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**Mail:** Topology Proceedings  
Department of Mathematics & Statistics  
Auburn University, Alabama 36849, USA  
**E-mail:** [topolog@auburn.edu](mailto:topolog@auburn.edu)  
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**TWISTED SOLENOIDS AND MAPS OF  $\mathbb{R}^2$   
WHOSE MINIMAL SETS ARE CANTOR SETS**

WILLIAM BASENER AND CARL V. LUTZER

ABSTRACT. We construct homeomorphisms of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  that have a minimal Cantor set similar to cross sections of solenoids. It is proven that certain of these homeomorphisms are  $C^\infty$  and the rest are not continuously differentiable. The differentiability depends on the number of components of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  stage in the construction of the Cantor set.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Suppose  $X$  is a topological space and  $f : X \rightarrow X$  is a homeomorphism. A nonempty compact subset  $Y \subset X$  is said to be a *minimal set* for  $f$  if, for every  $y \in Y$ , the orbit of  $y$  under iterations of  $f$  is dense in  $Y$ . The set  $Y$  is said to be an *exceptional set* if it is both a minimal set and a Cantor set. Denjoy showed that any diffeomorphism of  $S^1$  that has an exceptional set cannot be  $C^2$ . The case for maps of the plane is different. In particular, the return map for a cross section of a solenoid (see [11]) is a  $C^\infty$  map of the plane with an exceptional set.

In this paper, we define a collection of mappings of the plane which are solenoid-like and have an exceptional set. Each map is determined by a sequence of integers  $\{p_i\}$ , similar to the standard solenoids (see [1], [11]). In contrast to solenoids, there is a dichotomy for our maps in terms of differentiability. Our main result, Theorem 1, says that the map is  $C^\infty$  if and only if the series

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$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p_i}$  converges and, moreover, is not continuously differentiable if the series diverges.

The “only if” portion of this theorem follows directly from the very nice paper of J.-M. Gambaudo, D. Sullivan, and C. Tresser [4]. In their notation, the number  $\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{p_i}$  is called the  $n^{\text{th}}$  average linking number, denoted  $\tilde{l}_n$ . It is proven in Theorem 1 of [4] that the sequence  $\tilde{l}_n$  must converge if the the map is continuously differentiable.

## 2. THE CONSTRUCTION

We begin by introducing a family of disks (Figure 1) and an associated family of smooth functions. Suppose  $p_1, p_2, \dots$  is an infinite sequence of positive integers which are pairwise relatively prime,  $D$  is the unit disk in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , and  $f_1 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  rotates  $D$  by  $2\pi/p_1$ .

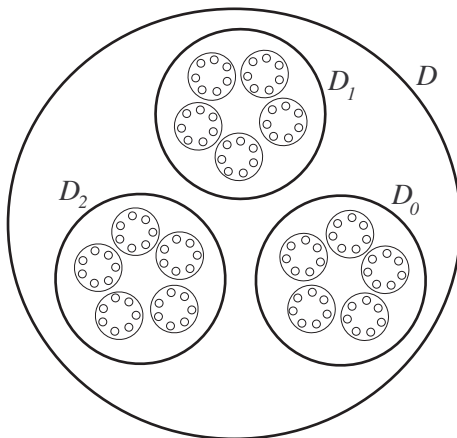


FIGURE 1. The first three levels of nested disks with  $p_1 = 3, p_2 = 5, p_3 = 7$ .

First, index a set of  $p_1$  disjoint, closed disks  $D_{(i)}$  that are properly contained in  $D$  such that  $f_1$  maps  $D_{(i)}$  bijectively onto  $D_{(i+1 \bmod p_1)}$ . For each  $i = 0, 1, \dots, (p_1 - 1)$ , we define a closed disk  $E_{(i)}$  such that  $D_{(i)} \subset E_{(i)}$  (strict containment) and  $E_{(i)} \cap E_{(i')} = \emptyset$  when  $i \neq i'$ . Lastly, in this step, we choose a smooth function  $f_2$  that rotates each  $D_{(i)}$  by  $2\pi/p_2$  and that is the identity outside of  $\cup_i E_{(i)}$ .

Second, index a set of  $p_2$  disjoint, closed disks  $D_{(i,j)}$  that are properly contained in  $D_{(i)}$ , for each  $i$ , such that  $f_2$  takes  $D_{(i,j)}$  to  $D_{(i,j+1 \bmod p_2)}$ . Hence,  $f_2 \circ f_1 : D_{(i,j)} \mapsto D_{(i+1 \bmod p_1, j+1 \bmod p_2)}$ . As before, we choose a collection of closed disks  $E_{(i,j)}$  that are pairwise disjoint such that  $D_{(i,j)} \subset E_{(i,j)}$  (strict containment), and we select a smooth function  $f_3$  that rotates  $D_{(i,j)}$  by  $2\pi/p_3$ .

Continuing this pattern, we define closed disjoint disks  $D_{(x_1, \dots, x_i)}$ , where  $(x_1, \dots, x_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{p_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{p_{i-1}} \times \mathbb{Z}_{p_i}$ , and closed disks  $E_{(x_1, \dots, x_i)} \supset D_{(x_1, \dots, x_i)}$  (strict containment) such that  $E_{(x_1, \dots, x_i)} \cap E_{(y_1, \dots, y_i)} = \emptyset$  when  $(x_1, \dots, x_i) \neq (y_1, \dots, y_i)$ . And for each  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  we define a homeomorphism  $f_i : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  that satisfies the following conditions:

- (a) The function  $f_i$  rotates every  $D_{(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})}$  by  $2\pi/p_i$ .
- (b) The function  $f_i$  is the identity of off the  $E_{(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})}$ .
- (c) The composition  $f_i \circ f_{i-1} \circ \dots \circ f_2 \circ f_1$  maps  $D_{(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i)}$  to  $D_{(x_1+1 \bmod p_1, \dots, x_{i-1}+1 \bmod p_{i-1}, x_i+1 \bmod p_i)}$ .

Our objects of study are the limit function  $F$ , defined by

$$(1) \quad F = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} f_i \circ f_{i-1} \circ \dots \circ f_2 \circ f_1$$

and its exceptional set. We can now state our main result.

**Theorem 1.** *The function  $F$  defined by equation (1) is  $C^\infty$  if and only if the sum*

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p_i}$$

*converges. Moreover, if the sum diverges then the map is not continuously differentiable.*

If the sum  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p_i}$  converges, then we call the suspension of  $F$  a *twisted solenoid* and if this sum diverges, then we call  $F$  an *over-twisted solenoid*.

### 3. THE EXCEPTIONAL SET OF $F$

Toward describing the exceptional set of  $F$ , let

$$C_i = \bigcup_{\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i) \mid x_k \in \{0, 1, \dots, p_k - 1\}\}} D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i)}.$$

It is easy to verify that the set

$$C = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} C_i$$

is a Cantor set. We will use the group  $G = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{Z}_{p_i}$  to index the points in  $C$  via the map  $I : G \rightarrow C$ ,

$$I : (x_1, x_2, \dots) \mapsto D_{(x_1)} \cap D_{(x_1, x_2)} \cap D_{(x_1, x_2, x_3)} \cap \dots$$

and, henceforth, will identify  $(\bar{x})$  and  $I(\bar{x})$ .

**Proposition 1.** *The set  $C$  is a minimal set for the map  $F$ .*

*Proof:* It follows from our definition that for each  $(\bar{x}) \in C$ ,

$$(2) \quad F(\bar{x}) = (x_1 + 1 \bmod (p_1), x_2 + 1 \bmod (p_2), \dots) \in C.$$

Because  $\text{diam}D_{(x_1, \dots, x_i)} \rightarrow 0$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for two points  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots), (y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots) \in C$ ,  $|(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) - (y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots)| < \varepsilon$  if  $x_i = y_i$  for all  $i < N$ . Thus, the proof will be complete if we can demonstrate that, for any points  $(y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots)$  and  $(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots) \in C$  and positive integer  $N$ , there exists a positive integer  $k$  such that the first  $N$  entries of  $F^k(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots)$  agree with the first  $N$  entries of  $(y_1, y_2, y_3, \dots)$ . This follows easily from (2) because the  $p_i$  are pairwise relatively prime.  $\square$

We note that the bijection  $I$  determines a conjugacy between  $F|_C$  and a map on  $G$ . To define this conjugacy, we equip  $G$  with the cylinder topology, where the basic open sets are of the form

$$B_{b_1, \dots, b_k} = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots) \in G, | x_i = b_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, k\}.$$

Then the map  $F$  restricted to  $C$  is conjugate to the map  $\alpha : G \rightarrow G$  defined by  $\alpha(\bar{x}) = (\bar{x}) + (\bar{1})$ . Specifically,  $I((\bar{x}) + (\bar{1})) = F(I(\bar{x}))$ . This follows directly from condition (c) and equation (1) on each  $f_i$ .

By comparison, the return map to a solenoid flow is conjugate (on its exceptional set) to an adding machine, or odometer. The adding machine for a sequence of integers  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots\}$  (not necessarily pairwise prime) is the map  $\beta : G \rightarrow G$ , defined by  $\beta(x_1, x_2, \dots) = (y_1, y_2, \dots)$  where

$$y_i = \begin{cases} x_i + 1 \bmod p_i & \text{if } x_j = p_j - 1 \text{ for all } j < i, \\ x_i & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Notice that the map  $\alpha$  has more “twisting” than  $\beta$ . That is, the early coordinates of points in  $G$  change more under the action of  $\alpha$  than under the action of  $\beta$ . In the setting of maps of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , it means that the points are rotated more by  $F$  than by the return map for the solenoid. For this reason, we refer to the suspension of  $F$  as a *twisted solenoid* and to the case where  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{p_i}$  diverges as an *over-twisted solenoid*.

#### 4. ANALYSIS OF $F$

The argument that  $F$  is smooth relies on Theorem 2, which is an extension of Theorem 7.17 in [13]. Before stating the theorem, we ask the reader to recall the following definition.

**Definition 1.** We say an ordered pair  $\alpha$  of non-negative integers is a multi-index with length  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$  and define the differential operator  $\partial^\alpha$  by

$$\partial^\alpha F = \frac{\partial^{|\alpha|} F}{\partial x_1^{\alpha_1} \partial x_2^{\alpha_2}}.$$

**Theorem 2.** For each  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $f_i : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be a smooth function and suppose the sum

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \|f_i - f_{i+1}\|_{C^i}$$

converges where, for  $F(x) = (F_1(x), F_2(x))$ ,

$$(3) \quad \|F\|_{C^m} = \sup_{j \in \{1,2\}} \|F_j(x)\|_{\infty} + \sup_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq m} \sup_{j \in \{1,2\}} \|\partial^\alpha F_j(x)\|_{\infty}.$$

Then there is a function  $f \in C^\infty$  such that  $\|f_i - f\|_{\infty} \rightarrow 0$ .

For convenience, we will identify  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with  $\mathbb{C}$  and use the notation of the complex plane to state the following technical lemma.

**Lemma 1.** For any positive integers  $p, k$ , real numbers  $0 < a < b < 1$ , and any real number  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism  $\phi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  that satisfies the following:

- (1) There is a prime number  $q > p$  so that  $\phi(z) = ze^{2\pi i/q}$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $|z| \leq a$ .
- (2)  $\phi(z) = z$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $|z| \geq b$ .
- (3)  $\|\phi - Id\|_{C^k} < \varepsilon$ , where  $Id(z) = z$  is the identity function.

*Proof:* Let  $\rho : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a  $C^\infty$  function that is monotonically decreasing on  $(a, b)$  such that  $\rho(r) = 1$  for  $r < a^2$  and  $\rho(r) = 0$  for  $r > b^2$ , and define the matrix valued function  $A : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  by

$$(4) \quad A(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) & -\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) \\ \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) & \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $r^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2$ . Then the function  $\phi$  defined by  $\phi(x) = A(x)x$  satisfies (1) and (2) from the lemma. We will show that  $\phi(x)$  also satisfies (3) when  $q$  is chosen large enough.

From Theorem 2(3), we have

$$(5) \quad \|\phi - \text{Id}\|_{C^k} = \sup_{j \in \{1,2\}} \|(\phi - \text{Id})_j\|_\infty + \sup_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq k} \sup_{j \in \{1,2\}} \|\partial^\alpha(\phi - \text{Id})_j\|_\infty$$

We proceed by showing that each of the terms on the right side of this equation can be made less than  $\varepsilon/2$  if  $q$  is chosen sufficiently large. We begin by considering the first component of  $(\phi - \text{Id})(x)$ , which is part of the first summand of (5):

$$\begin{aligned} & (\phi - \text{Id})_1(x) \\ &= x_1 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) - x_2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) - x_1 \\ &= x_1 \left( \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) - 1 \right) - x_2 \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $|(\phi - \text{Id})_1(x)| = 0$  when  $|x| > 1$  since  $\rho(r) = 0$  for  $r > 1 > b$ . It follows that

$$\|(\phi - \text{Id})_1\|_\infty \leq \sup_{\|x\| \leq 1} |(\phi - \text{Id})_1(x)|.$$

That is, we may assume that  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 1$ . This allows us to choose  $q_1$  sufficiently large that, when  $q \geq q_1$ ,

$$\left| \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) - 1 \right| < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$$

and

$$\left| \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) \right| < \frac{\varepsilon}{4}.$$

Similarly, there is a  $q'_1$  associated with the second component of  $(\phi - \text{Id})$ , and by choosing  $q \geq \max\{q_1, q'_1\}$ , we ensure that the first summand of (5) is bounded above by  $\frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ .

Next, we address the second summand of equation (5). As before, we need only consider  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 1$ . The case of  $|\alpha| = 1$  is illuminating, so we begin by calculating

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial(\phi - \text{Id})_1}{\partial x_1} = & \left[ \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) - 1 \right] \\ & - \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) \frac{4\pi x_1^2 \rho'(r^2)}{q} \\ & - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{q}\rho(r^2)\right) \frac{4\pi x_1 x_2 \rho'(r^2)}{q} \end{aligned}$$

We can make the first summand on the right-hand side of equation (6) arbitrarily small by choosing  $q$  sufficiently large. Further, because  $\rho$  is smooth with compact support, its derivatives are bounded. Along with the fact that  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 1$ , this allows us to control the magnitude of the second and third summands of (6).

Higher order derivatives of  $(\phi - \text{Id})$  result in more factors of  $\rho'$  and higher order derivatives of  $\rho$ , but each is divided by at least one factor of  $q$ . Thus, by choosing  $q$  sufficiently large, we can guarantee that  $\sup_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq k} \|\partial^\alpha(\phi - \text{Id})_j\| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$  for  $j \in \{1, 2\}$ , and this concludes the proof.  $\square$

Denote the smooth diffeomorphism of Lemma 1(1) by  $\phi_{(a,b);p,k,\varepsilon}$  and define  $f_1 := \phi_{(1,1.1);1,1,0.5}$ . We note that  $f_1$  rotates the unit disk by  $2\pi/q_1$  for some prime number  $q_1 > 1$ , and that  $f_1$  is the identity outside of the disk of radius 1.1 centered at the origin. Further,

$$\|f_1 - \text{Id}\|_{C^1} < 0.5.$$

We will use the  $n^{\text{th}}$  roots of unity to guide our development of  $f_j$ , for  $j > 1$ . Denote these by  $u_{n,k} := \left(\cos\left(\frac{2\pi k}{n}\right), \sin\left(\frac{2\pi k}{n}\right)\right)$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq (n-1)$ . Toward defining  $f_2$ , choose numbers  $0 < a_1 < b_1 < 1$  such that  $|u_{q_1,i} - u_{q_1,j}| > 4b_1$  whenever  $i \neq j$ . We define the points

$$c_i = \frac{1}{2}u_{q_1,i} \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, (q_1 - 1)$$



and the disks

$$\begin{aligned} D_i &= B_{a_1}(c_i) \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, (q_1 - 1) \\ E_i &= B_{b_1}(c_i) \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, (q_1 - 1) \end{aligned}$$

where  $B_r(c)$  is the closed ball of radius  $r$  centered at the point  $c$ . Notice that  $f_1(D_i) = D_{i+1 \bmod q_1}$ .

Choose some number  $p_2 > q_1$  and, continuing to use the notation of  $\mathbb{C}$ , define

$$\psi_i(z) = \phi_{(a_1, b_1); p_2, 2, 0.25}(z - c_i) + c_i, \quad 0 \leq i \leq q_1 - 1.$$

Then set  $f_2 = \psi_{q_1-1} \circ \psi_{q_1-2} \circ \dots \circ \psi_0$ . The function  $f_2$  rotates each  $D_i$  by  $2\pi/q_2$ , where  $q_2$  is prime and  $q_2 > p_2 > q_1$ , and it is the identity function outside the disks  $E_i$ . Further,  $\|f_2 - \text{Id}\|_{C^2} < 0.25$ . For each  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq q_1 - 1$  and  $0 \leq j \leq q_2 - 1$ , define

$$c_{(i,j)} = c_i + \frac{a_1}{2} u_{q_2, j}.$$

Notice that  $f_1(c_{(i,j)}) = c_{(i+1 \bmod q_1, j)}$  and  $f_2(c_{(i,j)}) = c_{(i, j+1 \bmod q_2)}$ , so  $f_2 \circ f_1(c_{(i,j)}) = c_{(i+1 \bmod q_1, j+1 \bmod q_2)}$ .

Choose  $0 < a_2 < b_2 < 1$  so that  $|c_{(i_1, j_1)} - c_{(i_2, j_2)}| > 4b_2$  whenever  $(i_1, j_1) \neq (i_2, j_2)$  and for each  $i$  define the disks

$$\begin{aligned} D_{(i,j)} &= B_{a_2}(c_{(i,j)}) \text{ for } j = 0, 2, \dots, (q_2 - 1) \\ E_{(i,j)} &= B_{b_2}(c_{(i,j)}) \text{ for } j = 0, 2, \dots, (q_2 - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Following the centers  $c_{(i,j)}$ , we have

$$f_2 \circ f_1(D_{(i,j)}) = D_{(i+1 \bmod q_1, j+1 \bmod q_2)}.$$

We continue by induction. Suppose the maps  $f_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq (n-1)$ , and the disks  $D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)}$  and  $E_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)}$  (centered at the point  $c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)}$ ) satisfy the following desiderata:

- For each  $j > 1$ , the function  $f_j$  rotates each  $D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)}$  by  $2\pi/q_j$  for some prime number  $q_j > q_{j-1}$ .
- For every  $j$ ,  $\|f_j - \text{Id}\|_{C^j} < 2^{-j}$ .
- For every  $j$ , the function  $f_j$  is the identity outside of the disks  $E_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)}$ .
- The intersection  $E_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)} \cap E_{(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_j)} = \emptyset$  when  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j) \neq (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_j)$ .

- For every  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j) \in \mathbb{Z}_{q_1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_2} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_j}$  we have

$$f_j \circ f_{j-1} \circ \dots \circ f_1(D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j)}) = D_{(x_1+1 \bmod q_1, x_2+1 \bmod q_2, \dots, x_j+1 \bmod q_j)}.$$

- There exist positive numbers  $a_{n-1} < b_{n-1} < 1$  such that

$$|c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})} - c_{(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n-1})}| > 2b_{n-1}$$

$$\text{for all } (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_j) \neq (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_j).$$

We choose some number  $p_n > q_{n-1}$  and set  $G_n := \mathbb{Z}_{q_1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_2} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_{n-1}}$ . Then for each  $\gamma \in G_n$ , we define

$$\psi_\gamma(x) = \phi_{(a_{n-1}, b_{n-1}); p_n, n, 2^{-n}}(x - c_\gamma) + c_\gamma.$$

The function  $f_n$  is defined as

$$(7) \quad f_n = \circ_{\gamma \in G_n} \psi_\gamma.$$

That is,  $f_n$  is the composition of all  $\psi_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})}$ , where  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{q_1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_2} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_{n-1}}$ . (The order of composition does not matter because the set of points on which  $\psi_{\gamma_1}$  is not the identity is disjoint from the set of points on which  $\psi_{\gamma_2}$  is not the identity when  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2$  are distinct elements of  $G_n$ .) The function  $f_n$  rotates each disk  $D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})}$  by  $2\pi/q_n$  for some prime number  $q_n > p_n > q_{n-1}$ , is the identity outside of  $\cup_{\gamma \in G_n} E_\gamma$ , and  $\|f_n - \text{Id}\|_{C^n} < 2^{-n}$ .

For each  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_{q_1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_2} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_n}$ , define

$$c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)} = c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})} + \frac{a_{n-1}}{2} u_{q_n, x_n}.$$

Then  $f_n(c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}) = c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1} \bmod q_n)}$  and

$$f_n \circ f_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ f_1(c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}) =$$

$$c_{(x_1+1 \bmod q_1, x_2+1 \bmod q_2, \dots, x_n+1 \bmod q_n)}.$$

Choose positive numbers  $a_n < b_n < 1$  so that  $|c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)} - c_{(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)}| > 4b_n$  whenever  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \neq (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$  and, for each  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_{q_1} \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_2} \times \dots \times \mathbb{Z}_{q_n}$ , define the disks

$$\begin{aligned} D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)} &= B_{a_n}(c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}) \\ E_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)} &= B_{b_n}(c_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}). \end{aligned}$$

Notice that  $f_n(D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}) = D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n + 1 \bmod q_n)}$ . Hence,

$$f_n \circ f_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ f_1(D_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}) = D_{(x_1 + 1 \bmod q_1, x_2 + 1 \bmod q_2, \dots, x_n + 1 \bmod q_n)}.$$

We now define  $F_n = f_n \circ f_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ f_1$ . Note that  $F_n$  differs from  $F_{n-1}$  on only the disks  $E_{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}$ , and then only by the rotation affected by  $f_n$ , so  $\|F_{n-1} - F_n\|_{C^n} = \|f_n - \text{Id}\|_{C^n} < 2^{-n}$ . Thus,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \|F_{n-1} - F_n\|_{C^n} < \infty,$$

and Theorem 2 guarantees the existence of a smooth function  $F$  such that  $F_n \rightarrow F$  uniformly. We have thus proven Theorem 1.

## 5. REMARKS

### 5.1. A HOMEOMORPHISM ON $\mathbb{R}^3$ WITH ANTOINE'S NECKLACE AS A MINIMAL SET

Antoine's necklace can be defined in the following way (see [12]). Let  $q_1, q_2, \dots$  be an infinite sequence of positive integers. Let  $T = S^1 \times D^2$  be a solid torus coordinatized by  $(\theta, \phi, r)$  where  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi] \bmod 2\pi$  is the coordinate on  $S^1$  and  $(\phi, r)$  are polar coordinates on  $D^2$ . Inside  $T$  define a chain of solid tori  $T_0, \dots, T_{q_1-1}$  as follows. For each  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, q_1 - 1\}$ , let  $p_i = (i2\pi/q_1, 0, 0)$ , and let  $\gamma_i$  be the circle of radius  $3\pi/4q_1$  that is centered at  $p_i$  and contained in  $\{(\theta, \phi, r) \mid \phi = i2\pi/q_1\}$ . (See Figure 2.) Note that the linking number of  $\gamma_i$  with  $\gamma_j$  is  $\pm 1$  if  $|i - j \bmod q_1| = 1$  and that  $\gamma_i$  is the image of  $\gamma_{i-1 \bmod q_1}$  under the rotation of  $T$  by  $(\theta, \phi, r) \rightarrow (\theta + i2\pi/q_1, \phi + i2\pi/q_1, r)$ . From now on we refer to this homeomorphism simply as rotation by  $(i2\pi/q_1, i2\pi/q_1)$ . For each  $i$ , define  $T_i$  to be a torus neighborhood of  $\gamma_i$  such that all of the  $T_i$  are disjoint and a rotation of  $T$  by  $(i2\pi/q_1, i2\pi/q_1)$  takes  $T_i$  to  $T_{i+1 \bmod q_1}$ . Denote the union of these tori by  $C_1 = \bigcup_{i=0}^{q_1-1} T_i$ .

In  $T_0$ , define a chain of  $q_2$  pairwise disjoint solid tori,  $T_{(0,0)}, \dots, T_{(0,q_2-1)}$ , such that a rotation of  $T_0$  by  $(2\pi/q_2, 2\pi/q_2)$  takes  $T_{(0,i)}$  to  $T_{(0,i+1 \bmod q_2)}$ . Let  $T_{(i,j)}$  be the images of  $T_{(0,j)}$  under rotations of  $T$  by  $(2\pi/q_1, 2\pi/q_1)$  and let  $C_2 = \bigcup_{j=0}^{q_2-1} \bigcup_{i=0}^{q_1-1} T_{(i,j)}$ . Continuing

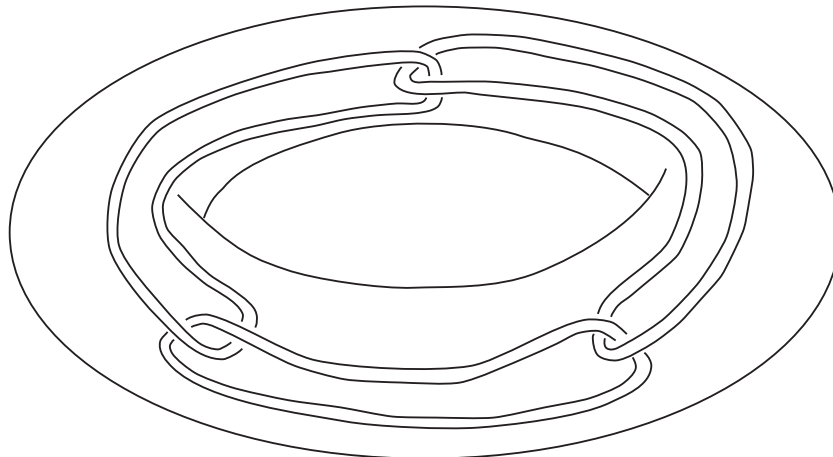


FIGURE 2. The first two steps in creating Antoine's necklace.

in this manner results in a nested sequence of compact sets  $\cdots \subset C_2 \subset C_1$  and Antoine's necklace is the set

$$A = \bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} C_i.$$

The topologically interesting property of Antoine's necklace is that it is a Cantor set and its complement is not simply connected when imbedded in  $R^3$ .

The natural homeomorphism  $J : G \rightarrow A$  is

$$J(x_1, x_2, \dots) = T \cap T_{x_1} \cap T_{(x_1, x_2)} \cap \cdots.$$

One could define a map that has  $A$  as an exceptional set by mimicking the construction outlined in the previous sections.

## 5.2. THE D-FUNCTION

An important topological invariant of a minimal set is the D-function, developed by Xiang Dong Ye in [14]. Suppose that  $f : X \rightarrow X$  is a continuous map of a compact Hausdorff space and that  $Y$  is a minimal set for  $f$ . The D-function for  $Y$  is the function

$f_Y : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  which takes the natural number  $n$  to the number of distinct minimal sets of  $f^n$  which are contained in  $Y$ . If  $p_1, p_2, \dots$  is the sequence of pairwise relatively prime positive integers defining  $F$ , then the D-function of  $F$  on  $C$  is

$$F_C(n) = \prod_{\{p_i: p_i|n\}} p_i .$$

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(Basener) DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ROCHESTER, NY 14414

*E-mail address:* `wfbsma@rit.edu`

(Lutzer) DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ROCHESTER, NY 14414

*E-mail address:* `cvlsma@rit.edu`