_m - 5 \\ \\ x_{8m+8} &= 2^{4m+4}x_0 + 32D_m + 6 \\ y_{8m+8} &= 2^{4m+4}x_0 + 16D_m + 3. \end{aligned}$$

Claim:  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true for  $0 \leq m \leq K - 1$ . The proof of the Claim will be by induction on  $m$ . We shall first show that  $\mathcal{P}(0)$  is true.

$$\begin{aligned} x_{8(0)+1} &= -x_0 - y_0 - 1 &= -2^{4(0)}x_0 - 2^{4(0)}y_0 - 3D_0 - 1 \\ y_{8(0)+1} &= x_0 - y_0 &= 2^{4(0)}x_0 - 2^{4(0)}y_0 - D_0 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+2} &= 2y_0 &= 2^{4(0)+1}y_0 + 2D_0 \\ y_{8(0)+2} &= -2x_0 - 1 &= -2^{4(0)+1}x_0 - 4D_0 - 1 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+3} &= 2x_0 - 2y_0 &= 2^{4(0)+1}x_0 - 2^{4(0)+1}y_0 + 2D_0 \\ y_{8(0)+3} &= 2x_0 + 2y_0 + 1 &= 2^{4(0)+1}x_0 + 2^{4(0)+1}y_0 + 6D_0 + 1 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+4} &= -4x_0 - 2 &= -2^{4(0)+2}x_0 - 8D_0 - 2 \\ y_{8(0)+4} &= -4y_0 - 1 &= -2^{4(0)+2}x_0 - 4D_0 - 1 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+5} &= 4x_0 + 4y_0 + 2 &= 2^{4(0)+1}x_0 - 2^{4(0)+2}y_0 + 12D_0 + 2 \\ y_{8(0)+5} &= -4x_0 + 4y_0 - 1 &= -2^{4(0)+2}x_0 + 2^{4(0)+2}y_0 - 4D_0 - 1 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+6} &= -8x_0 - 2 &= -2^{4(0)+3}x_0 - 8D_0 - 2 \\ y_{8(0)+6} &= 8y_0 + 3 &= 2^{4(0)+3}x_0 + 16D_0 + 3 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+7} &= -8x_0 + 8y_0 - 2 &= -2^{4(0)+3}x_0 + 2^{4(0)+3}y_0 - 8D_0 - 2 \\ y_{8(0)+7} &= -8x_0 - 8y_0 - 5 &= -2^{4(0)+3}x_0 - 2^{4(0)+3}y_0 - 24D_0 + 5 \\ \\ x_{8(0)+8} &= 16x_0 + 6 &= 2^{4(0)+4}x_0 + 32D_0 + 6 \\ y_{8(0)+8} &= 16y_0 + 3 &= 2^{4(0)+4}x_0 + 16D_0 + 3 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{P}(0)$  is true. Thus if  $K = 1$ , then we have shown that for  $0 \leq m \leq K - 1$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true. It remains to consider the case  $K \geq 2$ . So assume that  $K \geq 2$ . Suppose that  $m$  is an integer such that  $0 \leq m \leq K - 2$ , and that  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true. We shall show that  $\mathcal{P}(m + 1)$  is true.

Since  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true, we know

$$x_{8m+8} = 2^{4m+4}x_0 + 32D_m + 6$$

$$y_{8m+8} = 2^{4m+4}x_0 + 16D_m + 3.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} x_{8(m+1)+1} &= x_{8m+9} \\ &= |x_{8m+8}| - y_{8m+8} - 1 \\ &= -(2^{4m+4}x_0 + 32D_m + 6) - (2^{4m+4}y_0 + 16D_m + 3) - 1 \\ &= -2^{4m+4}x_0 - 2^{4m+4}y_0 - 48D_m - 10 \\ &= -2^{4m+4}x_0 - 2^{4m+4}y_0 - 48\left(\frac{2^{4m} - 1}{5}\right) - 10 \\ &= -2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 - 3\left(\frac{2^{4(m+1)} - 1}{5}\right) - 1 \\ &= -2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 - 3D_{m+1} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y_{8(m+1)+1} &= y_{8m+9} \\ &= x_{8m+8} + |y_{8m+8}| \\ &= 2^{4m+4}x_0 + 32D_m + 6 + (-2^{4m+4}y_0 - 16D_m - 3) \\ &= 2^{4m+4}x_0 - 2^{4m+4}y_0 + 16D_m + 3 \\ &= 2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 + 16\left(\frac{2^{4m} - 1}{5}\right) + 3 \\ &= 2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 + D_{m+1}. \end{aligned}$$



Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+2} &= x_{8m+10} \\
 &= |x_{8m+9}| - y_{8m+9} - 1 \\
 &= -(-2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 - 3D_{m+1} - 1) \\
 &\quad -(2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 + D_{m+1}) - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 + 2D_{m+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+2} &= y_{8m+10} \\
 &= x_{8m+9} + |y_{8m+9}| \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 - 3D_{m+1} - 1 + (-2^{4(m+1)}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)}y_0 - D_{m+1}) \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 - 4D_{m+1} - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+3} &= x_{8m+11} \\
 &= |x_{8m+10}| - y_{8m+10} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 - 2D_{m+1} + 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 + 4D_{m+1} + 1 - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 + 2D_{m+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+3} &= y_{8m+11} \\
 &= x_{8m+10} + |y_{8m+10}| \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 + 2D_{m+1} + 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 + 4D_{m+1} + 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 + 6D_{m+1} + 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+4} &= x_{8m+12} \\
 &= |x_{8m+11}| - y_{8m+11} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 - 2D_{m+1} - 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 \\
 &\quad - 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 - 6D_{m+1} - 2 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 - 8D_{m+1} - 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+4} &= y_{8m+12} \\
 &= x_{8m+11} + |y_{8m+11}| \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 + 2D_{m+1} - 2^{4(m+1)+1}x_0 \\
 &\quad - 2^{4(m+1)+1}y_0 - 6D_{m+1} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 - 4D_{m+1} - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+5} &= x_{8m+13} \\
 &= |x_{8m+12}| - y_{8m+12} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 + 8D_{m+1} + 2 + 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 + 4D_{m+1} + 1 - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 + 12D_{m+1} + 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+5} &= y_{8m+13} \\
 &= x_{8m+12} + |y_{8m+12}| \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 - 8D_{m+1} - 2 + 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 + 4D_{m+1} + 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 - 4D_{m+1} - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+6} &= x_{8m+14} \\
 &= |x_{8m+13}| - y_{8m+13} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 - 12D_{m+1} - 2 \\
 &\quad + 2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 + 4D_{m+1} + 1 - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 - 8D_{m+1} - 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+6} &= y_{8m+14} \\
 &= x_{8m+13} + |y_{8m+13}| \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 + 12D_{m+1} + 2 + 2^{4(m+1)+2}x_0 \\
 &\quad - 2^{4(m+1)+2}y_0 + 4D_{m+1} + 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 + 16D_{m+1} + 3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+7} &= x_{8m+15} \\
 &= |x_{8m+14}| - y_{8m+14} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 + 8D_{m+1} + 2 - 2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 - 16D_{m+1} - 3 - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 - 8D_{m+1} - 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+7} &= y_{8m+15} \\
 &= x_{8m+14} + |y_{8m+14}| \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 - 8D_{m+1} - 2 - 2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 - 16D_{m+1} - 3 \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 - 24D_{m+1} - 5.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8(m+1)+8} &= x_{8m+16} \\
 &= |x_{8m+15}| - y_{8m+15} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 - 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 + 8D_{m+1} + 2 \\
 &\quad + 2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 + 24D_{m+1} + 5 - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+4}x_0 + 32D_{m+1} + 6
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8(m+1)+8} &= y_{8m+16} \\
 &= x_{8m+15} + |y_{8m+15}| \\
 &= -2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 - 8D_{m+1} - 2 \\
 &\quad + 2^{4(m+1)+3}x_0 + 2^{4(m+1)+3}y_0 + 24D_{m+1} + 5 \\
 &= 2^{4(m+1)+4}y_0 + 16D_{m+1} + 3
 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathcal{P}(m+1)$  is true. Thus the proof of the Claim is complete. That is,  $\mathcal{P}(m)$  is true for  $0 \leq m \leq K-1$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{P}(K-1)$  is true. Thus

$$x_{8K} = x_{8(K-1)+8} = 2^{4(K-1)+4}x_0 + 32D_{K-1} + 6$$

and

$$y_{8K} = y_{8(K-1)+8} = 2^{4(K-1)+4}y_0 + 16D_{K-1} + 3.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+1} &= |x_{8K}| - y_{8K} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K}x_0 - 32D_{K-1} - 6 - 2^{4K}y_0 - 16D_{K-1} - 3 - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 - 48D_{K-1} - 10 \\
 &= -2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 - 48 \left( \frac{2^{4(K-1)} - 1}{5} \right) - 10 \\
 &= -2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 - \frac{3 \cdot 2^{4K}}{5} + \frac{3}{5} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 - 3D_K - 1
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+1} &= x_{8K} + |y_{8K}| \\
 &= 2^{4K}x_0 + 32D_{K-1} + 6 - 2^{4K}y_0 - 16D_{K-1} - 3 \\
 &= 2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 + 16D_{K-1} + 3 \\
 &= 2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 + 16 \left( \frac{2^{4(K-1)} - 1}{5} \right) + 3 \\
 &= 2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 + \frac{2^{4K}}{5} - \frac{2^4}{5} + 3 \\
 &= 2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 + D_K.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+2} &= |x_{8K+1}| - y_{8K+1} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K}x_0 + 2^{4K}y_0 + 3D_K + 1 - 2^{4K}x_0 + 2^{4K}y_0 - D_K - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+1}y_0 + 2D_K
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+2} &= x_{8K+1} + |y_{8K+1}| \\
 &= -2^{4K}x_0 - 2^{4K}y_0 - 3D_K - 1 - 2^{4K}x_0 + 2^{4K}y_0 - D_K \\
 &= -2^{4K+1}x_0 - 4D_K - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x_0, y_0) &\in [a_K, b_K] \times [c_K, d_K] \setminus [a_{K+1}, b_{K+1}] \times [c_{K+1}, d_{K+1}] \\
 &= \left[ \frac{-2^{4K-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4K-3}}, \frac{-2^{4K} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4K-1}} \right] \times \left[ \frac{-2^{4K-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4K-2}}, \frac{-2^{4K} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4K}} \right] \\
 &\quad \setminus \left[ \frac{-2^{4(K+1)-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)-3}}, \frac{-2^{4(K+1)} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)-1}} \right] \times \left[ \frac{-2^{4(K+1)-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)-2}}, \frac{-2^{4(K+1)} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)}} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Suppose  $(x_0, y_0) \in [a_K, a_{K+1}] \times [c_K, d_K]$ .

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+2} &> -2^{4K+1}(a_{K+1}) - 4D_K - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K+1} \left( \frac{-2^{4(K+1)-2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)-3}} \right) - 4D_K - 1 \\
 &= \frac{2^{8K+3}}{5 \cdot 2^{4K+1}} + \frac{2^{4(K+1)} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)-3}} - \frac{2^{4(K+2)}}{5} + \frac{4}{5} - 1 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

Next suppose  $(x_0, y_0) \in [a_{K+1}, b_K] \times [c_K, c_{K+1}]$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+3} &= |x_{8K+2}| - y_{8K+2} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K+1}y_0 - 2D_K + 2^{4K+1}x_0 + 4D_K + 1 - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+1}x_0 - 2^{4K+1}y_0 + 2D_K
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y_{8K+3} &= x_{8K+2} + |y_{8K+2}| \\ &= 2^{4K+1}y_0 + 2D_K + 2^{4K+1}x_0 + 4D_K + 1 \\ &= 2^{4K+1}x_0 + 2^{4K+1}y_0 + 6D_K + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} x_{8K+4} &= |x_{8K+3}| - y_{8K+3} - 1 \\ &= -2^{4K+1}x_0 + 2^{4K+1}y_0 - 2D_K - 2^{4K+1}x_0 - 2^{4K+1}y_0 - 6D_K - 1 - 1 \\ &= -2^{4K+2}x_0 - 8D_K - 2 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y_{8K+4} &= x_{8K+3} + |y_{8K+3}| \\ &= 2^{4K+1}x_0 - 2^{4K+1}y_0 + 2D_K - 2^{4K+1}x_0 - 2^{4K+1}y_0 - 6D_K - 1 \\ &= -2^{4K+2}y_0 - 4D_K - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $(x_0, y_0) \in [a_{K+1}, b_K] \times [c_K, c_{K+1})$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} y_{8K+4} &> -2^{4K+2}(c_{K+1}) - 4D_K - 1 \\ &= -2^{4K+2} \left( \frac{-2^{4K+2} - 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4K+2}} \right) - 4 \left( \frac{2^{4K} - 1}{5} \right) - 1 \\ &= \frac{2^{8K+4}}{5 \cdot 2^{4K+2}} + \frac{2^{4K+2}}{5 \cdot 2^{4K+2}} - \frac{2^{4K+2}}{5} + \frac{4}{5} - 1 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

Now suppose that  $(x_0, y_0) \in (b_{K+1}, b_K] \times [c_{K+1}, d_K]$ .

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+5} &= |x_{8K+4}| - y_{8K+4} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+2}x_0 + 8D_K + 2 + 2^{4K+2}y_0 + 4D_K + 1 - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+2}x_0 + 2^{4K+2}y_0 + 12D_K + 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+5} &= x_{8K+4} + |y_{8K+4}| \\
 &= -2^{4K+2}x_0 - 8D_K - 2 + 2^{4K+2}y_0 + 4D_K + 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K+2}x_0 + 2^{4K+2}y_0 - 4D_K - 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+6} &= |x_{8K+5}| - y_{8K+5} - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K+2}x_0 - 2^{4K+2}y_0 - 12D_K - 2 + 2^{4K+2}x_0 - 2^{4K+2}y_0 + 4D_K + 1 - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K+3}y_0 - 8D_K - 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+6} &= x_{8K+5} + |y_{8K+5}| \\
 &= 2^{4K+2}x_0 + 2^{4K+2}y_0 + 12D_K + 2 + 2^{4K+2}x_0 - 2^{4K+2}y_0 + 4D_K + 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+3}x_0 + 16D_K + 3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $(x_0, y_0) \in (b_{K+1}, b_K] \times [c_{K+1}, d_K]$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+6} &> 2^{4K+3}(b_{K+1}) + 16\left(\frac{2^{4K}-1}{5}\right) + 3 \\
 &= 2^{4K+3}\left(\frac{-2^{4(K+1)}+1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(K+1)-1}}\right) + 16\left(\frac{2^{4K}-1}{5}\right) + 3
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{-2^{4K+4}}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{2^{4K+4}}{5} - \frac{16}{5} + 3 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

Finally, suppose  $(x_0, y_0) \in [a_{K+1}, b_{K+1}] \times (d_{K+1}, d_K]$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+7} &= |x_{8K+6}| - y_{8K+6} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+3}y_0 + 8D_K + 2 - 2^{4K+3}x_0 - 16D_K - 3 - 1 \\
 &= -2^{4K+3}x_0 + 2^{4K+3}y_0 - 8D_K - 2
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+7} &= x_{8K+6} + |y_{8K+6}| \\
 &= -2^{4K+3}y_0 - 8D_K - 2 - 2^{4K+3}x_0 - 16D_K - 3 \\
 &= -2^{4K+3}x_0 - 2^{4K+3}y_0 - 24D_K - 5.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{8K+8} &= |x_{8K+7}| - y_{8K+7} - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+3}x_0 - 2^{4K+3}y_0 + 8D_K + 2 + 2^{4K+3}x_0 + 2^{4K+3}y_0 + 24D_K + 5 - 1 \\
 &= 2^{4K+3}x_0 + 32D_K + 6
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8K+8} &= x_{8K+7} + |y_{8K+7}| \\
 &= -2^{4K+3}x_0 + 2^{4K+3}y_0 - 8D_K - 2 + 2^{4K+3}x_0 + 2^{4K+3}y_0 + 24D_K + 5 \\
 &= 2^{4K+4}y_0 + 16D_K + 3.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $(x_0, y_0) \in [a_{K+1}, b_{K+1}] \times (d_{K+1}, d_K]$ .

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{8k+8} &> 2^{4k+4} (d_{k+1}) + 16 \left( \frac{2^{4k} - 1}{5} \right) + 3 \\
 &> 2^{4k+4} \left( \frac{-2^{4(k+1)} + 1}{5 \cdot 2^{4(k+1)}} \right) + 16 \left( \frac{2^{4k} - 1}{5} \right) + 3 \\
 &= -\frac{2^{4k+4}}{5} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{2^{4k+4}}{5} - \frac{16}{5} + 3 \\
 &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction. The proof is complete. □

Received: November 2011. Revised: November 2011.

## References

- [1] E. Camouzis, and G. Ladas, *Dynamics of Third-Order Rational Difference Equations with Open Problems and Conjectures*, Chapman & Hall/CRC, New York, 2008.
- [2] R.L. Devaney, A piecewise linear model of the the zones of instability of an area-preserving map, *Physica* 10D (1984), 387-393.
- [3] M.R.S. Kulenovic, and O. Merino, *Discrete Dynamical Systems and Difference Equations with Mathematica*, Chapman & Hall/CRC, New York, 2002.
- [4] H.O. Peitgen and D. Saupe, (eds.) *The Science of Fractal Images*, Springer-Verlog, New York, 1991.
- [5] W. Tikjha, Y. Lenbury, and E. G. Lapierre, On the Global Character of the System of Piecewise Linear Difference Equations  $x_{n+1} = |x_n| - y_n - 1$  and  $y_{n+1} = x_n - |y_n|$ , *Advances in Difference Equations*, Volume 2010 (2010), Article ID 573281.