An Introduction to Holomorphic Dynamics
(with particular focus on transcendental functions)

L. Rempe

Department of Mathematical Sciences,
University of Liverpool

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Holomorphic Dynamics

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Outline

1. Introduction
   - Basic notation
   - Basic concepts
   - Some examples

2. Normal families
   - Definition
   - Theorems of Picard and Montel

3. Definition of Fatou and Julia sets

4. Basic Properties
   - Periodic points
   - Fatou components
   - Properties of the Julia set

5. $J(f) \neq \emptyset$
   - Periodic points
   - Escaping points
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- Fatou components
- Properties of the Julia set

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Basic notation

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

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

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 f^n := \underbrace{f \circ f \circ \cdots \circ f}_n.
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$n$ times
Basic objects

\[ f : \mathbb{C} \to \hat{\mathbb{C}} \]

- **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**

\[ I(f) := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \lim_{n \to \infty} f^n(z) = \infty \} . \]
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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 \textit{not} stable there. So we should have:

$$J(f) = \{|z| = 1\};$$
$$F(f) = \mathbb{C} \setminus J(f) = \{|z| \neq 1\};$$
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Note: on $J(f)$, the map acts by angle doubling.
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Some Julia sets

- The Julia set $J$ is compact.
- The escaping set is a completely invariant component of the Fatou set (called the \textit{basin of infinity}).
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\[ z \mapsto z^2 + c \]

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Some Julia sets

$z \mapsto z^2 + c$

$z \mapsto \exp(z) - 2$
Some Julia sets

- $J$ is an uncountable union of Jordan arcs $g : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $g(t) \rightarrow \infty$. We call $g((0, \infty))$ a ray and $g(0)$ the endpoint of that ray.

- 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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The set $R$ of rays is completely contained in the escaping set $I(f)$.

Some endpoints belong to $I(f)$; others do not.

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Locally uniform convergence

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

**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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**Theorem (Picard)**

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 \( f : \mathbb{C} \to \hat{\mathbb{C}} \) 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

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- $J(f) := \mathbb{C} \setminus F(f)$.
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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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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 $|(f^n)'(z)| > 1$. (Repelling points are in the Julia set.)
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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Properties of the Julia set

- **$J(f)$ 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.
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**Theorem**

\[ J(f) \neq \emptyset \]

\( J(f) \) contains infinitely many points.

The most difficult case is that of \( f : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C} \) entire and transcendental.
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Existence of periodic points

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 $f : \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ 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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