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Bounded growth of the bullwhip effect under a class of nonlinear ordering policies

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Highlights

- The growth of the bullwhip effect under nonlinear ordering policies is analyzed.
- Closed-form formulas are derived based on a describing-function approach.
- Nonlinearity in ordering policies is proven to cause bounded bullwhip effect growth.
- Impacts of mean demand, ordering periodicity, and forecasting method are derived.
- Various managerial insights hold the promise to help develop counteracting strategies.

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