

# A 4-dimensional mathematical model for interaction between the human immune system and a virus

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## Abstract

In the present study we introduce a deterministic mathematical model in order to study the interaction between the human immune system and a virus, like COVID 19. The mathematical analysis is based on the tools of dynamical systems theory, by modeling the interactions between the immune system and the virus, using a predator-prey method and following the ideas of G. Moza, from [1]. It will be obtained some conclusions with medical relevance and the main three of them are the followings: 1) A deficiency of a single type of immunity in the early stages of virus proliferation, may lead to a large virus multiplication and the human body can loses the fight against this virus; 2) If the level of all components of the immunity system are at the normal threshold from the first moment of the infection and the immune system kill the virus at higher rate than the rate of virus reproduction, then the human body has the ability to stop the multiplication of the virus and liquidate it, that means the virus will be destroyed; 3) If the level of at least one type of immunity can be increased beyond the normal threshold, by medical interventions (like vaccination) in the early stages of virus infection, then the immune system has a better chance to win the fight with the virus.

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**Key words:** population dynamics, predator-prey, covid-19, dynamical systems, stability, ODE.

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## 1 Introduction

According to the basic immunology treaties around the medical scientific world, from the structural point of view, the human immune system is formed by organs, cells and molecules. Tonsils and adenoids, thymus, lymph nodes, spleen, Peyer's patches, appendix, lymphatic vessels, bone marrow are the organs of the immune system. Lymphocytes (T-lymphocytes, B-lymphocytes, plasma cells, natural killer lymphocytes), monocytes, macrophage and granulocytes (neutrophils, eosinophils, basophils) are the cells of the immune system and antibodies, complements, cytokines, interleukines, interferons are the molecules of the human immune system.

The immune response is the collective and coordinated response to the introduction of foreign substances in an individual mediated by the cells and molecules of the immune system. The role of the immune system is to defense against microbes, to defense against the growth of tumor cells by kills of this tumor cells and to destroy of abnormal or dead cells (e.g. dead red or white blood cells, antigen-antibody complex).

The immunity is the resistance of the host body to pathogens and their toxic effects. Every human body has an nonspecific response (innate immunity) and a specific response (acquired immunity). The innate immunity relies on mechanisms already existing before microbe infects host and is the first line of defense, but has no memory for subsequent exposure and relies on non specific mechanisms. Instead, the adaptive acquired immunity develops following entry of microbe into the host and comes into action after innate immunity fails to get rid of microbe. She has memory to deal with subsequent exposure and acts through specific cells: T cells (i.e. cell mediated) and B cells (i.e. antibody mediated).

The immune system can be viewed as a system controlled by negative feedback. The central component of the system is represented by the lymphatic tissues, which include mature T (thymic) lymphocytes that have matured through development in the thymus and mature B lymphocytes that have matured in the bone marrow. Generally, this essential system of the human body has a primary immune response, short lasting and smaller in magnitude, and a secondary immune response, longer in duration and larger in magnitude, developing the so called "cell's memory", after the primary response. Failure of immune response can result in hypersensitivity and immunodeficiency.

The main fighters of the immune system with the pathogenic intruders are the white blood cells, which move through blood and tissues throughout body to and evil invaders. The cells are created in bone marrow and are part of the lymphatic system. There are five classes of white blood cells, namely: neutrophils 62%, eosinophils (acidophiles) 2.3%, basophils 0.4%, lymphocytes 30%, and monocytes 5.3% ([2], [3], [4]). The typical lifetime of white blood cells varies from hours to days ([5], [6]). Because two classes of them, neutrophils and lymphocytes, represent about 92% of the total white blood cells, in the paper [1], Gheorghe Moza performed a complete study of the "fight" between the immune system and the pathogen agent (predator) by restriction of the interaction only with this two types of "bodyguards": neutrophils and lymphocytes. Of course, our approach can be extended to three kinds of white blood cells (neutrophils, lymphocytes and monocytes), which represent 97.3% of the total white blood cells and it will be obtain a similar study like in [1]. Moreover, we can also consider all five types of white blood cells ([1]), but the mathematical model of the resulting 6-dimensional dynamical system will be very complicated to study.

In this work we aim to propose a mathematical model to study the interaction between a virus and the human immune system represented by following three components: the innate immunity, the humoral immunity (after passing by infection or by vaccination) and the cellular immunity (only after passing by infection). Our approach is based on a modified predator-prey methodology ([7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12]) used in population dynamics. It is need to change some initial hypotheses

used in classical predator-prey models to take into account the types of interactions between the immune system and the virus (predator). Because in the classical predator-prey models ([13], [14], [15]), known also as Lotka-Volterra models, a prey does not attack and kill a predator, and preys increase indefinitely in the absence of predators, we need to change these two premises to correspond to the reality of the interactions we want to model. So, in our study, the two combatants are at the same time predators and preys, and, in addition, the preys do not increase indefinitely in the absence of predators but stabilize around a threshold. Several predator-prey models have been discussed in [16] to study interactions between host immunity and parasite growth. A model based on four differential equations to describe interactions between an invading pathogen and the innate immune system characterized by plasma cells, antibody concentrations and a health factor, was presented in [17]. The potential use of viruses in treating cancer has been studied in [18]. A bio-mathematical model to describe the interactions between influenza A virus and local tissues such as respiratory tract, has been recently considered in [19]. A recent analysis of a systems biology model [20] proposes some methods to approach the fight against corona viruses.

Taking into account that the immunity system has three components (the innate immunity, the humoral immunity and the cellular immunity), in the second section we will consider a four-dimensional ( $4D$ ) model with three friendly species fighting with the same combatant enemy, a pathogen agent. The local analysis of this model will be made in the third section with the mathematical tools of the dynamical system theory. Next, in the fourth section will be presented some very interesting medical interpretations about the behaviour of the modelled system around the fifteen equilibrium points. This system of ordinary differential equations represent a class of Kolmogorov systems ([21], [22], [23], [24]). This kind of systems is widely used in the mathematical models for the dynamics of population, like predator-prey models or different models for the spread of diseases ([25], [26], [27], [28], [29]). A qualitative analysis of this Lotka–Volterra type systems based on dynamical systems theory will be performed, by studying the local behavior of the equilibria and obtaining local dynamics properties from the linear stability point of view.

Finally, in the fifth section we will introduce two types of medical control for the  $4D$  system, with three control functions each, in order to study the possibility to help the human immune system in the fight against the virus. The obtained results suggest us that by increasing of at least a category of immune system, by medical interventions, in the early stages of the virus infection, beyond its normal threshold, it is possible that the immune system will win the fight with the virus in spite of a very low level of another component.

## 2 The 4-dimensional mathematical model

Denote by  $x_1(t)$ ,  $x_2(t)$  and  $x_3(t)$  the level of three types of immunity: the innate immunity, the humoral immunity and the cellular immunity. This three types of immunity fight jointly with the virus (like the present coronavirus, Covid-19) in order to stop the virus multiplication and eliminate it. The level of the virus we will denote by  $v(t)$  and this represent the number of viruses cells of the this type which exist in a body at time  $t$ . Consider the time as being continuous,  $t \geq 0$ . Thus,  $\dot{x}_1(t)$ ,  $\dot{x}_2(t)$ ,  $\dot{x}_3(t)$  and  $\dot{v}(t)$  are the rates of changes of these four quantities in a short unity of time,  $\dot{x}_i(t) = \frac{dx_i}{dt}$ ,  $\dot{v}(t) = \frac{dv}{dt}$ . Following the ideas from [1], this model is based on the following three hypotheses:

**H1.** In the absence of the virus, the three quantities  $x_1(t)$ ,  $x_2(t)$  and  $x_3(t)$  can be present in the human body up to a threshold value. This hypothesis is based on the fact that the human body may have an innate immunity and also an humoral and cellular immunity, after a prior possible contact with the virus. Thus, in the first stage, before to a present contact with the virus  $v(t)$ , we consider

that the evolution laws of  $x_1(t)$ ,  $x_2(t)$  and  $x_3(t)$  are the followings:

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= a_1x_1 - b_1x_1^2 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= a_2x_2 - b_2x_2^2 \\ \dot{x}_3 &= a_3x_3 - b_3x_3^2 \end{cases}$$

with  $a_i > 0$  and  $b_i > 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Taking into account that the general solution of the equation  $\dot{x}_i = a_ix_i - b_ix_i^2$  with the initial condition  $x_i(0) = x_i^0$  is

$$x_i(t) = a_ix_i^0 \frac{e^{ta_i}}{a_i + b_ix_i^0(e^{ta_i} - 1)}, \quad t \geq 0$$

one can observe that  $x_i(t) \rightarrow \frac{a_i}{b_i}$  for  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and all  $x_i^0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ .

If the term  $-b_ix_i^2$  is missing, then  $x_i(t)$  increase exponentially when  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , because in this case ( $b_i = 0$ ) the general solution of the equation in  $x_i$  will be  $x_i(t) = a_ix_i^0 e^{ta_i}$ . Else, if  $b_i > 0$ , then for each  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , we have that the maximum threshold value of the numbers of the blood white cells  $x_i$  is  $\frac{a_i}{b_i}$ .

**H2.** Normally, in an healthy body without autoimmune diseases, the three types of the immunity do not attack each other. Thus, they are destroyed only due to viruses and, as such, a term in the form  $-c_ix_iv$  should be added to each equation in  $x_i(t)$ , where  $v(t)$  is the number of viruses cells which exists in the human body at time  $t$ .

**H3.** In the absence of the immune system of the body the virus would multiply indefinitely and exponentially,  $v(t)$  satisfying the law  $\dot{v} = p_4v$ . But, of course, in the presence of the immune system the number of viruses will decrease and consequently, we must add the terms  $-p_ix_iv$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , to the evolution law of  $v$ .

If we will denote the fourth variable  $v$  by  $x_4$ , then we can conclude that these hypotheses lead us to the following four dimensional first order differential system with thirteen parameters, given by

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= a_1x_1 - b_1x_1^2 - c_1x_1x_4 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= a_2x_2 - b_2x_2^2 - c_2x_2x_4 \\ \dot{x}_3 &= a_3x_3 - b_3x_3^2 - c_3x_3x_4 \\ \dot{x}_4 &= p_4x_4 - p_1x_1x_4 - p_2x_2x_4 - p_3x_3x_4 \end{cases}$$

with  $a_i > 0$ ,  $b_i > 0$ ,  $c_i > 0$ ,  $p_i > 0$ , for all  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

Is obviously that the model has a medical relevance when  $x_i \geq 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . Therefore the solutions of the system lie in the set  $\Sigma_+^0 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{R}^4 \mid x_i \geq 0, i = 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Moreover, the hyperplanes  $\{x_i = 0\}$  are invariant manifolds with respect to the flow of the system, that means any orbit starting from a point which belongs to  $\Sigma_+ = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in \mathbf{R}^4 \mid x_i > 0, i = 1, 2, 3, 4\}$  remains in  $\Sigma_+$ . So, the orbits cannot cross any of these four invariant hyperplanes and then the study of the system where it has a medical relevance is well-defined, in the sense that, an orbit starting from a zone with medical relevance does not enter in a zone with medical irrelevance and conversely.

### 3 The local analysis of the model

The Jacobi matrix at an equilibrium point  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  is

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 - 2b_1x_1 - c_1x_4 & 0 & 0 & -c_1x_1 \\ 0 & a_2 - 2b_2x_2 - c_2x_4 & 0 & -c_2x_2 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 - 2b_3x_3 - c_3x_4 & -c_3x_3 \\ -p_1x_4 & -p_2x_4 & -p_3x_4 & p_4 - p_1x_1 - p_2x_2 - p_3x_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

In order to find the equilibrium points, by analyzing the system,

$$\begin{cases} x_1(a_1 - b_1x_1 - c_1x_4) = 0 \\ x_2(a_2 - b_2x_2 - c_2x_4) = 0 \\ x_3(a_3 - b_3x_3 - c_3x_4) = 0 \\ x_4(p_4 - p_1x_1 - p_2x_2 - p_3x_3) = 0 \end{cases}$$

we obtain the following fifteen equilibrium points:

$$\begin{aligned} &E_0(0, 0, 0, 0), E_1^1\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0\right), E_1^2\left(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0\right), E_1^3\left(0, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0\right), \\ &E_2^{12}\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0\right), E_2^{13}\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0\right), E_2^{23}\left(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0\right), E_3\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0\right), \\ &E_4^1\left(\frac{p_4}{p_1}, 0, 0, \frac{1}{c_1}(a_1 - b_1\frac{p_4}{p_1})\right), E_4^2\left(0, \frac{p_4}{p_2}, 0, \frac{1}{c_2}(a_2 - b_2\frac{p_4}{p_2})\right), E_4^3\left(0, 0, \frac{p_4}{p_3}, \frac{1}{c_3}(a_3 - b_3\frac{p_4}{p_3})\right), \\ &E_5^{12}\left(\frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_5^{12}), \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_5^{12}), 0, v_5^{12}\right), \text{ where } v_5^{12} = \frac{1}{d_5^{12}}\left(p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_4\right), d_5^{12} = p_1\frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2\frac{c_2}{b_2}, \\ &E_5^{13}\left(\frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_5^{13}), 0, \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_5^{13}), v_5^{13}\right), \text{ where } v_5^{13} = \frac{1}{d_5^{13}}\left(p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4\right), d_5^{13} = p_1\frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_3\frac{c_3}{b_3}, \\ &E_5^{23}\left(0, \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_5^{23}), \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_5^{23}), v_5^{23}\right), \text{ where } v_5^{23} = \frac{1}{d_5^{23}}\left(p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4\right), d_5^{23} = p_2\frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3\frac{c_3}{b_3} \\ &\text{and, finally } E_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, v_6), \text{ where } x_1 = \frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_6), x_2 = \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_6), x_3 = \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_6) \text{ and} \\ &v_6 = \frac{1}{d_6}\left(p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4\right), \text{ with } d_6 = p_1\frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2\frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3\frac{c_3}{b_3}. \end{aligned}$$

Next, it will be obtain the following results:

**Theorem 1.** *i)  $E_0$  is an unstable node;*

*ii)  $E_1^1, E_1^2$  and  $E_1^3$  are saddle points whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .*

*iii)  $E_2^{12}, E_2^{13}$  and  $E_2^{23}$  are saddle points whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .*

*Proof.*

i) For  $E_0(0, 0, 0, 0)$  we have the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 \end{pmatrix}$ , with eigenvalues  $a_1, a_2, a_3, p_4$ . Then, this equilibria is a repeller, more exactly  $E_0$  is an unstable node.

ii) For  $E_1^1\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0\right)$  we have the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} \end{pmatrix}$  with eigenvalues  $-a_1, a_2, a_3, \frac{p_4b_1 - p_1a_1}{b_1} = p_4 - p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1}$  and then  $E_1^1$  is a saddle point.

The same situation will be for  $E_1^2\left(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0\right)$ , with the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -a_2 & 0 & -c_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} \end{pmatrix}$

with eigenvalues  $a_1, -a_2, a_3, \frac{p_4b_2 - p_2a_2}{b_2} = p_4 - p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2}$ , and respectively, for  $E_1^3\left(0, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0\right)$ , with the Ja-

cobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 & -c_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} \end{pmatrix}$ , with eigenvalues  $a_1, a_2, -a_3, \frac{p_4b_3 - p_3a_3}{b_3} = p_4 - p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3}$ .

$$\text{iii) For } E_2^{12}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0) \text{ we have the Jacobian } A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & -a_2 & 0 & -c_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \end{pmatrix},$$

with eigenvalues  $-a_1, -a_2, a_3, \frac{p_4 b_1 b_2 - p_1 a_1 b_2 - p_2 a_2 b_1}{b_1 b_2} = p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2}$ . Then  $E_2^{12}$  is a saddle point.

The same situation will be also for  $E_2^{13}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$  and  $E_2^{23}(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ .

$$\text{For } E_2^{13} \text{ we have } A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 & -c_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with eigenvalues } -a_1, a_2, -a_3,$$

$$\frac{p_4 b_1 b_3 - p_1 a_1 b_3 - p_3 a_3 b_1}{b_1 b_3} = p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}.$$

$$\text{For } E_2^{23} \text{ we have } A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -a_2 & 0 & -c_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 & -c_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with eigenvalues } a_1, -a_2, -a_3,$$

$$\frac{p_4 b_2 b_3 - p_2 a_2 b_3 - p_3 a_3 b_2}{b_2 b_3} = p_4 - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}. \text{ Q.E.D.}$$

For the equilibria  $E_3$  we have the following result:

**Theorem 2.**  $E_3$  is an attractor (stable node) if and only if  $p_4 < p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$  and  $E_3$  is a saddle point if and only if  $p_4 > p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$ .

*Proof.*

At the equilibria  $E_3$ , with  $x_1 = \frac{a_1}{b_1}, x_2 = \frac{a_2}{b_2}, x_3 = \frac{a_3}{b_3}, x_4 = 0$ , we have

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & -a_2 & 0 & -c_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 & -c_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \end{pmatrix}$$

with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = -a_1, \lambda_2 = -a_2, \lambda_3 = -a_3, \lambda_4 = p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$ . Q.E.D.

Next, we have the following results:

**Theorem 3.** i)  $E_4^1, E_4^2$  and  $E_4^3$  are saddle points whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .

ii)  $E_5^{12}, E_5^{13}$  and  $E_5^{23}$  are saddle points whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .

*Proof.*

i) For  $E_4^1(\frac{p_4}{c_1}, 0, 0, \frac{1}{c_1}(a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1}))$  we have the Jacobian

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1} & 0 & 0 & -c_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1} \\ 0 & a_2 - \frac{c_2}{c_1} (a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 - \frac{c_3}{c_1} (a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1}) & 0 \\ -\frac{p_1}{c_1} (a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1}) & -\frac{p_2}{c_1} (a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1}) & -\frac{p_3}{c_1} (a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{c_1}) & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

with eigenvalues  $a_2 - \frac{c_2(p_1 a_1 - p_4 b_1)}{c_1 p_1}, a_3 - \frac{c_3(p_1 a_1 - p_4 b_1)}{c_1 p_1}, \frac{1}{2p_1} (-p_4 b_1 + \sqrt{\Delta}), \frac{1}{2p_1} (-p_4 b_1 - \sqrt{\Delta})$ , where  $\Delta = p_4^2 b_1^2 - 4p_1 p_4^2 b_1 + 4p_4 p_1^2 a_1$ .

If  $E_4^1$  is a proper equilibria (i.e.  $\frac{1}{c_1}(a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{p_1}) > 0$ ), then  $\Delta = p_4^2 b_1^2 + 4p_1 p_4 (p_1 a_1 - p_4 b_1) > 0$  and  $\sqrt{\Delta} > p_4 b_1$ . So, it results that  $E_4^1$  is a saddle point, because the last two eigenvalues has different signs.

Following a similarly analysis,  $E_4^2 \left(0, \frac{p_4}{p_2}, 0, \frac{1}{c_2}(a_2 - b_2 \frac{p_4}{p_2})\right)$  and  $E_4^3 \left(0, 0, \frac{p_4}{p_3}, \frac{1}{c_3}(a_3 - b_3 \frac{p_4}{p_3})\right)$  are also saddle points whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .

ii) For  $E_5^{12} \left(\frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1 v_5^{12}), \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2 v_5^{12}), 0, v_5^{12}\right)$ , where  $v_5^{12} = \frac{1}{d_5^{12}} \left(p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_4\right)$  and  $d_5^{12} = p_1 \frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{c_2}{b_2}$ , we have the Jacobian

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 + c_1 v_5^{12} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{c_1}{b_1} (a_1 - c_1 v_5^{12}) \\ 0 & -a_2 + c_2 v_5^{12} & 0 & -\frac{c_2}{b_2} (a_2 - c_2 v_5^{12}) \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 - c_3 v_5^{12} & 0 \\ -p_1 v_5^{12} & -p_2 v_5^{12} & -p_3 v_5^{12} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

or

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -b_1 x_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1 x_1 \\ 0 & -b_2 x_2 & 0 & -c_2 x_2 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 - c_3 x_4 & 0 \\ -p_1 x_4 & -p_2 x_4 & -p_3 x_4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues of this matrix is very complicated to find, but we observe an eigenvalue

$$\lambda_1 = -(c_3 x_4 - a_3), \text{ where } x_1 = \frac{a_1 p_2 c_2 - c_1 p_2 a_2 + c_1 p_4 b_2}{p_1 c_1 b_2 + p_2 c_2 b_1}, x_2 = \frac{a_2 p_1 c_1 - c_2 p_1 a_1 + c_2 p_4 b_1}{p_1 c_1 b_2 + p_2 c_2 b_1}, x_3 = 0, x_4 = \frac{p_1 a_1 b_2 + p_2 a_2 b_1 - p_4 b_1 b_2}{p_1 c_1 b_2 + p_2 c_2 b_1}.$$

The characteristic polynomial at  $E_5^{12}$  is  $P_{E_5^{12}}(X) = X^4 + A_3 X^3 + A_2 X^2 + A_1 X + A_0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} A_3 &= b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + c_3 x_4 - a_3 \\ A_2 &= b_1 x_1 c_3 x_4 + b_2 x_2 c_3 x_4 - p_1 x_4 c_1 x_1 - p_2 x_4 c_2 x_2 + b_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 - b_2 x_2 a_3 - b_1 x_1 a_3 \\ A_1 &= -b_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 a_3 + b_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 c_3 x_4 - b_1 x_1 p_2 x_4 c_2 x_2 + p_2 x_4 c_2 x_2 a_3 - p_2 x_4^2 c_2 x_2 c_3 \\ &\quad - p_1 x_4 c_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 + p_1 x_4 c_1 x_1 a_3 - p_1 x_4^2 c_1 x_1 c_3 \\ A_0 &= x_2 x_1 x_4 (a_3 - c_3 x_4) (b_1 p_2 c_2 + p_1 c_1 b_2) \end{aligned}$$

According to Routh–Hurwitz criterion for fourth order polynomials,  $P(X) = X^4 + A_3 X^3 + A_2 X^2 + A_1 X + A_0$  has all roots in the open left half plane (i.e.  $\lambda_i < 0$  or  $\text{Re } \lambda_i < 0$ , for all  $i$ ) if and only if  $A_3 > 0$ ,  $A_2 A_3 - A_1 > 0$ ,  $A_1 A_2 A_3 - A_0 A_3^2 - A_1^2 > 0$  and  $A_0 > 0$ .

We are interested to study the equilibria  $E_5^{12}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  only if it has all components positive, that means  $x_4 < \frac{a_1}{c_1}$ ,  $x_4 < \frac{a_2}{c_2}$ ,  $p_4 < p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2}$  and then we obtain  $A_0 < 0$  if and only if  $x_4 > \frac{a_3}{c_3}$  or  $A_0 > 0$  if and only if  $x_4 < \frac{a_3}{c_3}$ .

If  $\lambda_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) denote the eigenvalues at  $E_5^{12}$ , then, according with Viéte's relations, we have  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 \lambda_4 = A_0$ . So, it can be said that  $E_5^{12}$  is a saddle point if  $x_4 > \frac{a_3}{c_3}$ .

If  $x_4 = \frac{a_3}{c_3}$  (i.e.  $A_0 = 0$ ), then  $x_1 = \frac{1}{b_1} \left(a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right)$ ,  $x_2 = \frac{1}{b_2} \left(a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right)$  and it results

$$\begin{aligned} A_3 &= b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + c_3 x_4 - a_3 = \left(a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right) + \left(a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right) > 0, \\ A_2 &= b_1 x_1 c_3 x_4 + b_2 x_2 c_3 x_4 - p_1 x_4 c_1 x_1 - p_2 x_4 c_2 x_2 + b_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 - b_2 x_2 a_3 - b_1 x_1 a_3 \\ &= -p_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_1}{b_1} \left(a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right) - p_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_2}{b_2} \left(a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right) + \left(a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right) \left(a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= -b_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 a_3 + b_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 c_3 x_4 - b_1 x_1 p_2 x_4 c_2 x_2 + p_2 x_4 c_2 x_2 a_3 - p_2 x_4^2 c_2 x_2 c_3 \\ &= -p_1 x_4 c_1 x_1 b_2 x_2 + p_1 x_4 c_1 x_1 a_3 - p_1 x_4^2 c_1 x_1 c_3 \end{aligned}$$

$$= - \left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) p_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_2}{b_2} \left( a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) - p_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_1}{b_1} \left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) \left( a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) < 0,$$

due to the positivity of the first two components of  $E_5^{12}$ .

So, since the eigenvalues of the characteristic polynomial at this nonhyperbolic equilibria  $E_5^{12}$  are  $\lambda_1 = 0$  and  $\lambda_2, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$  exactly the roots of the polynomial  $Q(X) = X^3 + A_3X^2 + A_2X + A_1$ , it results that  $\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 = -A_3 < 0$ ,  $\lambda_2\lambda_3 + \lambda_3\lambda_4 + \lambda_4\lambda_2 = A_2$ ,  $\lambda_2\lambda_3\lambda_4 = -A_1 > 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2 + \lambda_4^2 &= (\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4)^2 - 2(\lambda_2\lambda_3 + \lambda_3\lambda_4 + \lambda_4\lambda_2) = A_3^2 - 2A_2 = \left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} + a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right)^2 - \\ &2 \left( -p_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_1}{b_1} \left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) - p_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_2}{b_2} \left( a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) + \left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) \left( a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) \right) = \\ &\left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right)^2 + \left( a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right)^2 + 2p_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_1}{b_1} \left( a_1 - c_1 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) + 2p_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \frac{c_2}{b_2} \left( a_2 - c_2 \frac{a_3}{c_3} \right) > 0, \end{aligned}$$

due to the positivity of the first two components of  $E_5^{12}$ . Then  $\lambda_2, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$  are real eigenvalues with different signs (two negative and one positive), that means that  $E_5^{12}$  is a saddle point, also in this case.

If  $x_4 < \frac{a_3}{c_3}$  then  $A_0 > 0$ , but the sign of  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  is very complicated to study because we have to many parameters. However, using the first root  $\lambda_1 = -(c_3x_4 - a_3)$  of the characteristic polynomial at  $E_5^{12}$ , we have

$$P_{E_5^{12}}(X) = X^4 + A_3X^3 + A_2X^2 + A_1X + A_0 = (X - \lambda_1)(X^3 + B_2X^2 + B_1X + B_0),$$

where  $B_2 = A_3 + \lambda_1$ ,  $B_1 = A_2 + \lambda_1B_2$ ,  $B_0 = A_1 + \lambda_1B_1$  or  $A_0 = -\lambda_1B_0$ .

But, in his case  $x_4 < \frac{a_3}{c_3}$ , we have  $\lambda_1 = -(c_3x_4 - a_3) > 0$  and then  $B_0 < 0$ , because  $A_0 > 0$ .

It follow  $\lambda_2\lambda_3\lambda_4 = B_0 < 0$ , that means that  $E_5^{12}$  is a saddle point, also in this case.

Then  $E_5^{12}$  is a saddle point whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .

Similarly, for  $E_5^{13} \left( \frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_5^{13}), 0, \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_5^{13}), v_5^{13} \right)$ , where  $v_5^{13} = \frac{1}{d_5^{13}} \left( p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4 \right)$ ,  $d_5^{13} = p_1 \frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_3 \frac{c_3}{b_3}$  and  $E_5^{23} \left( 0, \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_5^{23}), \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_5^{23}), v_5^{23} \right)$ , where  $v_5^{23} = \frac{1}{d_5^{23}} \left( p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4 \right)$ ,  $d_5^{23} = p_2 \frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{c_3}{b_3}$  we obtain that these two equilibria are also saddle points. Q.E.D.

Finally, for  $E_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ , where  $x_1 = \frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_6)$ ,  $x_2 = \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_6)$ ,  $x_3 = \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_6)$  and  $x_4 = v_6 = \frac{1}{d_6} \left( p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4 \right)$ , with  $d_6 = p_1 \frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{c_3}{b_3}$ , we obtain the Jacobian

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -b_1x_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1x_1 \\ 0 & -b_2x_2 & 0 & -c_2x_2 \\ 0 & 0 & -b_3x_3 & -c_3x_3 \\ -p_1x_4 & -p_2x_4 & -p_3x_4 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

or

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 + \frac{c_1}{d_6}t_6 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{c_1}{b_1} \left( a_1 - \frac{c_1}{d_6}t_6 \right) \\ 0 & -a_2 + \frac{c_2}{d_6}t_6 & 0 & -\frac{c_2}{b_2} \left( a_2 - \frac{c_2}{d_6}t_6 \right) \\ 0 & 0 & -a_3 + \frac{c_3}{d_6}t_6 & -\frac{c_3}{b_3} \left( a_3 - \frac{c_3}{d_6}t_6 \right) \\ -\frac{p_1}{d_6}t_6 & -\frac{p_2}{d_6}t_6 & -\frac{p_3}{d_6}t_6 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $t_6 = p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4$ .

The characteristic polynomial at  $E_6$  is  $P_{E_6}(X) = X^4 + A_3X^3 + A_2X^2 + A_1X + A_0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} A_3 &= b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 \\ A_2 &= b_1x_1b_2x_2 + b_1x_1b_3x_3 + b_2x_2b_3x_3 - (p_1c_1x_1 + p_2c_2x_2 + p_3c_3x_3)x_4 \\ A_1 &= x_1x_2x_3b_1b_2b_3 - x_2x_3x_4(p_2b_3c_2 + p_3b_2c_3) - x_1x_2x_4(p_1b_2c_1 + p_2b_1c_2) - x_1x_3x_4(p_3b_1c_3 + p_1b_3c_1) \\ A_0 &= -x_1x_2x_3x_4(p_3b_1b_2c_3 + p_1b_2b_3c_1 + b_1p_2b_3c_2) \end{aligned}$$

According to Routh–Hurwitz criterion for fourth order polynomials,  $P(X) = X^4 + A_3X^3 + A_2X^2 + A_1X + A_0$  has all roots in the open left half plane (i.e.  $\lambda_i < 0$  or  $\text{Re } \lambda_i < 0$ , for all  $i$ ) if and only if  $A_3 > 0$ ,  $A_2A_3 - A_1 > 0$ ,  $A_1A_2A_3 - A_0A_3^2 - A_1^2 > 0$  and  $A_0 > 0$ .

Due to the fact that we are interested to study only proper equilibrium points, it result that  $E_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  has all components positive, that means  $a_1 - c_1x_4 > 0$ ,  $a_2 - c_2x_4 > 0$ ,  $a_3 - c_3x_4 > 0$ ,  $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4 > 0$  and then we obtain  $A_3 > 0$ , but  $A_0 < 0$ .

Moreover, we have the next theorem.

**Theorem 4.** *i) The equilibrium point  $E_6$  is a saddle whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .*

*ii) The system (2) does not undergo a Hopf-Hopf bifurcation at  $E_6$  on  $\Sigma_+$ .*

*iii) The equilibria  $E_6$  bifurcates from  $E_3$  along the hyperplane*

$$S = \{(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) | p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4 = 0\}$$

*by a transcritical bifurcation.*

*iv) Three more transcritical bifurcations arise in the system (2) on the hyperplanes*

$$S_{12} = \left\{ (p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) | p_1 \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} - \frac{a_3c_1}{b_1c_3} \right) + p_2 \left( \frac{a_2}{b_2} - \frac{a_3c_2}{b_2c_3} \right) - p_4 = 0, a_1c_3 - a_3c_1 > 0, a_2c_3 - a_3c_2 > 0 \right\},$$

$$S_{13} = \left\{ (p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) | p_1 \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1} - \frac{a_2c_1}{b_1c_2} \right) + p_3 \left( \frac{a_3}{b_3} - \frac{a_2c_3}{b_3c_2} \right) - p_4 = 0, a_1c_2 - a_2c_1 > 0, a_3c_2 - a_2c_3 > 0 \right\},$$

$$S_{23} = \left\{ (p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) | p_2 \left( \frac{a_2}{b_2} - \frac{a_1c_2}{b_2c_1} \right) + p_3 \left( \frac{a_3}{b_3} - \frac{a_1c_3}{b_3c_1} \right) - p_4 = 0, a_2c_1 - a_1c_2 > 0, a_3c_1 - a_1c_3 > 0 \right\}.$$

$E_6$  collides to  $E_5^{12}$  on  $S_{12}$ ,  $E_6$  collides to  $E_5^{13}$  on  $S_{13}$ , respectively,  $E_6$  collides to  $E_5^{23}$  on  $S_{23}$ .

*v) Moreover, there are three transcritical bifurcations arise in the system (2) on the 2-planes  $\pi_1 = S_{12} \cap S_{13}$ ,  $\pi_2 = S_{12} \cap S_{23}$  and  $\pi_3 = S_{13} \cap S_{23}$ . More precisely,  $E_6$  collides to  $E_4^1$  on  $\pi_1$ ,  $E_6$  collides to  $E_4^2$  on  $\pi_2$ , respectively,  $E_6$  collides to  $E_4^3$  on  $\pi_3$ .*

*Proof.*

i) If we suppose that  $E_6$  is an attractor, then all roots of the characteristic polynomial at  $E_6$  are in the open left half plane (i.e.  $\lambda_i < 0$  or  $\text{Re } \lambda_i < 0$ , for all  $i$ ) and then according to Routh–Hurwitz criterion we must have  $A_3 > 0$ ,  $A_2A_3 - A_1 > 0$ ,  $A_1A_2A_3 - A_0A_3^2 - A_1^2 > 0$  and  $A_0 > 0$ . But  $A_0 < 0$  and then  $E_6$  cannot be an attractor. On the other hand, if we suppose that  $E_6$  is a repeller, with  $\lambda_i > 0$  for all  $i$  we obtain again a contradiction with  $\lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3\lambda_4 = A_0 < 0$ , according with the relations of Viéte. In conclusion,  $E_6$  is not a repeller and we can conclude the  $E_6$  is a saddle point whenever belongs to  $\Sigma_+$ .

ii) If we suppose that the characteristic polynomial at  $E_6$  has the roots  $\pm i\omega_1, \pm i\omega_2$ , with  $\omega_1 > 0$  and  $\omega_2 > 0$ , then  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 = 0$  and  $\lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3\lambda_4 = \omega_1^2\omega_2^2 > 0$ , what is in contradiction with the relations of Viéte ( $A_3 > 0$  and  $A_0 < 0$ ). Therefore the system (2) does not undergo a Hopf-Hopf bifurcation at  $E_6$  on  $\Sigma_+$ .

iii) It is obviously that  $E_6$  coincides with  $E_3$  on the hyperplane  $S$ . In order to prove that a transcritical bifurcation takes places on  $S$ , we will apply Sotomayor's theorem ([22]).

For this purpose, we will assume that  $\frac{a_i}{b_i}$ ,  $p_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , are constants while  $p_4$  vary. Let's take the parameter  $\mu = p_4 - k$ , where  $k = \sum_{i=1}^3 p_i \frac{a_i}{b_i}$  and let's denote  $u = (x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4)^T$   $F = (F_1 \ F_2 \ F_3 \ F_4)^T$ ,

where  $T$  represent the transpose matrix, i.e.  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Then the system (2) can be write in the form

$$(3) \quad \dot{u} = F(u, \mu),$$

where  $F_1 = a_1x_1 - b_1x_1^2 - c_1x_1x_4$ ,  $F_2 = a_2x_2 - b_2x_2^2 - c_2x_2x_4$ ,  $F_3 = a_3x_3 - b_3x_3^2 - c_3x_3x_4$ ,  $F_4 = (\mu + k)x_4 - p_1x_1x_4 - p_2x_2x_4 - p_3x_3x_4$ .

Next, we denote  $F_\mu = \left( \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial \mu}, \frac{\partial F_2}{\partial \mu}, \frac{\partial F_3}{\partial \mu}, \frac{\partial F_4}{\partial \mu} \right)^T$  and  $DF(u, \mu)$  the Jacobian matrix of  $F$  from (3) with respect to  $u$ . If we set  $u_0 = E_3 = \left( \frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0 \right)$  and  $\mu_0 = 0$ , then 0 is an eigenvalues both for  $DF(u_0, \mu_0)$  and his transpose  $DF^T(u, \mu)$ , with the corresponding eigenvectors  $v = \left( -\frac{c_1}{b_1}, -\frac{c_2}{b_2}, -\frac{c_3}{b_3}, 1 \right)^T$  for  $DF(u_0, \mu_0)$ , respectively  $w = (0, 0, 0, 1)^T$  for  $DF^T(u_0, \mu_0)$ .

The first condition of the transcritical bifurcation,  $w^T F_\mu(u_0, \mu_0) = 0$  is obviously satisfied.

If we denote by  $DF_\mu$  the Jacobi matrix of  $F_\mu = (0, 0, 0, x_4)^T$ , then we have verified the condition,  $w^T [DF_\mu(u_0, \mu_0)v] = 1 \neq 0$ .

In order to prove the third condition, we denote the second differential of  $F$  at  $(u, u)$  by

$$D^2F(u, u) = (d^2F_1(u, u), d^2F_2(u, u), d^2F_3(u, u), d^2F_4(u, u))^T,$$

where  $d^2F_i(u, u)$  is the differential of second order of  $F_i$  applied at the pair  $(u, u)$ ,  $u = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)^T$ . Then  $d^2F_i(u, u) = -2b_i x_i^2 - 2c_i x_i x_4$ , for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ ,  $d^2F_4(u, u) = -2(p_1 x_1 + p_2 x_2 + p_3 x_3)x_4$  and then at  $(u_0, \mu_0)$  we have

$$w^T [D^2F(u_0, \mu_0)(v, v)] = 2 \left( p_1 \frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{c_3}{b_3} \right) \neq 0,$$

which means that was checked the last condition to have a transcritical bifurcation on  $S$ .

iv) We have similar treatments like above for each hyperplane.

v) Using the varying parameters  $\mu_1, \mu_2$  for each 2-plane, we can check the Sotomayor's theorem conditions. Q.E.D.

## 4 Medical interpretations of the results

Taking into account that this four dimensional mathematical model has 15 equilibria and one is a repeller (unstable node), one is attractor or saddle and the rest of thirteen are saddle points, it would be very useful to present some medical interpretations of the behavior of the system near to each equilibrium points, following the ideas of Gheorghe Moza from [1].

**Interpretation for the equilibria  $E_0(0, 0, 0, 0)$ .**

Because  $E_0$  is a repeller (unstable node) with strictly positive eigenvalues  $a_1, a_2, a_3, p_4$ , it results that any orbit  $\mathbf{x}(t) = (x_1(t), x_2(t), x_3(t), x_4(t))$  starting at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0 = (x_{10}, x_{20}, x_{30}, x_{40}) \in \Sigma_+$  close to  $E_0$  will depart from it for  $t$  large, that is,  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity. Moreover, since Hopf bifurcation is not possible at  $E_0$  (its eigenvalues are real), a stable limit cycle surrounding  $E_0$  does not arise by such a bifurcation. Taken together, these mean that, *if the human immune system is*

sufficiently weak when the virus starts to proliferate in the body, then the virus can win the fight with the antibody cells, which from the theoretically point of view means the death of the human body. We emphasize the idea that the virus can gain (through uncontrolled growth), even if at first it was present in a negligible amount! But the levels of the innate immunity, the humoral immunity and the cellular immunity are extremely small in the vicinity of the origin.

**Interpretation for**  $E_1^1(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_1^2(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0)$  and  $E_1^3(0, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ .

If we consider the equilibrium point  $E_1^1(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0)$ , then its eigenvalues are  $-a_1, a_2, a_3, p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1}$  and  $E_1^1$  is a saddle point for either  $p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} > 0$  or  $p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} < 0$ . Any orbit  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  starting at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \Sigma_+$  close to  $E_1^1$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin W_{E_1^1}^s$ , will depart from  $E_1^1$  for  $t$  large, that is  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity. A stable limit cycle around  $E_1^1$  cannot arise through a Hopf bifurcation since all eigenvalues are real. This means that, if the humoral and cellular immunities are not at the normal level when the virus invades the human body, then the virus may win even though the level of the innate immunity is normal, even at the maximum threshold value  $\frac{a_1}{b_1}$ . Thus, *a deficiency of two types of immunities may lead to the virus victory. The virus can gain even if at first it was present in a negligible amount!*

For  $E_1^2$  and  $E_1^3$  the results are similar.

**Interpretation for**  $E_2^{12}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_2^{13}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$  and  $E_2^{23}(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ .

If we consider the equilibrium point  $E_2^{12}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0)$ , then its eigenvalues are  $-a_1, -a_2, a_3, p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2}$  and  $E_2^{12}$  is a saddle point for either  $p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} > 0$  or  $p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} < 0$ . Any orbit  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  starting at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \Sigma_+$  close to  $E_2^{12}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin W_{E_2^{12}}^s$ , will depart from  $E_2^{12}$  for  $t$  large, that is  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity. A stable limit cycle around  $E_2^{12}$  cannot arise through a Hopf bifurcation since all eigenvalues are real. This means that, if the cellular immunity is not at the normal level when the virus invades the human body, then the virus may win even though the levels of innate and humoral immunities are normal, even at the maximum threshold value  $\frac{a_1}{b_1}$  and, respectively  $\frac{a_2}{b_2}$ . Thus, *a deficiency in the quantity of a single type of immunities may lead to the virus victory. The virus can gain even if at first it was present in a negligible amount!*

For  $E_2^{13}$  and  $E_2^{23}$  the results are similar.

**Interpretation for**  $E_3(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ .

If  $p_4 < p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$ , then  $E_3$  is an attractor (stable node). It results that any orbit  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  starting at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \Sigma_+$  close to  $E_3$ , will converge to  $(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$  for  $t$  large, that means  $x_4(t)$  tend to 0 when  $t$  tend to  $+\infty$ . In conclusion, this model shows us that, *if the innate immunity, the humoral immunity and the cellular immunity are at the normal levels (i.e.  $\frac{a_i}{b_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) from the first moment they discover the virus and if their joint actions kill the virus at a higher rate than the rate of virus proliferation (i.e.  $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} > p_4$ ), then the immune system of the body has the ability to break the virus multiplication and liquidate it and the immune system wins the fight.* Else, if the joint destruction rate  $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$  of the virus by the three immunities actions is not sufficiently strong to overcome rate  $p_4$  of the virus proliferation ( $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} < p_4$ , i.e.  $E_3$  is a saddle point), then *the virus may win* since  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity if an orbit  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  start at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \Sigma_+$  close to  $E_3$ , but  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin W_{E_3}^s$ . Else, if  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in W_{E_3}^s$ , then the quantity of virus  $x_4(t)$  will converge to 0, for  $t$  large, and the virus is eliminate. Obviously, a Hopf bifurcation leading to a stable cycle around  $E_3$  is not possible because all eigenvalues are real.

**Interpretation for**  $E_4^1, E_4^2$  and  $E_4^3$ .

If  $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} > p_4$ , then  $E_4^1(\frac{p_4}{p_1}, 0, 0, \frac{1}{c_1}(a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{p_1})) \in \Sigma_+$  and at this equilibria any Hopf bifurcation is not possible because all eigenvalues are real. Due to the different signs of them,  $E_4^1$  is a saddle and then  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity, that means *the virus may win.* For  $E_4^2$  and  $E_4^3$  we have the same scenario.

**Interpretation for  $E_5^{12}$ ,  $E_5^{13}$  and  $E_5^{23}$ .**

For  $E_5^{12} \left( \frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1 v_5^{12}), \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2 v_5^{12}), 0, v_5^{12} \right)$ , where  $v_5^{12} = \frac{1}{d_5^{12}} \left( p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_4 \right)$ ,  $d_5^{12} = p_1 \frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{c_2}{b_2}$ , if  $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} > p_4$ , then  $E_5^{12} \in \Sigma_+$  and at this equilibria any Hopf bifurcation is not possible because all eigenvalues are real. Due to the different signs of the eigenvalues,  $E_5^{12}$  is a saddle point and then  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity, that means *the virus may win*.

For  $E_5^{13}$  and  $E_5^{23}$  the results are similar.

**Interpretation for the interior equilibria  $E_6$ .**

For  $E_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, v_6)$ , where  $x_1 = \frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1 v_6)$ ,  $x_2 = \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2 v_6)$ ,  $x_3 = \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3 v_6)$  and  $v_6 = \frac{1}{d_6} \left( p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4 \right)$ , with  $d_6 = p_1 \frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{c_3}{b_3}$  we have that this equilibria is a saddle point always and then  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity, that means *the virus may win*, also in this case. Since  $E_6 \in \Sigma_+$  if and only if  $\frac{a_i}{c_i} > v_6 > 0$ , for all  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , we have that  $x_i < \frac{a_i}{b_i}$ , for all  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and  $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} > p_4$ . Then we can conclude that if the levels of all three immunities (innate, humoral and cellular immunity) become at a moment considerably smaller than their normal levels, then the virus may win even though the immune system kills the virus at a rate higher than the rate of virus proliferation. This case captures the possibility that the virus and the three immunities increase in number at the same time but the immune system does not have the ability to eliminate the virus proliferation. Therefore, the quantity of virus  $x_4(t)$  may escape to infinity if an orbit  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  start at a point  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \Sigma_+$  close to  $E_6$ , but  $\mathbf{x}_0 \notin W_{E_6}^s$  or the quantity of virus  $x_4(t)$  will converge to  $v_6$ , for  $t$  large, if  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in W_{E_6}^s$ . A stable limit cycle around  $E_6$  cannot arise through a Hopf bifurcation since all eigenvalues are real.

**In conclusion, after this analysis we can say that only in a single case there are sufficient conditions to destroy completely the virus, namely, when  $E_3 \in \Sigma_+$  and  $p_4 < p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$ , i.e.  $E_3$  is an attractor proper equilibrium point. In the rest of the cases, the virus may win the fight with the human body immune system or, at best, the immune system manages to limit the proliferation of the virus.**

## 5 The 4-dimensional model with two types of medical control

Like in [1], for the 4D model presented above, we studied the interaction between a virus and the immune body system by considering only natural developments, without external influences as, for example, drug administration or additional means for increasing of one of the components of the immunity system. In this section, following the ideas from Moza's paper [1], we intend to obtain a mathematical model for the case when the interaction depend also on external factors, like a good life style, drug or vitamins administration or even vaccination for increasing at least one of the kinds of the immunity.

### 5.1 First medical control

For this purpose, we will use three control functions, one in each of the three equations that model the behavior of immunity's categories, because usually an external intervention can be performed to strengthen the immune system, but not for for destroying or weakening the virus (the last equation).

Therefore, taking into account of the system (2), we propose the following 4D differential system:

$$(4) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 &= a_1x_1 - b_1x_1^2 - c_1x_1x_4 + \alpha x_1x_2x_3 \\ \dot{x}_2 &= a_2x_2 - b_2x_2^2 - c_2x_2x_4 + \beta x_1x_2x_3 \\ \dot{x}_3 &= a_3x_3 - b_3x_3^2 - c_3x_3x_4 + \gamma x_1x_2x_3 \\ \dot{x}_4 &= p_4x_4 - p_1x_1x_4 - p_2x_2x_4 - p_3x_3x_4 \end{cases}$$

where  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  are real constants and they are using only to improve the role of the immune system in the fight against the virus.

Very interesting is the fact that this system has also fifteen equilibria, like the 4D system without control. Moreover, only  $E_3$  and  $E_6$  has another coordinates and, also very complicated to find. The rest of thirteen equilibria has the same coordinates like for the uncontrolled system. However, the local behavior of the system around these equilibrium points will be very different from the uncontrolled case.

The Jacobi matrix at an equilibrium point  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  is

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 - 2b_1x_1 - c_1x_4 + \alpha x_2x_3 & \alpha x_1x_3 & \alpha x_1x_2 & -c_1x_1 \\ \beta x_2x_3 & a_2 - 2b_2x_2 - c_2x_4 + \beta x_1x_3 & \beta x_1x_2 & -c_2x_2 \\ \gamma x_2x_3 & \gamma x_1x_3 & a_3 - 2b_3x_3 - c_3x_4 + \gamma x_1x_2 & -c_3x_3 \\ -p_1x_4 & -p_2x_4 & -p_3x_4 & p_4 - \sum_{i=1}^3 p_ix_i \end{pmatrix}$$

In order to find the equilibria, by analyzing the system,

$$(5) \quad \begin{cases} x_1(a_1 - b_1x_1 - c_1x_4 + \alpha x_2x_3) = 0 \\ x_2(a_2 - b_2x_2 - c_2x_4 + \beta x_1x_3) = 0 \\ x_3(a_3 - b_3x_3 - c_3x_4 + \gamma x_1x_2) = 0 \\ x_4(p_4 - p_1x_1 - p_2x_2 - p_3x_3) = 0 \end{cases}$$

we obtain the following equilibria:

$E_0(0, 0, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_1^1(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_1^2(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_1^3(0, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ ,  $E_2^{12}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_2^{13}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ ,  $E_2^{23}(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$ ,  $E_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, 0)$ , where  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  is a solution of (5) with  $x_i > 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and  $x_4 = 0$ ,

$E_4^1(\frac{p_4}{p_1}, 0, 0, \frac{1}{c_1}(a_1 - b_1\frac{p_4}{p_1}))$ ,  $E_4^2(0, \frac{p_4}{p_2}, 0, \frac{1}{c_2}(a_2 - b_2\frac{p_4}{p_2}))$ ,  $E_4^3(0, 0, \frac{p_4}{p_3}, \frac{1}{c_3}(a_3 - b_3\frac{p_4}{p_3}))$ ,  
 $E_5^{12}(\frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_5^{12}), \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_5^{12}), 0, v_5^{12})$ , where  $v_5^{12} = \frac{1}{d_5^{12}}(p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} - p_4)$ ,  $d_5^{12} = p_1\frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_2\frac{c_2}{b_2}$ ,  
 $E_5^{13}(\frac{1}{b_1}(a_1 - c_1v_5^{13}), 0, \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_5^{13}), v_5^{13})$ , where  $v_5^{13} = \frac{1}{d_5^{13}}(p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4)$ ,  $d_5^{13} = p_1\frac{c_1}{b_1} + p_3\frac{c_3}{b_3}$ ,  
 $E_5^{23}(0, \frac{1}{b_2}(a_2 - c_2v_5^{23}), \frac{1}{b_3}(a_3 - c_3v_5^{23}), v_5^{23})$ , where  $v_5^{23} = \frac{1}{d_5^{23}}(p_2\frac{a_2}{b_2} + p_3\frac{a_3}{b_3} - p_4)$ ,  $d_5^{23} = p_2\frac{c_2}{b_2} + p_3\frac{c_3}{b_3}$ ,  
and finally  $E_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ , where  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  is a solution of (5) with  $x_i > 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

For  $E_0(0, 0, 0, 0)$  we have the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 \end{pmatrix}$ , with eigenvalues  $a_1, a_2, a_3, p_4$

and then equilibria at the origin is a repeller, an unstable node.

For  $E_1^1(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0)$  we have the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & 0 & 0 & -c_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1\frac{a_1}{b_1} \end{pmatrix}$  with eigenvalues  $-a_1,$

$a_2, a_3, \frac{p_4 b_1 - p_1 a_1}{b_1} = p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1}$ . Then  $E_1^1$  is a saddle point like for the uncontrolled system. The same situation will be for  $E_1^2$  and  $E_1^3$ .

$$\text{For } E_2^{12}(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0) \text{ we have the Jacobian } A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & 0 & \alpha \frac{a_1}{b_1} \frac{a_2}{b_2} & -c_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & -a_2 & \beta \frac{a_1}{b_1} \frac{a_2}{b_2} & -c_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 + \gamma \frac{a_1}{b_1} \frac{a_2}{b_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \end{pmatrix},$$

with eigenvalues:  $-a_1, -a_2, \frac{a_3 b_1 b_2 + \gamma a_1 a_2}{b_1 b_2}, p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2}$ .

Then we obtain the result:

**Theorem 5.**  $E_2^{12}$  is an attractor if and only if  $p_4 < p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2}$  and  $a_3 b_1 b_2 + \gamma a_1 a_2 < 0$ . Else,  $E_2^{12}$  is a saddle point.

In conclusion, in spite of the missing of third type of the immunity, if the level of the first two types of immunity is higher than the rate of virus proliferation ( $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} + p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} > p_4$ ) and  $\gamma < -a_3 \frac{b_1 b_2}{a_1 a_2} < 0$ , then the immune system may win the fight with the virus. This happens because any orbit starting at a point close to  $E_2^{12}$  will converge to  $E_2^{12}$  for  $t$  increasing very much. So, even though the initial level of the cellular immunity is very low when meeting the virus, the immune system may win the fight if the innate immunity and the humoral immunity will be increased beyond the normal threshold by medical interventions in the early stages of virus infection (i.e.  $\gamma < -a_3 \frac{b_1 b_2}{a_1 a_2} < 0$ ).

A similar scenario occurs for  $E_2^{13}$  and  $E_2^{23}$ , respectively for humoral immunity and, innate immunity.

Due to the complicated computations, for the equilibria  $E_3^i$  and, also for  $E_4^i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ),  $E_5^{ij}$  ( $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$ ),  $E_6$  is very difficult to obtain some analytical results and medical interpretations at this moment.

## 5.2 Second medical control

Further, we will use others three control functions and then let us consider the following 4D differential system:

$$(6) \quad \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = a_1 x_1 - b_1 x_1^2 - c_1 x_1 x_4 + \alpha x_1 (x_2 + x_3) \\ \dot{x}_2 = a_2 x_2 - b_2 x_2^2 - c_2 x_2 x_4 + \beta x_2 (x_3 + x_1) \\ \dot{x}_3 = a_3 x_3 - b_3 x_3^2 - c_3 x_3 x_4 + \gamma x_3 (x_1 + x_2) \\ \dot{x}_4 = p_4 x_4 - p_1 x_1 x_4 - p_2 x_2 x_4 - p_3 x_3 x_4 \end{cases}$$

where  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  are also real constants and they are using only to improve the role of the immune system in the fight against the virus.

The Jacobi matrix at an equilibrium point  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  is

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 - 2b_1 x_1 - c_1 x_4 + \alpha x_2 + \alpha x_3 & \alpha x_1 & \alpha x_1 & -c_1 x_1 \\ \beta x_2 & a_2 - 2b_2 x_2 - c_2 x_4 + \beta x_3 + \beta x_1 & \beta x_2 & -c_2 x_2 \\ \gamma x_3 & \gamma x_3 & a_3 - 2b_3 x_3 - c_3 x_4 + \gamma x_1 + \gamma x_2 & -c_3 x_3 \\ -p_1 x_4 & -p_2 x_4 & -p_3 x_4 & p_4 - \sum_{i=1}^3 p_i x_i \end{pmatrix}$$

In order to find the equilibria, by analyzing the system,

$$(7) \quad \begin{cases} x_1 (a_1 - b_1 x_1 - c_1 x_4 + \alpha x_2 + \alpha x_3) = 0 \\ x_2 (a_2 - b_2 x_2 - c_2 x_4 + \beta x_1 + \beta x_3) = 0 \\ x_3 (a_3 - b_3 x_3 - c_3 x_4 + \gamma x_1 + \gamma x_2) = 0 \\ x_4 (p_4 - p_1 x_1 - p_2 x_2 - p_3 x_3) = 0 \end{cases}$$

we obtain the following equilibria:

$$E_0(0, 0, 0, 0), E_1^1\left(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0\right), E_1^2(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0), E_1^3(0, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0),$$

The equilibria  $E_2^{12}(x_1, x_2, 0, 0)$ ,  $E_2^{13}(x_1, 0, x_3, 0)$ ,  $E_2^{23}(0, x_2, x_3, 0)$  may exist only under some conditions about the system (7).

$E_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, 0)$  is the unique equilibria with  $x_4 = 0$  if and only if  $\det \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & -\alpha & -\alpha \\ -\beta & b_2 & -\beta \\ -\gamma & -\gamma & b_3 \end{pmatrix} = b_1 b_2 b_3 - 2\alpha\beta\gamma - b_1\beta\gamma - b_2\alpha\gamma - b_3\alpha\beta$  is not equal with 0 and  $x_i > 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Else, we can obtain an infinity of such equilibria or none.

Like for the previously controlled system (4), the study of the system's behaviour around of the rest of the equilibria of this second controlled system (6), is very hard to do!

It is about the following equilibria:

$$E_4^1\left(\frac{p_4}{p_1}, 0, 0, \frac{1}{c_1}(a_1 - b_1 \frac{p_4}{p_1})\right), E_4^2\left(0, \frac{p_4}{p_2}, 0, \frac{1}{c_2}(a_2 - b_2 \frac{p_4}{p_2})\right), E_4^3\left(0, 0, \frac{p_4}{p_3}, \frac{1}{c_3}(a_3 - b_3 \frac{p_4}{p_3})\right),$$

$E_5^{ij}$ , with  $x_i > 0$ ,  $x_j > 0$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$ ,  $x_k = 0$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3$ , but different by  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $x_4 > 0$ , and  $E_6(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$ , where  $x_i > 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

For  $E_0(0, 0, 0, 0)$  we have the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 \end{pmatrix}$ , with eigenvalues  $a_1, a_2, a_3, p_4$ .

Then equilibria at the origin is a repeller, an unstable node.

For  $E_1^1(\frac{a_1}{b_1}, 0, 0, 0)$  we have the Jacobian  $A = \begin{pmatrix} -a_1 & \alpha \frac{a_1}{b_1} & \alpha \frac{a_1}{b_1} & -c_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} \\ 0 & a_2 + \beta \frac{a_1}{b_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 + \gamma \frac{a_1}{b_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} \end{pmatrix}$  with

eigenvalues  $-a_1, \frac{a_2 b_1 + \beta a_1}{b_1}, \frac{a_3 b_1 + \gamma a_1}{b_1}, p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1}$ . Then we have the result:

**Theorem 6.**  $E_1^1$  is an attractor if and only if  $\frac{a_1}{b_1} > \frac{p_4}{p_1}$  and  $a_2 b_1 + \beta a_1 < 0$ ,  $a_3 b_1 + \gamma a_1 < 0$ . Else,  $E_1^1$  is a saddle point.

In conclusion, in spite of the missing of the second and third types of immunities (humoral immunity and cellular immunity), if the level of the first type of immunity (the innate immunity) is higher that the rate of virus proliferation ( $p_1 \frac{a_1}{b_1} > p_4$ ) and  $\beta < -a_2 \frac{b_1}{a_1} < 0$ ,  $\gamma < -a_3 \frac{b_1}{a_1} < 0$ , then the immune system may win the fight with the virus. This happens because any orbit starting at a point close to  $E_1^1$  will converge to  $E_1^1$  for  $t$  increasing very much. So, even though the initial level of the last two categories of immunities is very, very low when meeting the virus, the immune system may win the fight if the level of the first category of immunity will be increased beyond the normal threshold by medical interventions in the early stages of virus infection (i.e.  $\beta < -a_2 \frac{b_1}{a_1} < 0$ ,  $\gamma < -a_3 \frac{b_1}{a_1} < 0$ ). A similar scenario occurs for  $E_1^2$  and  $E_1^3$ , respectively for humoral immunity and cellular immunity.

Indeed, for  $E_1^2(0, \frac{a_2}{b_2}, 0, 0)$  we have the Jacobian

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + \alpha \frac{a_2}{b_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta \frac{a_2}{b_2} & -a_2 & \beta \frac{a_2}{b_2} & -c_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 + \gamma \frac{a_2}{b_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2} \end{pmatrix}$$

with eigenvalues  $\frac{a_1 b_2 + \alpha a_2}{b_2}$ ,  $-a_2$ ,  $\frac{a_3 b_2 + a_2 \gamma}{b_2}$ ,  $p_4 - p_2 \frac{a_2}{b_2}$  and for  $E_1^3(0, 0, \frac{a_3}{b_3}, 0)$  we have the Jacobian

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 + \alpha \frac{a_3}{b_3} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 + \beta \frac{a_3}{b_3} & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma \frac{a_3}{b_3} & \gamma \frac{a_3}{b_3} & -a_3 & -c_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & p_4 - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3} \end{pmatrix}$$

with eigenvalues  $\frac{a_1 b_3 + \alpha a_3}{b_3}$ ,  $\frac{a_2 b_3 + \beta a_3}{b_3}$ ,  $-a_3$ ,  $p_4 - p_3 \frac{a_3}{b_3}$ .

The equilibria  $E_2^{12}(\frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta}, \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta}, 0, 0)$  don't exist if  $\det \begin{pmatrix} b_1 & -\alpha & a_1 \\ -\beta & b_2 & a_2 \\ -\gamma & -\gamma & a_3 \end{pmatrix}$  is not equal with

0. But, if  $E_2^{12}$  exists, then his Jacobi matrix is too wide to write here, but we write the characteristic polynomial

$$\left( X - \left( a_3 + \gamma \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} + \gamma \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} \right) \right) \left( X - \left( p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} - p_2 \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} \right) \right) \\ \left( X^2 + \frac{b_2 a_2 b_1 + b_2 \beta a_1 + \alpha a_2 b_1 + a_1 b_2 b_1}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} X + \frac{a_1 b_2 a_2 b_1 + \alpha a_2^2 b_1 + a_1^2 b_2 \beta + \beta a_2 \alpha a_1}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} \right).$$

Then  $E_2^{12}$  is an attractor if and only if  $a_3 + \gamma \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} + \gamma \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} < 0$ ,  $p_4 - p_1 \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} - p_2 \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} < 0$  and  $\frac{b_1(a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha) + b_2(a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta)}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} = b_1 \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} + b_2 \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} > 0$ ,  $\frac{(a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha)(a_2 b_1 + \beta a_1)}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} > 0$ .

That means the immune system may win even though the initial level of the third immunity (cellular immunity) is very low when meeting the virus. This happens because any orbit starting at a point close to  $E_2^{12}$  will converge to  $E_2^{12}$  for  $t$  large, whenever  $E_2^{12}$  hold conditions to be an attractor. So, we obtain the following result:

**Theorem 7.** *If  $E_2^{12}$  is a proper equilibria, then the equilibria  $E_2^{12}$  is an attractor if and only if  $\gamma < -a_3 \left( \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} + \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} \right)^{-1}$ ,  $p_4 < p_1 \frac{a_1 b_2 + a_2 \alpha}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} + p_2 \frac{a_2 b_1 + a_1 \beta}{b_1 b_2 - \alpha \beta} < 0$  and  $a_2 b_1 + \beta a_1 > 0$  ( $\beta > -a_2 \frac{b_1}{a_1}$ ),  $a_1 b_2 + \alpha a_2 > 0$  ( $\alpha > -a_1 \frac{b_2}{a_2}$ ). Else,  $E_2^{12}$  is a saddle point.*

A similar scenario occurs for  $E_2^{13}$  and  $E_2^{23}$ , respectively for humoral immunity and, innate immunity.

Due to the complicated computation, for the equilibria  $E_3$  and, also for  $E_4^i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ),  $E_5^{ij}$  ( $1 \leq i < j \leq 3$ ),  $E_6$  is very difficult to obtain some analytical results.

## 6 Conclusions

In this work I presented a study on interaction between the human body immune system and a pathogenic virus, such as COVID 19. We used a mathematical approach based on a first order system of differential equations for modeling the interaction, and tools from dynamical systems theory for the analysis of the models. The study reveals the importance of all three kinds of the immunity (innate, humoral and cellular) in the fight against the virus. Several conclusions relevant for the medical world arise from this study, as it follows.

1. If the immune system is sufficiently weak when the virus starts to proliferate, then the virus has a big chance to win.

2. A deficiency in the quantity of a single type of immunity in the early stages of virus proliferation, may lead to the virus victory.

3. If the levels of the immunities become at a moment during the battle with the virus considerably smaller than their normal concentrations, then the virus may win even though the immune system kills the virus at a rate higher than the rate of virus proliferation.

4. If the levels of the immunities are within their normal concentrations from the first moment they discover the virus and if the immune system is in a healthy condition to kill the virus at a high rate, then the immune system has a better chance to win the battle with the virus.

5. If the concentration of at least one type of the immunities can be increased beyond its normal threshold by medical interventions in the early stages of virus infection, then the immune system has a better chance to win.

*This last conclusion is extremely important, since, it reveals the possibility of winning the fight against a virus by increasing the level for at least a category of immunity. In our opinion, this natural idea should be further exploited in medical studies.*

The results we obtained in this work tell the medical community to work more on methods for strengthening the immune system to win battles with pathogenic agents.

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