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# An Introduction to Holomorphic Dynamics

(with particular focus on transcendental functions)

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- $\mathbb{C}$  is the complex plane.
- $\hat{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$  is the Riemann sphere.
- A function  $f : U \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}}$  is called *meromorphic* if it is holomorphic with respect to the complex structure on  $\mathbb{C}$ . (I.e.,  $f$  is holomorphic outside of a discrete set of poles.)
- A holomorphic function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called *entire*.
- A function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}}$  (entire or meromorphic) is called *transcendental* if it does not extend continuously to  $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ . (I.e.,  $f$  has an essential singularity at  $\infty$ .)
- (Otherwise, it is a polynomial or a rational function.)

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# Holomorphic dynamics

Let  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}}$  be meromorphic. Suppose also that  $f$  is nonconstant and nonlinear.

For simplicity, we will assume that  $f$  is either a polynomial or transcendental. (Don't consider rational functions.)

That is, we have the following cases:

- Polynomials  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ; e.g.  $z \mapsto z^2$ ;
- Entire transcendental functions  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ; e.g.  $z \mapsto \exp(z)$ ;
- Transcendental meromorphic functions  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}}$ ; e.g.  $z \mapsto \tan(z)$ .

We want to study  $f$  as a dynamical system. That is, we are interested in the behavior of

$$f^n := \underbrace{f \circ f \circ \dots \circ f}_{n \text{ times}}.$$

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# Basic objects

$$f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}}$$

- **Fatou set**  $F(f)$ : set of points near which the iterates have “stable” behavior.
- **Julia set**  $J(f)$ : complement of the Fatou set; locus of “chaotic” behavior.
- **Escaping set**

$$I(f) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f^n(z) = \infty\}.$$

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# A simple example

For example, when  $f(z) = z^2$ : points with  $|z| < 1$  will converge to a stable equilibrium at zero under iteration.

Points with  $|z| > 1$  will converge to  $\infty$ .

On the unit circle, there are points nearby which converge to 0 and points which converge to  $\infty$ , so the behavior is *not* stable there. So we should have:

$$J(f) = \{|z| = 1\};$$

$$F(f) = \mathbb{C} \setminus J(f) = \{|z| \neq 1\};$$

$$I(f) = \{|z| > 1\}.$$

Note: on  $J(f)$ , the map acts by angle doubling.



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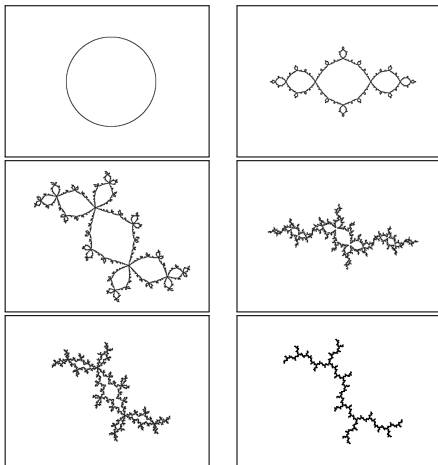
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# Some Julia sets

$$z \mapsto z^2 + c$$



- The Julia set  $J$  is compact.
- The escaping set is a completely invariant component of the Fatou set (called the *basin of infinity*).

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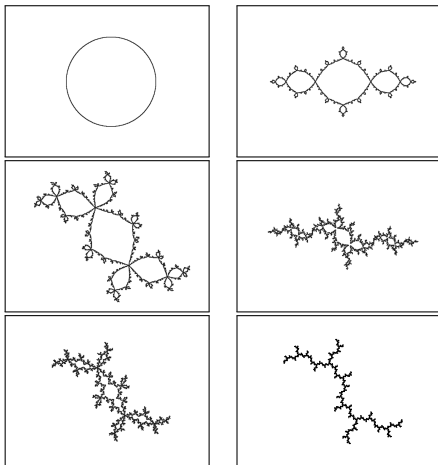
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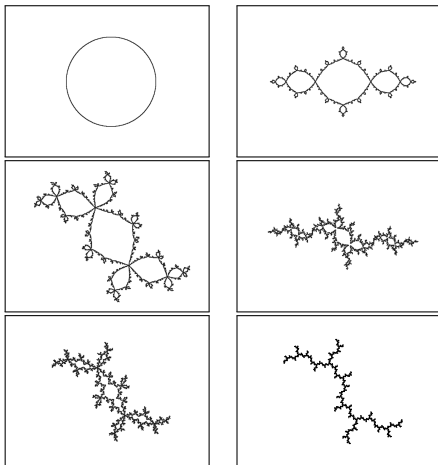
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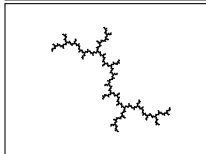
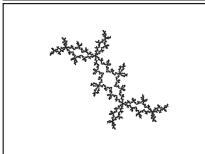
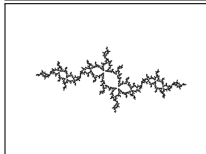
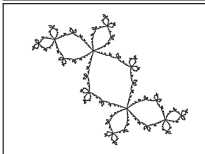
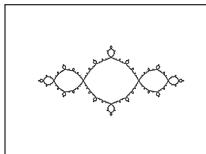
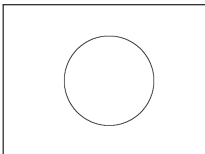
Properties of the  
Julia set

$$J(f) \neq \emptyset$$

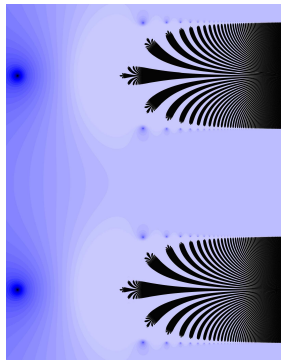
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$$z \mapsto z^2 + c$$



$$z \mapsto \exp(z) - 2$$



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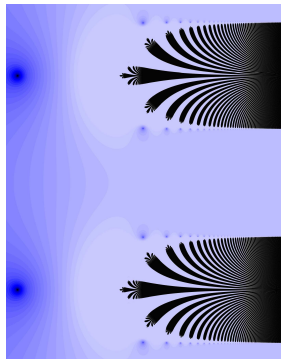
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- The set  $E$  of all endpoints has Hausdorff dimension 2, but the union  $R$  of all rays has Hausdorff dimension 1.
- $E$  is totally disconnected, but  $E \cup \{\infty\}$  is connected.

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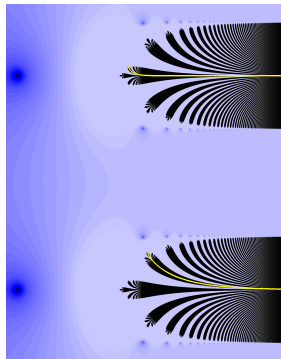
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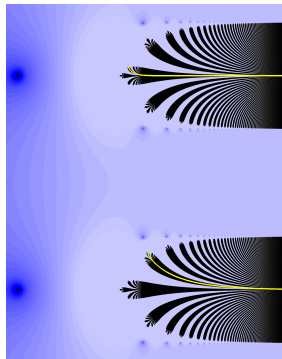
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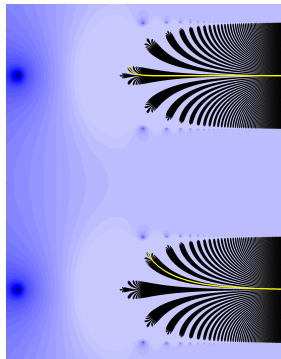
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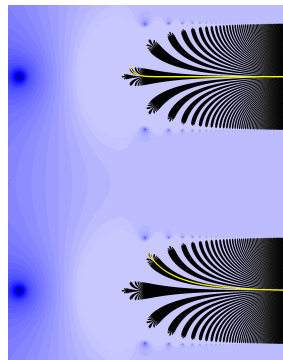
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# Some Julia sets

- The set  $R$  of rays is completely contained in the escaping set  $I(f)$ .
- Some endpoints belong to  $I(f)$ ; others do not.

$$z \mapsto \exp(z) - 2$$



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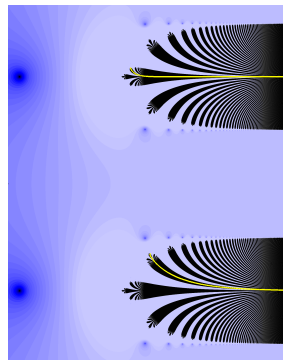
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Let  $f_n$  be a family of holomorphic (or meromorphic) functions defined on some open set  $U$ .

Recall that we say that  $(f_n)$  converges *locally uniformly* to a function  $f$  if the sequence converges uniformly on every compact subset of  $U$ .

(For example, the sequence  $f_n(z) = z/n$  converges locally uniformly to  $f(z) = 0$  on  $\mathbb{C}$ .)



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# Normality

A family  $\mathcal{F}$  of holomorphic or meromorphic functions on  $U$  is *normal* (on  $U$ ) if every sequence of functions in  $\mathcal{F}$  contains a locally uniformly convergent subsequence.

We say that  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal *in a point*  $z$  if  $z$  has an open neighborhood on which  $\mathcal{F}$  is normal.

**Arzela-Ascoli:** Normality is a local property.

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## Theorem (Riemann)

*Suppose  $f$  is holomorphic on a domain  $U$ , except at an isolated singularity  $z_0 \in U$ .  
If  $f$  is bounded near  $z_0$ , then  $z_0$  is a removable singularity.*

## Theorem (Liouville)

*Any bounded entire function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is constant.*

## Theorem (Montel)

*Any uniformly bounded family of holomorphic functions is normal.*

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*Suppose  $f$  is meromorphic on a domain  $U$ , except at an isolated singularity  $z_0 \in U$ .*

*If  $f$  omits three values in the Riemann sphere (e.g.,  $f$  never takes the values 0, 1 and  $\infty$ ), then  $z_0$  is a removable singularity.*

### Theorem (Picard)

*Any meromorphic function  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}}$  which omits three values is constant.*

### Theorem (Montel)

*A family of meromorphic functions which all omit the same three values is normal.*

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# Definition of Fatou and Julia sets

- $F(f) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : (f^n) \text{ is defined and normal near } z\};$
- $J(f) := \mathbb{C} \setminus F(f).$

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# Periodic points

- $z \in \mathbb{C}$  is *periodic* if  $f^n(z) = z$ .
- A periodic point is *attracting* if  $|(f^n)'(z)| < 1$ .  
(Attracting points are in the Fatou set.)
- A periodic point is *repelling* if  $|(f^n)'(z)| > 1$ .  
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- Attracting basins (possibly at  $\infty$ , for polynomials);
- parabolic basins;
- *Siegel disks*: simply connected domains on which  $f^k$  is conjugate to an irrational rotation;
- *Herman rings*: doubly connected domains on which  $f^k$  is conjugate to an irrational rotation (not possible for polynomials and entire functions);
- *Baker domains*: domains on which the iterates tend to an essential singularity (not possible for polynomials and rational functions);
- a preimage component of a domain of one of these types;
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# Fatou components

Components of the Fatou set have several possible types:

- Attracting basins (possibly at  $\infty$ , for polynomials);
- parabolic basins;
- *Siegel disks*: simply connected domains on which  $f^k$  is conjugate to an irrational rotation;
- *Herman rings*: doubly connected domains on which  $f^k$  is conjugate to an irrational rotation (not possible for polynomials and entire functions);
- *Baker domains*: domains on which the iterates tend to an essential singularity (not possible for polynomials and rational functions);
- a preimage component of a domain of one of these types;
- *Wandering domains*: not possible for polynomials and rational functions.

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# Examples of Baker and wandering domains

$$f(z) = z + 1 + \exp(-z).$$

$$f(z) = z + \sin(2\pi z)$$

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## $J(f) \neq \emptyset$

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- **$J(f)$  is nonempty.** (In fact,  $J(f)$  is infinite).
- If  $z \in \hat{\mathbb{C}}$  (with at most two exceptions), then the set

$$\{w \in \mathbb{C} : f^k(w) = z \text{ for some } k\}$$

accumulates on the whole Julia set.

- $J(f)$  has no isolated points.
- $J(f)$  is uncountable.
- $J(f)$  is the closure of the set of repelling periodic points.

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## Theorem

*$J(f)$  contains infinitely many points.*

The most difficult case is that of  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  entire and transcendental.

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### Lemma

*If  $f$  has infinitely many periodic points, then  $J(f)$  is infinite.*

### Lemma

*$f^2$  has a fixed point.*

*Proof:* Apply Picard's theorem to  $z \mapsto \frac{f^2(z) - z}{f(z) - z}$ .

### Lemma

*Suppose  $f$  has a fixed point at 0. If  $f$  only has finitely many fixed points, then  $f$  has infinitely many zeros.*

*Proof:* Apply Picard's theorem to  $f(z)/z$ .

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## Theorem (Eremenko)

*Let  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be entire and transcendental. Then the escaping set  $I(f)$  is nonempty.*

(In fact, Eremenko even proves  $J(f) \cap I(f) \neq \emptyset$ . However, our proof will not yield this directly.)

# A consequence of Bohr's theorem

## Theorem (Bohr)

*Let  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be entire and transcendental. Let  $R$  be sufficiently large, and let*

$$D := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < R\}.$$

*Then  $f(D)$  contains a circle  $\{|z| = \tilde{R}\}$  of radius  $\tilde{R} \geq 2R$ .*

(As an example, consider  $f(z) = \exp(z)$ .)

We will prove this theorem next time, using a normal family argument.

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