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UNIMODAL MAPS RESTRICTED TO THEIR  
CRITICAL OMEGA-LIMIT SETS

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## (NON)INVERTIBILITY OF FIBONACCI-LIKE UNIMODAL MAPS RESTRICTED TO THEIR CRITICAL OMEGA-LIMIT SETS

H. BRUIN

**ABSTRACT.** A Fibonacci(-like) unimodal map is defined by special combinatorial properties which guarantee that the critical omega-limit set  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set. In this paper we give conditions to ensure that  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is invertible, except at a subset of the backward critical orbit. Furthermore, any finite subtree of the binary tree can appear for some  $f$  as the tree connecting all points at which  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is noninvertible.

This technique gives a new way of finding strange adding machines, *i.e.*, nonrenormalizable maps for which  $f : \omega(c) \rightarrow \omega(c)$  is conjugate to a (triadic) adding machine. This construction of strange adding machines is compatible with  $\omega(c)$  being a wild attractor.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

A minimal Cantor systems is continuous map of the Cantor set for which every orbit is dense. Examples in a symbolic contexts (where the Cantor set is represented by a closed shift-invariant subset of the full shift  $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  equipped with product topology and  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ) are Toeplitz shifts and Sturmian shift spaces. In fact, there are general methods to express a minimal Cantor system as a substitution shift, as a Bratteli diagram [17], or as a shift emerging from an enumeration scale [18].

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Minimal Cantor systems can be invertible or not, see *e.g.* [2, 3] for examples of both cases. Let  $X^* := \{x \in X : \#f^{-1}(x) > 1\}$ . A dynamical system  $(X, f)$  is called *almost invertible* if  $X \setminus X^*$  is a dense  $G_\delta$  set. Kolyada et al. [21] investigate almost invertible systems, showing among other things that if a Cantor system is minimal, then it is almost one-to-one.

If  $X^*$  belongs to a single grand orbit, then we can define the *noninvertibility tree* as the smallest directed tree  $T^*$  whose vertices contain all points in  $X^*$  and whose edges  $x \rightarrow y$  between vertices  $x$  and  $y$  are given by the relation  $y = f(x)$ .

If  $(X, f)$  is invertible, then  $X^* = T^* = \emptyset$ . In the Fibonacci substitution shift  $(\Sigma, \sigma)$  generated by  $\chi : 0 \mapsto 01, 1 \mapsto 1$ , which is also the Sturmian sequence associated to the golden mean circle rotation, all points have one preimage except the fixed point of  $\chi$  which has two preimages. In this case  $\Sigma^* = T^*$  is this fixed point. This property is shared by all Sturmian shift spaces.

**1.1. Tree structure of minimal omega-limit sets:** The question we want to address in this paper is what noninvertibility trees we may encounter if  $X = \omega(c)$  is the critical omega-limit set of a unimodal map. A unimodal map  $f : I \rightarrow I$  on the unit interval  $I = [0, 1]$  is a continuous map with  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$  and having a single *critical point*  $c$  such that  $f$  is increasing on  $[0, c)$  and decreasing on  $(c, 1]$ . The *critical order* is  $\ell$  if there is a diffeomorphism  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  fixing 0 such that  $f(x) = f(c) + |\varphi(x - c)|^\ell$ . The critical point is nonflat if its critical order  $\ell < \infty$ . An interval  $W$  is *wandering* if  $f^n|_W$  is monotone for all  $n \geq 0$  and  $f^n(W)$  does not converge to a periodic orbit. Throughout, we will assume that  $f$  has no wandering interval, which is true for all  $C^2$  maps with nonflat critical points, see [22, Theorem II.6.2.].

For some unimodal maps,  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set. The best known example is the Feigenbaum map; we discuss this and other infinitely renormalizable maps later on. Another well-known example is the Fibonacci unimodal map, first described in [20]. This is a unimodal map of a certain combinatorial type (the cutting times are the Fibonacci numbers, see below). For this map, each  $x \in \omega(c)$  has one preimage in  $\omega(c)$ , except for  $x = c$  which has two preimages. The similarity with the structure of the Fibonacci substitution shift is not coincidental; both approaches describe isomorphic Cantor systems.

We will focus on maps that are Fibonacci-like in the sense that the cutting times obey recursive rules similar to those of the Fibonacci numbers. In such cases,  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set, [10]. This is of more than combinatorial interest, because for Fibonacci-like unimodal maps with sufficiently degenerate critical point,  $\omega(c)$  can actually be an attractor (see [11]). The noninvertibility tree may give information on the complexity of the subshift produced by  $(\omega(c), f)$ , cf. [16], as well as its spectral properties. We will use enumeration scales (see [18] and introduced into interval dynamics in [15]) to explore the noninvertibility tree of the backward orbit of the critical point  $\text{orb}^-(c) := \cup_{i \geq 0} f^{-i}(c) \cap \omega(c)$ . There is a priori no reason why  $X^*$  should belong to  $\text{orb}^-(c)$  but we will give sufficient conditions in Proposition 3.1 under which this is indeed the case. This leads to the main result:

**Theorem 1.1.** *For every finite subtree  $T_0$  of the binary tree, there is a Fibonacci-like map such that  $X^* \subset \text{orb}^-(c)$  and the tree structure of  $X^*$  is isomorphic to  $T_0$ .*

**Question:** In addition to the results in [16], what are the word complexity and rank of the subshift associated to any of these (stationary or nonstationary) Fibonacci-like maps?

**1.2. Adding machines and strange adding machines.** We call the unimodal map  $f : I \rightarrow I$  *renormalizable* if it has a periodic subinterval  $I_1 \ni c$  of period  $p_1 \geq 2$ . The  $p_1$ -th iterate  $f^{p_1} : I_1 \rightarrow I_1$  is a new unimodal map which could be renormalizable in its own right. By repeating this infinitely often we arrive at *infinite renormalizable* maps which possess a nested sequence of intervals  $I \supset I_1 \supset I_2 \supset I_3 \supset \dots \ni c$  such that  $I_k$  has period  $\prod_{i=1}^k p_i$ . Under sufficient smoothness conditions,  $\cap_k \text{orb}(I_k)$  coincides with the omega-limit set  $\omega(c)$  of the critical point, and on this set is a minimal Cantor set of which  $f$  is conjugate to a  $(p_i)$ -adic adding machine.

**Definition 1.2.** Given a sequence  $(p_i)_{i \geq 1}$  of integers  $p_i \geq 2$ , the  $(p_i)$ -*adic adding machine* is the dynamical system  $\Omega = \{(\omega_j)_{j \geq 1} : 0 \leq \omega_j < p_j\}$  equipped with product topology and the map  $g$  of “adding 1 and carry”:

$$g(\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots) = \begin{cases} 0, \dots, 0, \omega_k + 1, \omega_{k+1}, \omega_{k+2}, \dots \\ \quad \text{if } k = \min\{i : \omega_i < p_i - 1\}; \\ 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots \\ \quad \text{if } \omega_i = p_i - 1 \text{ for all } i \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

The Feigenbaum map is the simplest example:  $p_i = 2$  for all  $i$ , and  $f : \omega(c) \rightarrow \omega(c)$  is conjugate to the *dyadic* adding machine. The combinatorial structure of renormalization has been understood for a long time. More surprising was the recent discovery by Block et al. [6] that there are nonrenormalizable maps (*e.g.* within the tent-family) for which  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set and  $f : \omega(c) \rightarrow \omega(c)$  are also conjugate to a  $(p_i)$ -adic adding machine. These maps are called *strange adding machines*. Their topological structure is fairly well understood as well. A point  $x$  is called *approximately periodic* if it is not asymptotically periodic but for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a periodic point  $q$  and  $k_0 \geq 0$  such that  $|f^{k_0+j}(x) - f^j(q)| < \varepsilon$  for all  $j \geq 0$ . The following classification is due to [4, Proposition 5.1].

**Proposition 1.3.** *If  $(\omega(x), f)$  is conjugate to some  $(p_i)$ -adic adding machine if and only if  $x$  is approximately periodic.*

Note that adding machines are not subshifts (cf. [5, Proposition 3.1]), and if we want to encode  $(\omega(c), f)$  using the standard “kneading” symbolic dynamics, we run into problems in coding  $c$ . The intervals  $[0, c)$  and  $(c, 1]$  get symbols 0 and 1 respectively, but there is no unambiguous assignment of a symbol 0 or 1 to  $c$  that makes the shift continuous and/or compact. In [12] this problem is avoided by the construction of unimodal map for which the orbit of  $c$  approaches  $c$  only from one side, and  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set. This paper gives several examples where  $(\omega(c), f)$  is an invertible minimal Cantor system, and more examples and background information are given in [8, 12, 9].

The technique of enumeration scales leads to new examples of strange adding machines, which can be realized as attractors without the need of renormalization. The set  $\omega(c)$  is called a *wild attractor* if  $f$  is not infinitely renormalizable but  $\omega(x) = \omega(c)$  for Lebesgue a.e.  $x$ . In Section 5, we present a combinatorial type, realized by a map  $f$  with the following properties:

- (1)  $f$  is nonrenormalizable and has minimal Cantor omega-limit set  $\omega(c)$  which is realized as a *wild* attractor, provided the critical order is sufficiently large.
- (2) The system  $(X, f)$  is conjugate to a triadic adding machine. (This produces a strange adding machines in a different way from the construction in [6].)

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## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Let  $f : I \rightarrow I$ ,  $I = [0, 1]$  be a unimodal map such that  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$  and  $c$  is the unique critical point; hence  $f$  is increasing on  $[0, c]$  and decreasing on  $[c, 1]$ . Write  $c_n = f^n(c)$ . We assume that  $c_2 < c < c_1$  and  $c_3 \geq c_2$ . The omega limit set of the critical point is defined as  $\omega(c) = \overline{\cap_i \{c_j : j > i\}}$ ; if  $c$  is recurrent, this set coincides with the closure  $\text{orb}(c)$ . The omega limit set is closed and invariant, so  $(\omega(c), f)$  is a surjective dynamical system in its own right.

The system  $(I, f)$  can be described symbolically by a subshift of  $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  where each  $x \in I$  is assigned an *itinerary*  $i(x) = i_0(x)i_1(x)i_2(x) \dots$  where

$$i_k(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } f^k(x) \in [0, c), \\ * & \text{if } f^k(x) = c, \\ 1 & \text{if } f^k(x) \in (c, 1]. \end{cases}$$

Write  $\kappa = i(c_1)$  for the *kneading invariant* of  $f$ . Two itineraries  $i$  and  $\tilde{i}$  can be compared in *parity lexicographical order*  $\prec_p$ : If  $k = \min\{j \geq 0 : i_j \neq \tilde{i}_j\}$  then

$$i \prec_p \tilde{i} \text{ if } \begin{cases} i_k < \tilde{i}_k & \text{and } \#\{j < k : e_j = 1\} \text{ is even,} \\ i_k > \tilde{i}_k & \text{and } \#\{j < k : e_j = 1\} \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Here  $0 < * < 1$ . Let  $\sigma$  be the left-shift. The map  $x \mapsto i(x)$  is order preserving, whence  $\sigma(\kappa) \preceq_p i(x) \preceq_p \kappa$  for every  $x \in [c_2, c_1]$ . Applied to the kneading invariant itself, we obtain an *admissibility condition* for kneading invariants:

$$(2.1) \quad \sigma(\kappa) \preceq_p \sigma^n(\kappa) \preceq_p \kappa \text{ for all } n \geq 0.$$

The kneading invariant of any unimodal map satisfies (2.1) and conversely, for any  $\kappa$  satisfying (2.1), there is a unimodal map having kneading invariant  $\kappa$ .

For our purposes, the kneading invariant is the only information that we require from the unimodal map. However, we will use an equivalent combinatorial description given by *cutting times* and the *kneading map*. These ideas were introduced by Hofbauer, see e.g. [19]. A survey can be found in [10].

If  $J$  is a maximal (closed) interval on which  $f^n$  is monotone, then  $f^n : J \rightarrow f^n(J)$  is called a *branch*. If  $c \in \partial J$ ,  $f^n : J \rightarrow f^n(J)$  is a *central branch*. Obviously  $f^n$  has two central branches, and they have the same image. Denote this image by  $D_n$ .

If  $D_n \ni c$ , then  $n$  is called a *cutting time*. Denote the cutting times by  $\{S_i\}_{i \geq 0}$ ,  $S_0 < S_1 < S_2 < \dots$ . For interesting unimodal maps (such as tent maps with slope  $> 1$ )  $S_0 = 1$  and  $S_1 = 2$ . The sequence of cutting times completely determines the tent map and vice versa. It can be shown that  $S_k \leq 2S_{k-1}$  for all  $k$ . Furthermore, the difference between two consecutive cutting times is again a cutting time. Therefore we can write

$$(2.2) \quad S_k = S_{k-1} + S_{Q(k)},$$

for some integer function  $Q$ , called the *kneading map*. Each unimodal map therefore is characterized by its kneading map. Conversely, each map  $Q : \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  satisfying  $Q(k) < k$  and the *admissibility condition* (equivalent to (2.1))

$$(2.3) \quad \{Q(k+j)\}_{j \geq 1} \succeq \{Q(Q^2(k)+j)\}_{j \geq 1}$$

(where  $\succeq$  denotes the lexicographical ordering) is the kneading map of some unimodal map. Well-known examples are the *Feigenbaum map*, where  $Q(k) = k - 1$  and the *Fibonacci map*, where  $Q(k) = \max\{k - 2, 0\}$ . We call  $f$  *Fibonacci-like* if there is  $N$  such that  $k - Q(k) \leq N$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Using cutting times and kneading map, the following properties of the intervals  $D_n$  are easy to derive:

$$D_{n+1} = \begin{cases} f(D_n) & \text{if } c \notin D_n, \\ [c_{n+1}, c_1] & \text{if } c \in D_n. \end{cases}$$

Equivalently:

$$(2.4) \quad D_n = [c_n, c_{\beta(n)}], \text{ where } \beta(n) = n - \max\{S_k; S_k < n\},$$

and in particular  $D_{S_k} = [c_{S_k}, c_{S_{Q(k)}}]$ .

Let  $z_k < c < \hat{z}_k$  be the boundary points of the domains the two central branches of  $f^{S_{k+1}}$ . Then  $z_k$  and  $\hat{z}_k$  lie in the interiors of the domains of the central branches of  $f^{S_k}$  and  $f^{S_k}(z_k) = f^{S_k}(\hat{z}_k) = c$ . Furthermore,  $f^j$  is monotone on  $(z_k, c)$  and  $(c, \hat{z}_k)$  for all  $0 \leq j \leq S_k$ . These points are called *closest precritical points*, and the relation (2.2) implies

$$(2.5) \quad f^{S_{k-1}}(c) \in (z_{Q(k)-1}, z_{Q(k)}) \cup [\hat{z}_{Q(k)}, \hat{z}_{Q(k)-1}].$$

We will use these relations repeatedly without specific reference.

**Lemma 2.1.** *The domains of the central branches of  $f^{S_k}$  are  $J_{S_k} = [z_{k-1}, 0]$  and  $\hat{J}_{S_k} = [0, \hat{z}_{k-1}]$ . If  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$ , then*

- $|D_n| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ;
- $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set.

*Proof.* These statements appear somewhat implicitly in e.g. [10], so let us give a full proof. Since  $z_{k-1}$  and  $z_k$  are consecutive closest precritical points, there is no point  $z \in (z_k, 0)$  such that  $f^n(z) = 0$  for  $n < S_k$ . Therefore  $[z_{k-1}, 0]$  is a maximal interval of monotonicity and  $f^{S_k}([z_{k-1}, 0]) \ni 0$ .

First we claim that  $c_{1+S_k} \rightarrow c_1$ . Indeed, if this were not the case, then (recalling from (2.4) that  $D_{1+S_k} = [c_{1+S_k}, c_1]$ ) there would be a subsequence  $(k_i)_i$  such that  $B := \cap_i D_{1+S_{k_i}}$  is a nondegenerate interval. But  $f^m(D_{1+S_k}) \not\ni c$  for  $m = 1, \dots, S_{k+1} - S_k - 1$  and because  $S_{k+1} - S_k - 1 = S_{Q(k+1)} - 1 \rightarrow \infty$ , we find that  $B$  is actually a wandering interval. Thus nonexistence of wandering intervals proves the claim. Consequently,  $|D_{S_k}| = |c_{S_k} - c_{S_{Q(k)}}| \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Since  $f$  has no wandering intervals, the following “noncontraction principle” holds, see [22, Chapter IV]:

For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that if  $J$  is an interval of length  $|J| > \varepsilon$ , then  $|f^n(J)| > \varepsilon$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

Now let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary and choose  $\delta$  accordingly. Take  $K$  such that  $|D_{S_k}| < \delta$  for all  $k > K$ . If  $n > S_K$ , then there is  $j$  such that  $f^j(D_n) \subset D_{S_k}$  for some  $k \geq K$ , so  $|D_n| < \varepsilon$ .



By definition,  $\text{orb}(c)$  is dense in  $\omega(c)$ , and since  $|c - c_{S_k}| < |D_{S_k}| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $c$  is recurrent as well. If  $x$  is such that  $\text{orb}(x)$  accumulates on  $c$ , then  $\omega(c) \subset \omega(x)$ . Therefore  $(\omega(c), f)$  is minimal if and only if  $c \in \omega(x)$  for every  $x \in \omega(c)$ .

Suppose by contradiction that  $(\omega(c), f)$  is not minimal, and that  $x \in \omega(c)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  are such that  $\text{orb}(x) \cap B(c; \varepsilon) = \emptyset$ . We know that  $|D_n| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , so there is  $K$  such that  $D_{S_k} \subset B(c; \varepsilon)$  for all  $k \geq K$ .

For each  $m < S_K$ , let  $\gamma(m) \geq S_K$  be such that  $\beta(\gamma(m)) = m$  and  $D_{\gamma(m)}$  is the largest interval among all  $D_n$  with  $n \geq S_K$  and  $\beta(n) = m$ . We claim that  $\omega(c) \subset \bigcup_{m < S_K} D_{\gamma(m)}$ . Indeed, if  $n \geq S_K$ , then there is a nested sequence of intervals  $D_n \subset D_{\beta(n)} \subset \dots \subset D_{\beta^r(n)}$ , where  $r \geq 1$  is minimal such that  $m := \beta^r(n) < S_K$ . But then  $D_n \subset D_{\beta^{r-1}(n)} \subset D_{\gamma(m)}$ . Therefore

$$\omega(c) \subset \overline{\bigcup_{n \geq S_K} D_n} \subset \overline{\bigcup_{m < S_K} D_{\gamma(m)}} = \bigcup_{m < S_K} D_{\gamma(m)},$$

where the last equality follows because  $\bigcup_{m < S_K} D_{\gamma(m)}$  is the finite union of closed sets. It follows that  $x \in D_{\gamma(m)}$  for some  $m < S_K$ , and because  $\gamma(m) \geq S_K$ , there is  $j \geq 0$  such that  $f^j(x) \in f^j(D_{\gamma(m)}) \subset B(c; \varepsilon)$ . This contradiction proves the final statement.  $\square$

The relation between cutting times and kneading invariant is easy to make if we define

$$(2.6) \quad \tau : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}, \quad \tau(n) = \min\{m > 0 ; \kappa_m \neq \kappa_{m+n}\}.$$

We retrieve the cutting times as follows:

$$S_0 = 1 \text{ and } S_{k+1} = S_k + \tau(S_k) = S_k + S_{Q(k+1)} \text{ for } k \geq 0.$$

In other words,  $\kappa_1 \dots \kappa_{S_k} = \kappa_1 \dots \kappa_{S_{k-1}} \kappa_1 \dots \kappa'_{S_{Q(k)}}$ , writing  $\kappa'_i = 0$  if  $\kappa_i = 1$  and vice versa. For the proofs of these statements, we refer to [10].

An *enumeration scale* is an adding machine-like number system based on a strictly increasing sequence of nonnegative integers  $\{S_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ . Any nonnegative integer  $n$  can be written in a canonical way as a sum of cutting times:  $n = \sum_j e_j S_j$ , where

$$e_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } j = \max\{k; S_k \leq n - \sum_{k > j} e_k S_k\}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In particular  $e_j = 0$  if  $S_j > n$ . In this way we can code the nonnegative integers  $\mathbb{N}$  as zero-one sequences with a finite number of ones:  $n \mapsto \langle n \rangle \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Let  $E_0 = \langle \mathbb{N} \rangle$  be the set of such sequences, and let  $E$  be the closure of  $E_0$  in the product topology.

In our case, we let  $\{S_k\}_k$  be the cutting time of a unimodal map, and assume that  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$ . This results in

$$E = \{e \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} ; e_i = 1 \Rightarrow e_j = 0 \text{ for } Q(i + 1) \leq j < i\}.$$

The condition in this set follows because if  $e_i = e_{Q(i+1)} = 1$ , then this should be rewritten to  $e_i = e_{Q(i+1)} = 0$  and  $e_{i+1} = 1$ . It follows immediately that for each  $e \in E$  and  $j \geq 0$ ,

$$(2.7) \quad e_0 S_0 + e_1 S_1 + \dots + e_j S_j < S_{j+1}.$$

There exists the standard addition of 1 by means of ‘add and carry’. Denote this action by  $g$ . Obviously  $g(\langle n \rangle) = \langle n + 1 \rangle$ . It is known (see *e.g.* [15, 18]) that  $g : E \rightarrow E$  is continuous if and only if  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$ , and that  $g$  is invertible on  $E \setminus \{ \langle 0 \rangle \}$ . The next lemma describes the inverses of  $\langle 0 \rangle$  precisely.

**Lemma 2.2.** *For a sequence  $e \in E$ , let  $\{q_j\}_{j \geq 0}$  be the index set (in increasing order) such that  $e_{q_j} = 1$ . We have  $g(e) = \langle 0 \rangle$  if and only if  $e \notin E_0$ ,  $Q(q_0 + 1) = 0$  and  $Q(q_j + 1) = q_{j-1} + 1$  for  $j \geq 1$ .*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from the add and carry construction, because the condition on  $\{q_j\}$  is the only way the addition of 1 carries ‘to infinity’.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** *The cardinality  $\#g^{-1}(\langle 0 \rangle)$  is equal to the number of distinct infinite  $Q^{-1}$ -orbits  $\{k_j\}_{j \geq 0}$  with  $Q(k_j) = k_{j-1}$  and  $k_0 > Q(k_0) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Given a sequence  $\{k_j\}_{j \geq 0}$  satisfying the properties of this corollary, take  $q_i = k_i - 1$ . Then  $Q(q_0 + 1) = 0$  and  $Q(q_j + 1) = q_{j-1} + 1$  for  $j \geq 1$ . Lemma 2.2 implies that if  $e_i = 1$  if and only if  $i = q_j$  for some  $j$ , then  $g(e) = \langle 0 \rangle$ .

Conversely, any  $e$  with  $g(e) = \langle 0 \rangle$  has this form, and hence corresponds to a backward orbit  $\{k_j\}_{j \geq 0}$  of  $Q$ .  $\square$

**Example:** If  $Q(k) = \max\{0, k - d\}$  for some fixed  $d \geq 1$ , then the number system  $(E, g)$  where  $\langle 0 \rangle$  has exactly  $d$  preimages; namely the sequences where all 1s are exactly  $d$  entries apart map to  $\langle 0 \rangle$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $(E, g)$  factorizes over  $(\omega(c), f)$ , i.e., there is a continuous map  $\pi : E \rightarrow \omega(c)$  such that  $\pi \circ g = f \circ \pi$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that for  $n \in (S_{k-1}, S_k]$ , we defined  $\beta(n) = n - S_{k-1}$ . It is easy to check that  $\langle \beta(n) \rangle$  is  $\langle n \rangle$  with the last nonzero entry changed to 0. The map  $\beta$  also has a geometric interpretation in the Hofbauer tower: It was shown in [15, Lemma 5] that for all  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$(2.8) \quad D_n \subset D_{\beta(n)}.$$

In fact,  $D_n$  and  $D_{\beta(n)}$  have the boundary point  $c_{\beta(n)}$  in common. Recall that for  $e \in E$ ,  $\{q_j\}_j$  is the index sequence of the nonzero entries of  $e$ . Define

$$b(i) := \sum_{j \leq q_i} e_j S_j.$$

We have  $b(i) \geq S_{q_i}$  by definition of  $q_i$  and  $b(i) < S_{q_{i+1}}$  by (2.7). It follows that  $\beta(b(i)) = b(i - 1)$ . By a *nest* of levels will be meant a sequence of levels  $D_{b(i)}$ . By (2.8) and the fact that  $\beta(b(i)) = b(i - 1)$ , these levels lie indeed nested, and because  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$  implies that  $|D_n| \rightarrow 0$  (see [10]), each nest defines a unique point  $x = \bigcap_i D_{b(i)} \in \omega(c)$ . Therefore the following projection (see [15]) makes sense:

$$\pi(\langle n \rangle) = c_n$$

and

$$(2.9) \quad \pi(e \notin E_0) = \bigcap_i D_{b(i)}.$$

Obviously  $f \circ \pi = \pi \circ g$  and it can be shown (see [15, Theorem 1]) that  $\pi : E \rightarrow E$  is continuous and onto. □

### 3. SUFFICIENT CONDITIONS FOR $X^* \subset \text{ORB}^-(c)$

Note that a nest contains exactly one cutting level  $D_{b(0)}$ . If  $\{D_{b(i)}\}_i$  is some nest converging to  $x$ , then  $\{f(D_{b(i)})\}_i$  is a nested sequence of levels converging to  $f(x)$ . To obtain a nest of  $f(x)$ , we may have to add or delete some levels, but  $\{f(D_{b(i)})\}$  asymptotically coincides with a nest converging to  $f(x)$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** *If  $Q$  is a kneading map and there is  $K$  such that*

$$(3.1) \quad Q(k + 1) > Q(Q^2(k) + 1) + 1$$

and

$$(3.2) \quad \#Q^{-1}(k) = 1$$

for all  $k \geq K$ , then every point in  $\omega(c) \setminus \text{orb}^-(c)$  has only one preimage in  $\omega(c)$ .

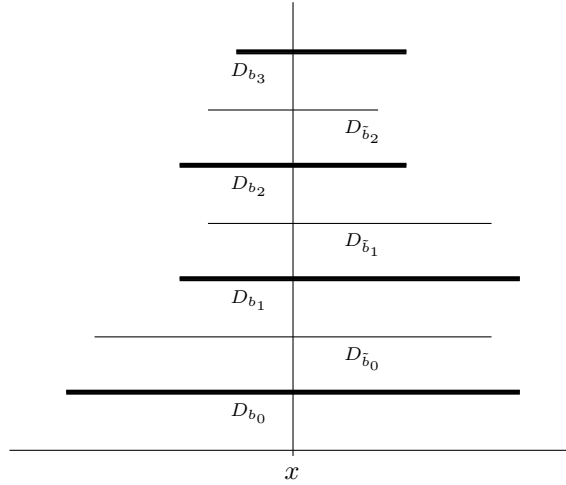


FIGURE 1. Interconnected nests to be prevented in Proposition 3.1. If  $X^* \not\subset \text{orb}^-(c)$ , then there are two points  $e, \tilde{e} \in E$  such that  $\pi(e) = \pi(\tilde{e}) = x$  and  $g^n(e), g^n(\tilde{e}) \neq \langle 0 \rangle \ \forall n \geq 0$ . Geometrically, this shows as two nests of intervals  $D_{b_0} \supset D_{b_1} \supset D_{b_2} \supset \dots$  (bold) and  $D_{\tilde{b}_0} \supset D_{\tilde{b}_1} \supset D_{\tilde{b}_2} \supset \dots$  such that  $x = \bigcap_i D_{b_i} = \bigcap_i D_{\tilde{b}_i}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $g : E \rightarrow E$  is invertible, except (possibly) at  $\langle 0 \rangle$ , it suffices to show that  $\pi : E \rightarrow \omega(c)$  is one-to-one. First note (see also [15, Theorem 1]) that  $\pi^{-1}(c) = \langle 0 \rangle$ . Indeed, if  $e \neq \langle 0 \rangle$  and  $\pi(e) = c$ , then, taking  $k < l$  the first nonzero entries of  $e$ ,  $c \in D_{S_k+S_l}$ . Then  $S_k+S_l$  is a cutting time  $S_m$  and we have  $m = l+1$  and  $k = Q(l+1)$ . This would trigger a carry to  $e_k = e_l = 0$  and  $e_m = 1$ , contradicting that  $e_k$  and  $e_l$  are the first nonzero entries of  $e$ . Because  $g$  is invertible, also  $\#\pi^{-1}(x) = 1$  for each  $x \in f^{-n}(c)$  and  $n \geq 0$ . Assume from now on that  $x \in \omega(c) \setminus \cup_{n \geq 0} f^{-n}(c)$ . We need one more lemma:

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $f$  be a unimodal map whose kneading map  $Q$  satisfies (3.1) and  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$ . Then there exists  $K'$  such that for any  $n \notin \{S_i\}_i$  such that  $\beta(n)$  is a cutting time (i.e.,  $n = S_r + S_t$  for some  $r < t$  with  $r < Q(t + 1)$ ), and every  $k \geq K'$ ,  $D_n$  does not contain both  $c_{S_k}$  and a point from  $\{z_{Q(k+1)-1}, \hat{z}_{Q(k+1)-1}\}$ .*

*Proof of Lemma 3.2.* Assume the contrary. Write  $n = S_r + S_t$  with  $r < Q(t + 1)$  and let  $k$  but such that  $z_{Q(k+1)-1}$  or  $\hat{z}_{Q(k+1)-1} \in D_n \subset D_{S_r}$ . Formula (2.5) implies that  $Q(r + 1) < Q(k + 1)$ , see Figure 2.

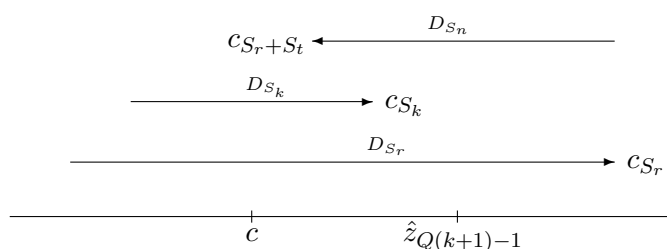


FIGURE 2. The levels  $D_{S_k}$  and  $D_{S_r+S_t}$

It follows that also  $z_{Q(r+1)}$  or  $\hat{z}_{Q(r+1)} \in D_{S_r+S_t}$  and therefore  $S_r + S_t + S_{Q(r+1)} = S_{t+1}$ . This gives

$$(3.3) \quad r + 1 = Q(t + 1),$$

and  $S_r + S_t = S_{t+1} - S_{Q^2(t+1)}$ . If also  $z_{Q(r+1)+1}$  or  $\hat{z}_{Q(r+1)+1} \in D_{S_r+S_t}$ , then

$$S_{t+2} = S_{t+1} + (S_{Q(r+1)+1} - S_{Q(r+1)}) = S_{t+1} + S_{Q(Q^2(t+1)+1)},$$

which yields  $Q(Q(r + 1) + 1) = Q(t + 2)$ . Using (3.3) for  $t + 1$ , this gives  $Q(t + 1 + 1) = Q(Q^2(t + 1) + 1)$ . This contradicts (3.1), if  $t \geq K - 1$  is sufficiently large. For  $t < K - 1$ , because there are only finitely many pairs  $r, t$  with  $r < Q(t + 1)$  and  $Q(k + 1) \rightarrow \infty$  (so  $c_{S_k} \rightarrow c$ ), there is  $K'$  such that  $D_{S_r+S_t} \not\ni c_{S_k}$  for  $k \geq K'$ . Hence

$$(3.4) \quad D_{S_r+S_t} \text{ contains at most one closest precritical point.}$$

Therefore, as  $c_{S_k} \in D_{S_r+S_t}$ ,  $Q(r + 1) = Q(k + 1) - 1$ . Take the  $S_{Q(r+1)}$ -th iterate of  $D_{S_r+S_t}$  and  $[c, c_{S_k}]$  to obtain  $D_{S_k+S_{Q(r+1)}} \cap D_{S_{t+1}} \neq \emptyset$ , see Figure 3.

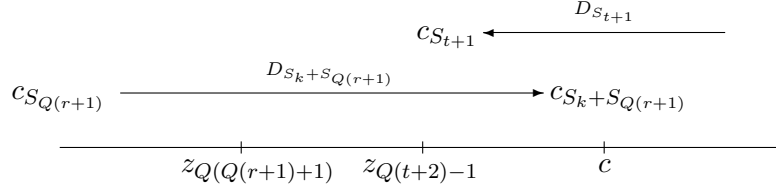


FIGURE 3. The levels  $D_{S_{Q(r+1)}+S_k}$  and  $D_{S_{t+1}}$

By (3.3) we have  $Q(Q(r + 1) + 1) = Q(Q^2(t + 1) + 1)$ , and using (3.1) on  $t + 1$ , we obtain

$$Q(Q^2(t + 1) + 1) < Q(t + 1 + 1) - 1 = Q(t + 2) - 1.$$

Hence there are at least two closest precritical points contained in  $D_{S_k+S_{Q(r+1)}}$ . This contradicts the arguments leading to (3.4).  $\square$

We continue the proof of Proposition 3.1. Observe that if  $\pi(e) = \pi(\tilde{e}) = x$  for some  $e \neq \tilde{e}$ , then the corresponding nests  $\{D_{b(i)}\}$  and  $\{D_{\tilde{b}(i)}\}$  are different, but both nests converge to  $x$ , see Figure 1. Because  $x \notin \cup_{n \geq 0} f^{-n}(c)$ ,  $\#\pi^{-1}(f^n(x)) > 1$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . We will derive a contradiction.

**Claim 1:** By taking an iterate, we can assume that  $q_0 \neq \tilde{q}_0$ , where as before  $q_0$  and  $\tilde{q}_0$  are the indices of the first nonzero entries of  $e$  and  $\tilde{e}$ .

Let  $i$  be the smallest integer such that  $b(i) \neq \tilde{b}(i)$ , say  $b(i) < \tilde{b}(i)$ . Then also  $q_i < \tilde{q}_i$ . Let  $l = S_{\tilde{q}_i+1} - \tilde{b}(i)$ . By (2.7),  $l$  is nonnegative. By the choice of  $l$ ,  $(g^l(\tilde{e}))_j = 0$  for all  $j \leq \tilde{q}_i$ , but because  $b(i) < \tilde{b}(i)$  and  $l + b(i) < S_{\tilde{q}_i+1}$ , there is some  $j \leq \tilde{q}_i$  such that  $(g^l(e))_j = 1$ .

Replace  $x$  by  $f^l(x)$ , and the corresponding sequences  $e$  and  $\tilde{e}$  by  $g^l(e)$  and  $g^l(\tilde{e})$ . Then for this new point,  $q_0 < \tilde{q}_0$  and  $b(0) < \tilde{b}(0)$ . This proves Claim 1. Note that by the same argument we can take  $q_0 \neq \tilde{q}_0$  arbitrarily large.

**Claim 2:** By taking an iterate, we can assume that  $Q(q_0 + 1) \neq Q(\tilde{q}_0 + 1)$

This follows from assumption (3.2), *i.e.*,  $Q$  is eventually injective, plus the fact that  $q_0$  can be taken arbitrarily large.

Then we are in the situation of Lemma 3.2, which tells us that  $D_{b(1)} \cap D_{\tilde{b}(0)} = \emptyset$ . Therefore the two nests cannot converge to the same point. This contradiction concludes the proof.  $\square$

Condition (3.2) is true for the maps in Section 4, but is too strong for many other examples. The following lemma gives a weaker condition, which is sufficient for the examples in Section 5.

**Lemma 3.3.** *If the kneading map  $Q$  satisfies (3.1) and (instead of (3.2)) satisfies  $Q(n) \rightarrow \infty$  and for all  $n, \tilde{n}$  sufficiently large  $Q(n+1) = Q(\tilde{n}+1)$  implies the following conditions:*

- (a)  $Q^3(n) \neq Q(\tilde{n})$ ,
- (b) if  $Q(n) \neq Q(\tilde{n})$ , then  $Q^2(n) \neq Q^2(\tilde{n})$ .

Then every point in  $\omega(c) \setminus \text{orb}^-(c)$  has only one preimage in  $\omega(c)$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.2, there is no interval  $D_{S_k+S_l}$  for  $k < Q(l+1)$  containing both a closest precritical point  $z_{Q(k+1)}$  and a point  $c_{S_{\tilde{k}}}$  with  $Q(\tilde{k}+1) = Q(k+1) + 1$ . In view of Figure 1 we need to prevent three cases from occurring:

**Case A:**  $z_{Q(k+1)}$  or  $\hat{z}_{Q(k+1)} \in D_{S_k}, D_{S_k+S_l}, D_{S_k+S_l+S_m}$  and  $D_{S_{\tilde{k}}}$ , but  $z_{Q(k+1)} \notin D_{S_{\tilde{k}}+S_l}$  and  $D_{S_k+S_l+S_m} \cap D_{S_{\tilde{k}}+S_l} \neq \emptyset$ .

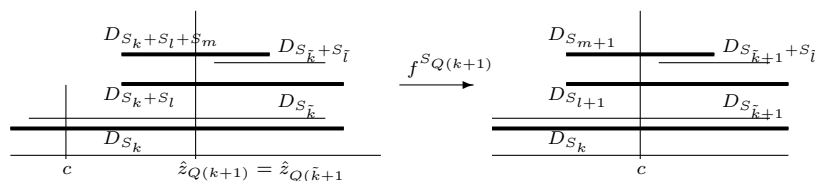


FIGURE 4. Case A

In this case  $Q(k+1) = Q(k'+1)$  and applying  $f^{S_{Q(k+1)}}$  to the left part of Figure 5 we find  $S_{l+1} = S_l + S_k + S_{Q(k+1)}$ , so  $Q(l+1) = k+1$ . Similarly,  $S_{m+1} = S_k + S_l + S_{Q(k+1)}$ , so  $Q(m+1) = l+1$ .

This shows that  $Q^3(m+1) = Q(\tilde{k}+1)$ . At the same time  $Q(m+2) = Q(\tilde{k}+2)$  by Lemma 3.2. But these two condition together violate (a) for  $n = m+1$ , so this cannot happen.

**Case B:**  $z_{Q(k+1)}$  or  $\hat{z}_{Q(k+1)} \in D_{S_k}, D_{S_k+S_l}, D_{S_{\tilde{k}}}$  and  $D_{S_{\tilde{k}}+S_l}$ .

In this case  $Q(k+1) = Q(k'+1)$  and applying  $f^{S_{Q(k+1)}}$  to the left

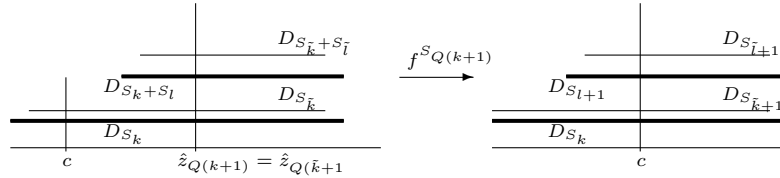


FIGURE 5. Case B

part of Figure 5 we find  $S_{l+1} = S_l + S_k + S_{Q(k+1)}$ , so  $Q(l+1) = k+1$ . Similarly,  $S_{\tilde{l}+1} = S_{\tilde{k}} + S_{\tilde{l}} + S_{Q(\tilde{k}+1)}$ , so  $Q(\tilde{l}+1) = \tilde{k}+1$ . By Lemma 3.2,  $Q(l+2) = Q(\tilde{l}+2)$ . Also  $Q(l+1) \neq Q(\tilde{l}+1)$ , but since  $Q^2(l+1) = Q^2(\tilde{l}+1)$ , condition (b) is violated with  $n = l+1$ ,  $\tilde{n} = \tilde{l}+1$ .

**Case C:**  $z_{Q(k+1)}$  or  $\hat{z}_{Q(k+1)} \in D_{S_k}, D_{S_{\tilde{k}}}$ , but  $z_{Q(k+1)}, \hat{z}_{Q(k+1)} \notin D_{S_k+S_l}$  and  $D_{S_{\tilde{k}}+S_{\tilde{l}}}$ .

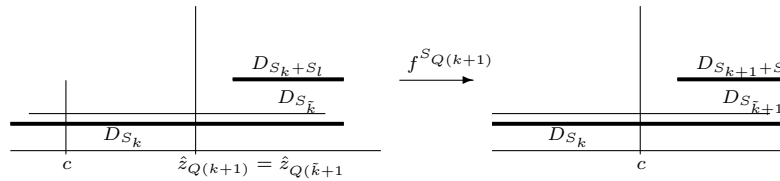


FIGURE 6. Case C

Applying  $f^{S_{Q(k+1)}}$  to the left part of Figure 6 cannot produce Cases A or B, because they have been excluded already, so Case C reappears. But that means that  $Q(k+2) = Q(\tilde{k}+2)$ . Proceeding by induction, we find  $Q(k+j) = Q(\tilde{k}+j)$  for all  $j \geq 1$ , so  $Q$  is periodic. But this contradicts that  $Q(k \rightarrow \infty)$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

#### 4. THE PREIMAGE TREE OF THE CRITICAL POINT

Consider the full binary tree rooted at  $v$ , where each edge is labeled by a symbol 0 or 1. Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be any finite subtree also rooted at  $v$ . Each vertex  $b$  in the binary tree can be coded by a finite string  $e(b)$  of zeroes and ones according to the labels of the path connecting  $b$  to the root of the tree, see Figure 7. Let  $\mathcal{B}^* = \{b \in \mathcal{B} : b \text{ has two outgoing edges in } \mathcal{B}\}$ .



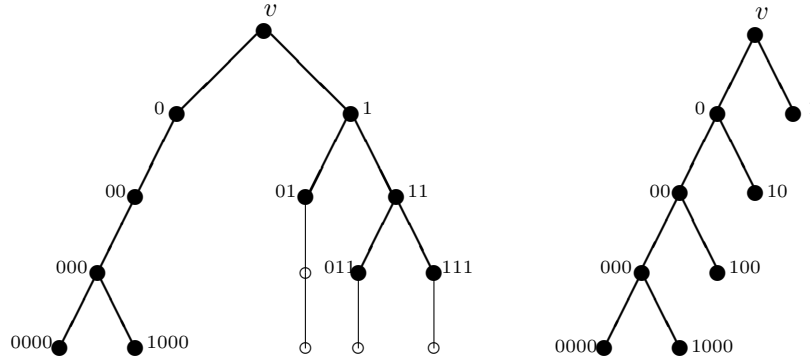


FIGURE 7. Left: A sample backward tree  $\mathcal{B}$  (thick edges and vertices) with codes  $e(b)$ . The thin edges and vertices extend  $\mathcal{B}$  to  $\mathcal{B}^\sharp$  as explained in Step 1 of the construction below. Right: The preimage tree of the Fibonacci-like map with kneading map  $Q(k) = \{k - d, 0\}$  for  $d = 5$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Given  $\mathcal{B}$  as above, there exists a unimodal map (with kneading invariant  $\nu$ ) such that*

- (1)  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set.
- (2)  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is one-to-one, except at points in the backward critical orbit of  $c$ .
- (3) *The points that have two preimages in  $\omega(c)$  are arranged precisely according to  $\mathcal{B}$ . That is, a vertex  $b \in \mathcal{B}^*$  if and only if there is a point  $x \in \omega(c)$  with two preimages in  $\omega(c)$ , and the itinerary of  $x$  is  $e(x) = e(b) * \nu$ .*

*Remark 4.2.* We will construct the kneading map  $Q$  of  $f$  and it will turn out that  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$  and  $k - Q(k)$  is bounded. Thus  $\omega(c)$  is a minimal Cantor set. By taking the critical order of  $f$  sufficiently large, we can assure that  $\omega(c)$  is a metric attractor of  $f$ , that is:  $\omega(x) = \omega(c)$  for Lebesgue almost every  $x$ , see [11].

*Remark 4.3.* A special case is the Feigenbaum map with  $Q(k) = k - 1$ ; for this map,  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is one-to-one. Another special case is the Fibonacci map with  $Q(k) = \max\{k - 2, 0\}$ . In this case,  $c$  is the only point in  $\omega(c)$  with two preimages. More generally, if  $Q(k) = \max\{k - d, 0\}$ , then the preimage tree has exactly  $d - 1$  branch points, with itineraries  $0^i * \nu$  for  $0 \leq i < d - 2$ , see Figure 7.

This follows by inspection of the kneading invariant  $\nu$ , and the fact that  $\#g^{-1}(\langle 0 \rangle) = d$ , so there can be at most  $d - 1$  branch points in the preimage tree.

*Proof. Step 1: the construction of  $\nu$ :* Extend  $\mathcal{B}$  to a finite tree  $\mathcal{B}^\#$  with the same set of vertices with two outgoing edges, but such that maximal path downwards from the root  $v$  all have the same length, see Figure 7. Let  $B_1, \dots, B_N$  be the codes corresponding to those vertices without outgoing edge, so  $|B_k| = L$  for all  $k$ . Start  $\nu$  as

$$\nu = 10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_Ne_N11,$$

where  $e_k \in \{0, 1\}$  is such that the position of  $e_k$  (i.e.,  $p_k := N + 4 + k(L + 3)$ ) is a cutting time. As the block  $0^{N+3}$  does not reappear after position 2, there are admissible kneading invariants starting as  $\nu$ . Next let  $C_k = 10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_k e_k$  be the  $p_k$ -initial block of  $\nu$ , and let  $C'_k$  be the same block with the last symbol switched. Continue  $\nu$  as

$$\nu = 10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_Ne_N11C'_1C'_2\dots C'_N.$$

In this way, the end-position of each block  $C'_k$  in  $\nu$  is a cutting time. Let  $K$  be such that  $S_K$  is the length of  $\nu$  created so far; this determines the kneading map  $Q(k)$  for all  $k \leq K$ . Continue  $Q$  (and hence  $\nu$ ) by

$$Q(k) = k - N \text{ for } k > K.$$

*Remark 4.4.* If  $B$  has no branch points, then  $N = 1$ , so the dynamics of  $f$  is comparable to the Feigenbaum map. In this case, the fact that  $f : \omega(c) \rightarrow \omega(c)$  is invertible is not surprising.

**Step 2:  $\nu$  is admissible:** By construction,

$$10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_Ne_N1$$

doesn't contain the block  $0^{N+3}$  except the block starting at position 2. This means that

$$\sigma\nu \prec \sigma^k 10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_Ne_N11 \prec \nu$$

for each  $k \geq 2$ . By condition (2.1), this means that

$$10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_Ne_N11$$

is admissible, and hence the kneading map implied by this block must satisfy (2.3). Since the length of the block

$$|10^{N+3}B_1e_111B_2e_211\dots B_Ne_N11|$$

is a cutting time  $S_K$  by construction, and  $\nu$  continues with  $C'_1C'_2\dots$  so that  $Q(k) = k - N$  for  $k > K$ , condition (2.3) also holds for the entire kneading sequence  $\nu$ . So  $\nu$  is admissible.

**Step 3:  $\#f^{-1}(x) \cap \text{orb}^-(c) = 2$  if and only if  $e(x) = e(b) * \nu$  for some  $b \in \mathcal{B}^*$ :** By construction,  $B_i e'_i$  is a suffix of  $C'_i$  for each  $i$ . Since  $Q(k) = k - N$  for  $k > K$ ,  $B_i e_i$  is a suffix of  $\nu_1 \dots \nu_{S_{K+i}}$  and either  $B_i e_i$  or  $B_i e'_i$  is a suffix of  $\nu_1 \dots \nu_{S_{K+jN+i}}$  for every  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore there exists a sequence of iterates  $n_j = S_{K+jN} - L$  such that  $f^{n_j}(c) \rightarrow x \in \text{orb}^-(c)$  and  $e(x) = B_i * \nu$ . It follows that for each  $b \in \mathcal{B}^\sharp$ , there is  $x \in \omega(c)$  such that  $e(x) = e(b) * \nu$ , and this applies in particular to  $b \in \mathcal{B}^*$ .

Now for the only if direction, recall that  $\#\mathcal{B}^* = N$ , and  $Q(k) = k - N$  eventually. By Lemma 2.2 this means that  $\langle 0 \rangle$  has only  $N$  preimages, so  $\#f^{-j}(c) \leq \#g^{-1}\langle 0 \rangle \leq N$  for all  $j \geq 0$ , and hence there can be at most  $N$  points in  $\text{orb}^{-1}$  with two preimages in  $\omega(c)$ .

**Step 4: no point in  $\omega(c) \setminus \text{orb}^-(c)$  has two preimages in  $\omega(c)$ :** Since  $Q(k) = k - N$  for  $k$  sufficiently large, this follows immediately from Proposition 3.1. □

### 5. MAKING $f|_{\omega(c)}$ INVERTIBLE.

If we apply the previous sections to construct an example for which  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is one-to-one, we arrive at the Feigenbaum-like map (*i.e.*,  $Q(k) = k - 1$  for  $k$  sufficiently large). The point of the “strange adding machines” paper [6] is creating unimodal maps for which  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is conjugate to an adding machine, even though  $f$  is not renormalizable. This shows that adding machines can be found in the standard tent family, which does not contain infinitely renormalizable maps. In this section, we show that how a minor adaptation of the cutting times can create maps for which  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  is indeed one-to-one, without resorting to renormalizable maps. The method allows  $k - Q(k)$  to be bounded, and is in fact compatible with  $\omega(c)$  being a wild attractor, see [11], which in turn produces highly nontrivial maps with nontrivial Lebesgue maximal automorphic factors, cf. [14].

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let  $Q(k) \rightarrow \infty$  be the kneading map of a unimodal map, and let  $(E, g)$  be the corresponding enumeration scale. Suppose that there exists an increasing sequence  $(k_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that for every  $i$  the following holds:*

$$(5.1) \quad Q(k) \leq k_i < k \text{ implies } Q(Q(l) - 1) - 1 \neq k \text{ for all } l \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Then  $\#g^{-1}(\langle 0 \rangle) = 1$ .

**Example:** Take

$$Q(k) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \in \{1, 2, 4\}; \\ 1 & \text{if } k = 3; \\ 3l - 4 & \text{if } k = 3l - 1 \text{ or } 3l + 1 \text{ and } l \geq 2; \\ 3l - 2 & \text{if } k = 3l \text{ and } l \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

This results in the following table:

$k$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	...
$Q(k)$	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	5	7	5	8	10	8	11	13	...	
$S_k$	<u>1</u>	2	<u>3</u>	5	6	<u>9</u>	15	18	<u>27</u>	45	54	<u>81</u>	135	162	<u>243</u>	405	...

where we have underlined the powers of 3 to clarify the pattern. There is a factor map  $\pi_{tri} : E \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  onto the triadic adding machine defined by

$$\pi_{tri}(e)_k = \begin{cases} e_0 + 2(e_1 + e_3) & \text{if } k = 0; \\ e_{3k-1} + e_{3k} + 2(e_{3k+1} + e_{3k+3}) & \text{if } k \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

In the table below, we decompose the cutting times in sums of powers of 3, which shows that  $\pi_{tri}(e)_k$  contains  $e_j$  as many times as  $3^k$  appears in the triadic decomposition of  $S_j$ . Note also that

the “add and carry” rule guarantees that  $\pi_{tri}(e)_k \leq 2$ .

$k$	$Q(k) - k$	$S_k$	1	3	9	27	81	243	729
0		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	-1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	-2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
3	-2	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	-4	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
5	-3	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
6	-2	15	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
7	-5	18	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
8	-3	27	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
9	-2	45	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
10	-5	54	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
11	-3	81	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
12	-2	135	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
13	-5	162	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
14	-3	243	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
15	-2	405	0	0	0	0	2	1	0

The map  $\pi_{tri}$  is clearly continuous and since it maps  $\langle \mathbb{N} \rangle$  onto the triadic representation of the integers,  $\pi_{tri}$  extends to a surjective map. Let us show by contradiction that  $\pi_{tri}$  is injective. Suppose that  $\pi_{tri}(e) = \pi_{tri}(\tilde{e})$ , and let  $j$  be minimal such that  $e_j \neq \tilde{e}_j$ . Since the contributions of  $e$  and  $\tilde{e}$  to each power of 3 is the same, we have two cases (after changing the role of  $e$  and  $\tilde{e}$  if necessary):

- The contribution of  $S_j$  to  $3^k$  is 1. Then  $j = 3k - 1$ ,  $e_j = 1$ ,  $\tilde{e}_j = 0$ , but  $\tilde{e}_{j+1} = 1$ . Then  $\tilde{e}$  contributes 2 to  $3^{k-1}$ , and  $e_{j-1} = 1$  to match that contribution. But  $e_{j-1} = 1$  and  $e_j = 1$  would give a carry.
- The contribution of  $S_j$  to  $3^k$  is 2. Then  $j = 3k + 1$ ,  $e_j = 1$ ,  $\tilde{e}_j = 0$ , but  $\tilde{e}_{j+2} = 1$ . Then  $\tilde{e}$  contributes 1 to  $3^{k+1}$ , and  $e_{j+1} = 1$  to match that contribution. But  $e_j = 1$  and  $e_{j+1} = 1$  would give a carry.

It follows that  $\pi_{tri}$  is indeed a conjugacy between  $(E, g)$  and the triadic adding machine. One can check that both Lemma 5.1 and Lemma 3.3 apply, so we can conclude that  $\pi_{tri} \circ \pi^{-1}$  conjugates  $f|_{\omega(c)}$  to the triadic adding machine, while at the same time  $f$  is nonrenormalizable,  $k - Q(k)$  is bounded and  $Q(k+1) > Q^2(k) + 1$

for  $k$  sufficiently large. It follows from [11, Theorem 6.1] that if  $f$  is a unimodal map with this kneading map and sufficiently large critical order, then  $\omega(c)$  is a wild attractor.

*Proof of Lemma 5.1.* Any maximal sequence  $e$  satisfies

$$(5.2) \quad e_k = 1 \Rightarrow e_{Q(k)-1} = 1 \text{ and } e_j = 0 \text{ for } Q(k+1) \leq j < k.$$

This is just a rephrasing of Lemma 2.2. Suppose that  $e$  is maximal with  $e_{k_i} = 0$  for some  $i$ . Let  $k = \min\{j > k_i : e_j = 1\}$ . Then  $e_{Q(k+1)-1} = 1$  by maximality of  $e$ . By minimality of  $k$ ,  $Q(k+1)-1 < k_i$ , so  $Q(k+1) \leq k_i$ . By (5.1) this means that there is no  $l$  such that  $Q(Q(l)-1)-1 = k$ . Combining this with (5.2), this shows that  $e$  cannot be maximal.

Hence for any maximal sequence  $e$  and any  $i$ ,  $e_{k_i} = 1$ . Using (5.2) once more, this determines  $e$  uniquely.  $\square$

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