

THERE ARE NO PIECEWISE LINEAR MAPS OF TYPE 2^∞

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ABSTRACT. The aim of this paper is to show that there are no piecewise linear maps of type 2^∞ . For this purpose we use the fact that any piecewise monotone map of type 2^∞ has an infinite ω -limit set which is a subset of a doubling period solenoid. Then we prove that piecewise linear maps cannot have any doubling period solenoids.

1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

The main aim of this paper is to show that piecewise linear maps of type 2^∞ do not exist. The basic scheme behind the proof is as follows. First we realize that any piecewise monotone map (in particular any piecewise linear map) of type 2^∞ has an infinite ω -limit set. But it is also known that any map of type 2^∞ having an infinite ω -limit set also has a doubling period solenoid. Then we show that a piecewise linear map cannot have any doubling period solenoids.

We start with some notations and definitions.

Let I be a real compact interval and $C(I)$ be the set of continuous maps from I into itself. Let $\mathbb{N}$ be the set of positive integers. A point $p \in I$ is a *periodic point* of a map $f \in C(I)$ if $f^n(p) = p$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The *period* of p is the least such integer n , and the *orbit* of p under f is the set $\text{orb}_f(p) = \{f^k(p) : k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$. We refer to such an orbit as to a *periodic orbit* of f of period n . A periodic point of period 1 is called a *fixed point*. Similarly, we say that a sequence $(I_k)_{k=0}^{n-1}$ of closed subintervals of I is periodic of period n if they have disjoint interiors and $f(I_k) \subset I_{k+1}$ for any $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-2$ and $f(I_{n-1}) \subset I_0$. In this case we call $C = \bigcup_{k=0}^{n-1} I_k$ a *cycle of periodic intervals*. Further, we say that $A \subset I$ is a *solenoid* of f (the term solenoid is used, e.g., in [MSt2]) if there are a strictly increasing sequence $(k_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ of positive integers and periodic sequences $(I_k)_{k=0}^{k_n-1}$ of closed intervals of period k_n such that $\bigcup_{k=0}^{k_n-1} I_k^n \supset \bigcup_{k=0}^{k_{n+1}-1} I_k^{n+1}$ for any n and $A = \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty \bigcup_{k=0}^{k_n-1} I_k^n$. We call the family $\{(I_k)_{k=0}^{k_n-1}\}_{n=1}^\infty$ a *covering* of A of *type*

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$(k_n)_{n=1}^\infty$. If a solenoid admits a covering of type $(2^n)_{n=1}^\infty$ we call it a *doubling period solenoid* of f .

The set of all limit points of the trajectory $(f^n(x))_{n=0}^\infty$ of a point x is called the ω -limit set of x under f and denoted by $\omega_f(x)$. We say that x is an *asymptotically periodic point* of f if for some periodic point p , $|f^n(x) - f^n(p)| \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$. We also describe this situation by saying that x is *attracted* by (the orbit of) p .

The key to understanding the dynamics of maps from $C(I)$ is the well known Sharkovskii theorem [Sh1]. Consider the Sharkovskii ordering of the set $\mathbb{N} \cup \{2^\infty\}$:

$$\begin{aligned} 3 \succ 5 \succ 7 \succ \dots \succ 2 \cdot 3 \succ 2 \cdot 5 \succ 2 \cdot 7 \succ \dots \succ 4 \cdot 3 \succ 4 \cdot 5 \succ 4 \cdot 7 \succ \dots \succ \dots \\ \succ 2^n \cdot 3 \succ 2^n \cdot 5 \succ 2^n \cdot 7 \succ \dots \succ \dots \succ 2^\infty \succ \dots \succ 2^n \succ \dots \succ 4 \succ 2 \succ 1. \end{aligned}$$

We will also use the symbol $\succeq$ in the natural way. For $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{2^\infty\}$ we denote by $S(n)$ the set $\{k \in \mathbb{N} : n \succeq k\}$ ($S(2^\infty)$ stands for the set $\{1, 2, 4, \dots, 2^k, \dots\}$). Let $f \in C(I)$ and $\text{Per}(f)$ be the set of periods of its periodic points. The Sharkovskii theorem says that *there exists* $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{2^\infty\}$ *such that* $\text{Per}(f) = S(n)$. The converse of the Sharkovskii theorem also holds, that is, *for every* $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{2^\infty\}$ *there exists* $f \in C(I)$ *with* $\text{Per}(f) = S(n)$ (see [Sh1], [Sh2]). If $\text{Per}(f) = S(n)$, then f is said to be *of type* n . So any map $f \in C(I)$ is of some type and for every $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{2^\infty\}$ there is a map of type n . When speaking of types we consider them to be ordered by the Sharkovskii ordering. So if a map f is of type 2^∞ or greater than 2^∞ , then $\text{Per}(f) = \{1, 2, \dots, 2^k, \dots\}$ or f has a periodic point with period not a power of 2, respectively.

It turns out that the Sharkovskii theorem allows us to organize a classification of the maps from $C(I)$ in terms of their dynamical complexity. So, maps of type 2^n , $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, are simple: all their points are asymptotically periodic (see [Le], [Co], cf. [Sh2]). On the other hand, maps of type greater than 2^∞ have a very complicated dynamics. For instance, they are chaotic in the sense of Li and Yorke [LY], which means that there exists an uncountable set $S \subset I$ containing no asymptotically periodic points (which implies that $\omega_f(x)$ is infinite for each $x \in S$, see [Ba]) and such that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |f^n(x) - f^n(y)| > 0, \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} |f^n(x) - f^n(y)| = 0$$

for any $x, y \in S$, $x \neq y$. Maps of type 2^∞ are located somewhere between these two groups. Indeed, there are examples of maps F , G of type 2^∞ respectively having only asymptotically periodic points [BP] and chaotic in the sense of Li and Yorke [Sm].

Let $\mathbb{R}$ be the real line and $J \subset \mathbb{R}$ a (not necessarily compact) interval. We say that a continuous map $f : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is *piecewise monotone* (resp. *piecewise linear*) if there are points $\inf I = a_0 < a_1 < \dots < a_n = \sup I$ such that for every $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, the restriction of f to the interval (a_{k-1}, a_k) is (not necessarily strictly) monotone (resp. linear and non-constant). Note that, according to the definitions, piecewise monotone maps can have constant pieces, while piecewise linear maps cannot. In the case of piecewise linear maps, notice also that the consecutive linear pieces need not be alternatively increasing and decreasing.

One could wonder whether the converse of the Sharkovskii theorem holds for piecewise monotone (or even polynomial) maps from $C(I)$. It is well known that the answer is affirmative. For instance, the classical logistic family $\{F_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in [0,4]}$ defined by $F_\lambda(x) = \lambda x(1-x)$ contains examples of maps of all types in the Sharkovskii

ordering (see [Gu1]). On the other hand, compare this with the family of “tent” maps $\{G_\mu\}_{\mu \in [0,1]}$ defined by $G_\mu(x) = \mu(1 - |2x - 1|)$. The map G_μ is of type greater than 2^∞ if $\mu > 1/2$ but G_μ is of type 1 for any $\mu \leq 1/2$ (see e.g. [BP]). So, a question remains: does the converse of the Sharkovskii theorem hold for piecewise linear maps? Examples of piecewise linear maps of all types except of type 2^∞ are well known (see e.g. Corollary 2.2.9 in [ALM]) and the map F from [BP] of type 2^∞ mentioned earlier consists of an infinite number of non-constant linear pieces. Further, the map $H \in C([0,1])$ defined by $H(x) = \min\{\kappa, G_1(x)\}$, $\kappa \approx 0.8249\dots$ is of type 2^∞ (see [MS]) but it has a constant piece and so it is not piecewise linear. No examples of piecewise linear maps of type 2^∞ are known. The main result of this paper says that such examples do not exist.

We will use the following proposition which is a part of folklore knowledge.

Proposition. *If $f \in C(I)$ is a piecewise monotone map of type 2^∞ , then it has a doubling period solenoid.*

To see that the Proposition holds true recall a well known result implicit in several of Sharkovskii’s papers and proved in [Sm] stating that every infinite ω -limit set of a map of type 2^∞ is contained in a doubling period solenoid. So it is sufficient to show that any piecewise monotone map of type 2^∞ has an infinite ω -limit set. But this is proved in [BC], Proposition II.28 and Proposition VI.10. (The proof is based on the ideas similar to those from [FSh] and though the definition of piecewise monotonicity used in [BC] is more restrictive than the one used in the present paper, one can see that the proof remains valid also for maps which are piecewise monotone in our sense.)

The Proposition seems to be useful for applications. For instance, we have strongly used it in [JS] to show that it is always possible to find, for any given map of type 2^∞ (not necessarily piecewise monotone), maps of type 2^k , $k < \infty$, as close to it as required. On the other hand, it is not easy to follow its proof in the sense that the proofs of Propositions II.28 and VI.10 from [BC] involve several auxiliary results, some of them not being very well known. Therefore we will give below a short elementary proof.

The following theorem is the key result of the present paper.

Theorem. *If $f \in C(I)$ is piecewise linear, then it has no doubling period solenoids.*

After the first version of this paper was submitted, we learned of a recent paper by Martens and Tresser [MT] where this result was strengthened (see Section 3 below). The Proposition and Theorem give

Corollary. *There are no piecewise linear maps of type 2^∞ in $C(I)$.*

Remark. The Sharkovskii theorem also holds for the set $C(\mathbb{R})$ of continuous maps from the real line into itself (in this case we have the additional possibility $\text{Per}(f) = \emptyset$). It turns out that $C(\mathbb{R})$ does not contain any piecewise linear maps of type 2^∞ either. To prove it, assume $f \in C(\mathbb{R})$ is a piecewise linear map of type 2^∞ . Take a homeomorphism $\phi : (0,1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and construct $g = \phi^{-1} \circ f \circ \phi$. We can extend g to a piecewise monotone map $g_0 \in C([0,1])$ of type 2^∞ . By the Proposition, g_0 has a doubling period solenoid A . Let $\{(I_k^n)_{k=0}^{2^n-1}\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a covering of A of type $(2^n)_{n=1}^\infty$. Since $g_0(\{0,1\}) \subset \{0,1\}$ (note that both ϕ at the points 0^+ , 1^- and f at the points $-\infty$, $+\infty$ have infinite limits) and A cannot contain any asymptotically periodic points, $\bigcup_{k=0}^{2^l-1} I_k^l \subset (0,1)$ for some l large enough. Since the restriction of

g^{2^l} to the interval I_0^l is of type 2^∞ , so is the restriction of f^{2^l} to the interval $\phi(I_0^l)$. This contradicts our Theorem.

2. PROOFS

Before going to the proofs fix some notations. The convex hull of a set $A \subset I$ will be denoted by $\text{conv } A$, $\text{int } A$ is the interior of A . If $f : A \rightarrow B$ and $C \subset A$, $f|_C$ is the restriction of f to C . A subinterval J of I containing no asymptotically periodic points of $f \in C(I)$ and such that $f^n(J) \cap f^k(J) = \emptyset$ for any $n > k \geq 0$ will be called a *wandering interval* of f .

Let $f \in C(I)$ be piecewise monotone. In what follows we will say that $t \in I$ is a *turning point* of f if there are points $u < t < v$ in I such that the maps $f|_{[u,t]}$ and $f|_{[t,v]}$ are non-constant and one of them is increasing while the other is decreasing (the monotonicity may not be strict). Each connected component of the set of turning points of f will be called a *turning interval* of f . Notice that a turning interval may degenerate to a point. Clearly, f has a finite number of turning intervals, and if T is a turning interval of f , then $f|_T$ is constant. One can also check that if T is a turning interval of f^n for some n , then there exists $0 \leq k < n$ such that $f^k(T)$ intersects some turning interval of f .

Proof of Proposition. Assume the contrary. Then all turning points of f are asymptotically periodic. It is not restrictive to assume that all turning points of f are attracted by fixed points (take into account the properties of turning intervals described above to replace f if necessary by an appropriate f^{2^k}).

Let P be a periodic orbit of f of period four and denote $\text{conv } P = [a, b]$. Since the set $\{a, b\}$ cannot be mapped by f onto itself, one of the points where the map $f|_{[a,b]}$ attains its absolute extremum (with no loss of generality we can suppose that it is the minimum) must belong to (a, b) . This point (denote it by c) is a turning point of f . Let $d < c < e$ be the closest points to c with the property $f(d) = f(e) = a$. Clearly, the interval $[d, e]$ contains no fixed points of f . Denote the fixed point attracting c by p . Let for example $p < d$. Then there is an m large enough so that $f^m(c) < d$ and $f^m(d) = f^m(e) = b$. In particular, $[d, e] \subset f^m([d, c]) \cap f^m([c, e])$ (f^m has a *horseshoe*). But it is well known and easy to prove that then the type of f is greater than 2^∞ . $\square$

We will need the following lemma.

Lemma. *Let J be an interval and $f : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a piecewise linear map with at most one point for which f' does not exist. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $q_0 < t_1 < q_1 < t_2 < q_2 < \dots < t_m < q_m$ be points from J for which f' exists. Then there is an $r \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ such that*

$$\prod_{i=0}^m f'(q_i) = f'(q_r) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^m f'(t_i).$$

Proof. If f is linear with slope ρ , then for an arbitrary choice of r each of the sides equals ρ^{m+1} . Now assume that c is the only point where f' does not exist. If $c < q_0$ or $c > q_m$, then the lemma holds for the same reason as above. So let $q_i < c < t_{i+1}$ for some $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$ or $t_j < c < q_j$ for some $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$. In the former case we have $f'(q_0) = f'(t_1), \dots, f'(q_{i-1}) = f'(t_i)$ and $f'(t_{i+1}) = f'(q_{i+1}), \dots, f'(t_m) = f'(q_m)$, so it suffices to take $r = i$. Similarly, in the latter case take $r = j$. $\square$

Proof of Theorem. Assume the contrary. Let f be a piecewise linear map having a doubling period solenoid A . Let $\{(I_k^n)_{k=0}^{2^n-1}\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a covering of A of type $(2^n)_{n=1}^\infty$. For any n , write $C^n = \bigcup_{k=0}^{2^n-1} I_k^n$. We are going to show that without loss of generality we may assume that

- (1) the intervals I_k^n , $k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1$, are pairwise disjoint for any $n \geq 1$.

To this end denote $J_k^n = \text{conv}(A \cap I_k^n)$. Since A cannot contain any asymptotically periodic points, the intervals J_k^n , $k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1$, are pairwise disjoint. There is an m large enough such that if c is a relative extremum of f belonging to C^m , then it also belongs to A . Since $f(A) \subset A$ this implies that $f(J_k^m) \subset J_{k+1}^m$ for any $k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^m - 2$ and $f(J_{2^m-1}^m) \subset J_0^m$. Consequently, it is not restrictive to assume (1) (replacing if necessary f by $f^{2^i}|_{J_0^i}$ for $i = m - 1$ if $m > 1$).

Further observe that

- (2) the length of the intervals I_k^n converges uniformly to zero when $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Otherwise, there exist $\epsilon > 0$ and k_n for any n such that $I_{k_n}^n$ has length greater than ϵ . Let a_n be the midpoint of each interval $I_{k_n}^n$ and $(a_{n_i})_i$ be a subsequence of $(a_n)_n$ converging to some a . It is not restrictive to suppose that $|a_{n_i} - a| < \frac{\epsilon}{3}$ for any i . Then $I_{k_{n_i}}^{n_i} \cap I_{k_{n_i+1}}^{n_i+1} \neq \emptyset$ and so $I_{k_{n_i+1}}^{n_i+1} \subset I_{k_{n_i}}^{n_i}$ for any i (see (1)). This means that there is an interval J such that $J \subset A$. Obviously, $f^j(J) \cap f^m(J) = \emptyset$ for any $j > m \geq 0$. Since A does not contain any asymptotically periodic points, J is a wandering interval of f which is impossible since by [MMS] piecewise linear maps have no wandering intervals.

Denote by C the set of points for which f' does not exist (in general this set is larger than the set of relative extrema of f). From (2) and the fact that C is finite it follows that there is an l such that

- (3) $C \cap C^l \subset A$ and each I_k^n contains at most one point from C for any $n \geq l$.

Fix each I_0^n in such a way that $I_0^{n+1} \subset I_0^n$ for any n . Then $I_k^{n+1}, I_{k+2^n}^{n+1} \subset I_k^n$ for any n and any $k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1$. Let K_k^n be the set consisting of all points lying between $\text{int } I_k^{n+1}$ and $\text{int } I_{k+2^n}^{n+1}$. According to (1), K_k^n is a non-degenerate closed interval. Since for a fixed n the intervals K_k^n are pairwise disjoint and $f(K_k^n) \supset K_{k+1}^n$ for any $k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 2$ and $f(K_{2^n-1}^n) \supset K_0^n$, there exists a periodic orbit P_n of period 2^n containing exactly one point (which will be denoted by p_k^n) from each K_k^n .

For any $n \geq l$ define $\delta_n = (f^{2^n})'(p_0^n) = f'(p_0^n) \cdot f'(p_1^n) \cdots f'(p_{2^n-1}^n)$. Notice that δ_n is well defined, since by (3) the set $C \cap C^n \subset A$ and so it cannot contain any periodic points. We claim that

- (4) $|\delta_n| > 1$ for any $n \geq l$.

Indeed let $i \geq l$ be such that $|\delta_i| \leq 1$ and define the map $g = f^{2^i}|_{I_0^i} \in C(I_0^i)$. Consider the maximal interval containing p_0^i on which g' exists. Since g is piecewise linear and p_0^i is a fixed point of g , there exists an endpoint c of this interval such that $g^j(c) \rightarrow p_0^i$ when $j \rightarrow \infty$ if $|\delta_i| < 1$ and $g^2(c) = c$ if $|\delta_i| = 1$. In either case c is an asymptotically periodic point of g and then an asymptotically periodic point of f . Clearly we can choose c with the additional property of not being an endpoint of the interval I_0^i , and then $g'(c)$ does not exist. This means that $f^m(c) \in C$

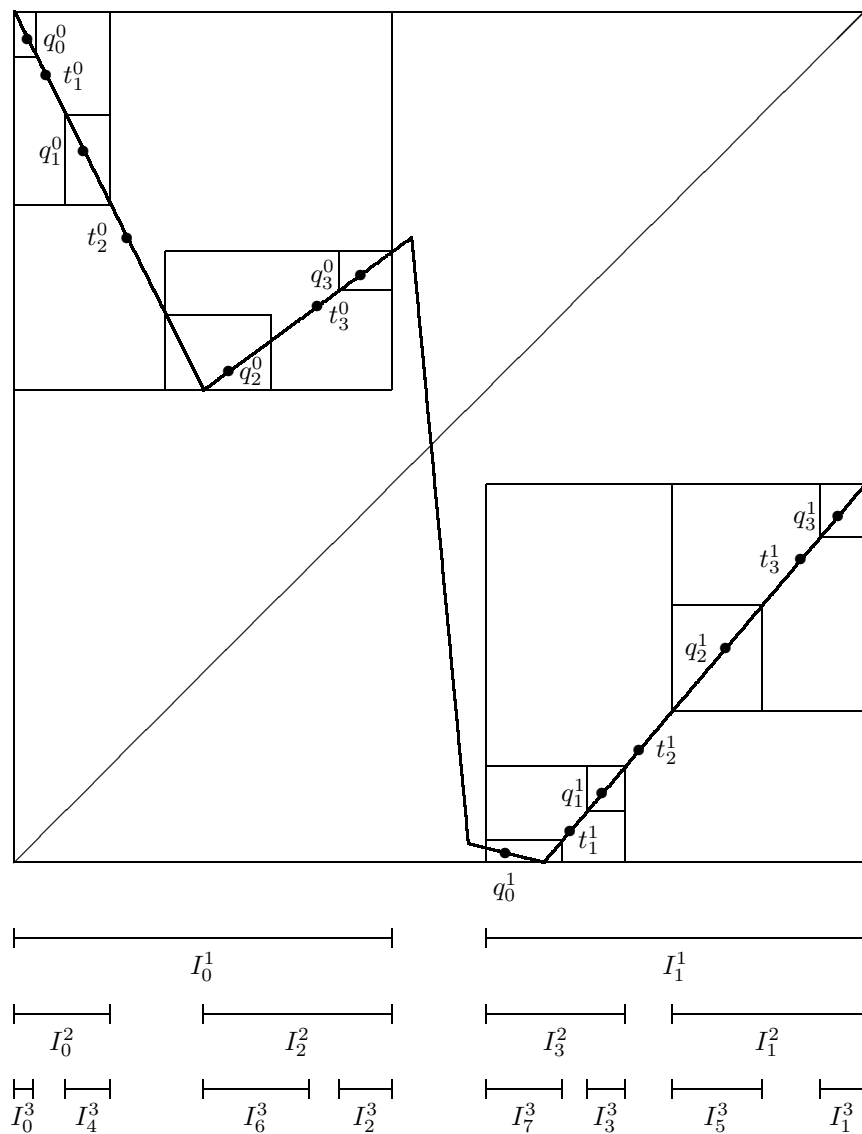


FIGURE 1. The structure of the map f from the proof of Theorem. Here we assume $l = 1$, $n = 3$.

for some $m \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^i - 1\}$, which is impossible because $f^m(c)$ would be an asymptotically periodic point of f belonging to $C \cap C^i$ and then, by (3), to A .

Let L be the (finite) set of all possible values of f' (where it is defined) and construct $M = \{\rho_0 \cdot \rho_1 \cdots \rho_{2^l-1} : \rho_k \in L, k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^l - 1\}$, also a finite set. Fix

$n > l$ and let $x \in I_0^n$ be such that $\delta = (f^{2^n})'(x)$ exists. We are going to show that

$$(5) \quad \delta = \delta_l \cdot \delta_{l+1} \cdots \delta_{n-1} \cdot \nu \quad \text{for some } \nu \in M.$$

Define $Q = \{f^j(x)\}_{j=0}^{2^n-1}$, $T = \bigcup_{s=l}^{n-1} P_s$ and write also $Q_k = Q \cap I_k^l$, $T_k = T \cap I_k^l$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, 2^l - 1$. Recall that $f^j(x) \in I_j^n$ for any $j = 0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1$ and that each point p_r^s of the periodic orbit P_s lies between the intervals I_r^{s+1} and $I_{r+2^s}^{s+1}$. Then the cardinality of the sets Q_k and T_k is respectively 2^{n-l} and $2^{n-l} - 1$. Moreover, if $q_0^k < q_1^k < q_2^k < \cdots < q_{2^{n-l}-1}^k$ and $t_1^k < t_2^k < \cdots < t_{2^{n-l}-1}^k$ are the elements of Q_k and T_k , we have $q_0^k < t_1^k < q_1^k < t_2^k < q_2^k < \cdots < t_{2^{n-l}-1}^k < q_{2^{n-l}-1}^k$ (see Figure 1). Also, recall that by (3) each interval I_k^l can contain at most one point from C . Therefore, by the Lemma, for every $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^l - 1\}$ there exists a point $\tilde{q}_k \in Q_k$ such that

$$\prod_{q \in Q_k} f'(q) = f'(\tilde{q}_k) \cdot \prod_{t \in T_k} f'(t).$$

Hence

$$\delta = (f^{2^n})'(x) = \prod_{q \in Q} f'(q) = \prod_{k=0}^{2^l-1} \prod_{q \in Q_k} f'(q) = \prod_{k=0}^{2^l-1} \left(f'(\tilde{q}_k) \cdot \prod_{t \in T_k} f'(t) \right).$$

To prove (5) realize that the number $\prod_{k=0}^{2^l-1} f'(\tilde{q}_k)$ belongs to M and

$$\prod_{k=0}^{2^l-1} \prod_{t \in T_k} f'(t) = \prod_{s=l}^{n-1} \prod_{t \in P_s} f'(t) = \prod_{s=l}^{n-1} \delta_s.$$

In particular (note that $p_0^n \in I_0^n$), for any $n > l$ there exists $\nu_n \in M$ such that

$$(6) \quad \delta_n = \delta_l \cdot \delta_{l+1} \cdots \delta_{n-1} \cdot \nu_n.$$

We claim that there exists a number $\delta' > 1$ such that

$$(7) \quad |\delta_n| \geq \delta' \quad \text{for any } n > l.$$

Indeed, notice that the set $\{\nu_n\}_{n=l+1}^\infty$ is finite and take $m > l$ such that $\{\nu_n\}_{n=l+1}^\infty = \{\nu_{l+1}, \nu_{l+2}, \dots, \nu_m\}$. By (4) we have $|\delta_n| > 1$ for $n = l+1, l+2, \dots, m$. Now take any $n > m$. Then there is $w \in \{l+1, l+2, \dots, m\}$ with $\nu_n = \nu_w$ and so $|\delta_n| = |\delta_l \cdot \delta_{l+1} \cdots \delta_{m-1} \cdot \delta_m \cdots \delta_{n-1} \cdot \nu_n| = |\delta_l \cdot \delta_{l+1} \cdots \delta_{m-1} \cdot \delta_m \cdots \delta_{n-1} \cdot \nu_w| = |\delta_w| \cdot |\delta_w \cdots \delta_{n-1}| > |\delta_w|$ (we have used (4) and (6)). Thus it is sufficient to take $\delta' = \min\{|\delta_{l+1}|, |\delta_{l+2}|, \dots, |\delta_m|\}$.

Clearly, there exists some integer r not depending on n such that the number of points for which $(f^{2^n}|_{I_0^n})'$ does not exist is less than r . On the other hand, if n is large enough we have from (5) and (7) that $|(f^{2^n}|_{I_0^n})'(x)| > r$ in each point x for which $(f^{2^n}|_{I_0^n})'(x)$ exists. This is impossible, since in the opposite case the length of the interval $f^{2^n}(I_0^n)$ would be greater than the length of I_0^n . $\square$

3. FINAL REMARKS AND OPEN QUESTIONS

We are going to discuss possible generalizations of our results as well as some related conjectures.

First we recall the role of wandering intervals in the dynamics and introduce a class of maps without wandering intervals which could seem at a first glance to be

a candidate for the generalization of our result on the non-existence of piecewise linear maps of type 2^∞ .

The dynamics of maps from $C(I)$ can be substantially complicated due to the presence of wandering intervals. For example, if a map of type 2^∞ is chaotic in the sense of Li and Yorke, then it must have wandering intervals (see [Sm]), while for each piecewise strictly monotone map (i.e., piecewise monotone and constant in no subinterval of I) having no wandering intervals there is a residual set $R \subset I$ such that for any $x \in R$ its ω -limit set is either a periodic orbit, a cycle of periodic intervals or a solenoid (this follows for example from Theorem 2.4 and Propositions 2.8, 2.9 and 4.2 in [Pr]).

Fortunately, for a large class of continuous maps wandering intervals do not exist. Recall that a point c is said to be a *critical point* of f if f is differentiable in c and $f'(c) = 0$. If additionally f is of class C^{k+1} in a neighborhood of c and $f^{(k)}(c) \neq 0$ for some $k \geq 2$, then c is called *non-flat*. Let $A(I)$ denote the class of all maps f from $C(I)$ with the following properties:

1. There are points $\min I = a_0 < a_1 < \dots < a_n = \max I$ such that $f|_{[a_{k-1}, a_k]}$ is C^1 for any $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ (in the points a_{k-1} and a_k we mean one-sided derivatives). Further, each $(f|_{[a_{k-1}, a_k]})'$ is a bounded variation map which does not vanish in (a_{k-1}, a_k) .
2. For any $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$, either a_k is a non-flat critical point of f , or the one-sided derivatives of f in a_k do not vanish.

Notice that $A(I)$ contains all (non-constant) analytic maps and all piecewise linear maps. In a remarkable paper by Martens, de Melo and van Strien [MMS] (cf. [MSt2], pp. 267–268), which generalizes earlier results by Denjoy [De], Guckenheimer [Gu2], de Melo and van Strien [MSt1], Lyubich [Ly1] and Blokh and Lyubich [BL], it was proved that if $f \in A(I)$, then it has no wandering intervals (in fact they prove their result for a more general class of maps).

One would expect that our result on the nonexistence of maps of type 2^∞ in the class of piecewise linear maps could be extended to larger classes of maps, in particular to the class $A_0(I)$ of maps from $A(I)$ whose derivatives never vanish. More precisely, $f \in C(I)$ is said to belong to $A_0(I)$ if there are points $\min I = a_0 < a_1 < \dots < a_n = \max I$ such that $f|_{[a_{k-1}, a_k]}$ is C^1 for any $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ (in the points a_{k-1} and a_k we mean one-sided derivatives) and each $(f|_{[a_{k-1}, a_k]})'$ is a bounded variation map which does not vanish in $[a_{k-1}, a_k]$. However this is not the case. We give below an example of a map $f \in A_0([0, 1])$ of type 2^∞ which is in fact piecewise C^∞ . The map f has a doubling period solenoid (see the Proposition or the construction of f below). This is basically the only possible type of a solenoid of f . More precisely, it follows from the construction of f (cf. also [AJS]) that if $(k_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ is the type of a covering of a solenoid of f , then each k_n is a power of two.

We are going to define f . First notice that for any $a > 0$ it is easy to construct a strictly increasing C^∞ map $\Psi_a : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, a]$ such that $\Psi_a(0) = 0$, $\Psi_a(1) = a$, $\Psi'_a(0) = \Psi'_a(1) = 1$ and $\Psi_a^{(n)}(0) = \Psi_a^{(n)}(1) = 0$, $n = 2, 3, \dots$ (here $f^{(n)}$ denotes the n -th derivative of f). Moreover, the maps Ψ_a can be defined in such a way that for any $\epsilon > 0$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $\delta_{\epsilon, n} > 0$ such that if $|a - 1| < \delta_{\epsilon, n}$, then $|\Psi'_a(x) - 1| < \epsilon$ and $|\Psi_a^{(k)}(x)| < \epsilon$ for any $x \in [0, 1]$ and $k = 2, 3, \dots, n$. Now construct a sequence $(\gamma_n)_{n=0}^\infty$ of positive real numbers with $\gamma_0 = 1$ and $\frac{\gamma_n}{\gamma_{n-1}} < \frac{1}{3}$ for any $n \geq 1$. Put $\kappa_n = \frac{\gamma_{n-1} - \gamma_n - \gamma_{n+1}}{\gamma_{n-1} - 2\gamma_n}$, $\epsilon_n = \frac{1}{n}(\frac{\gamma_{n-1}}{3})^{n-1}$ for any $n \geq 1$. Modifying if

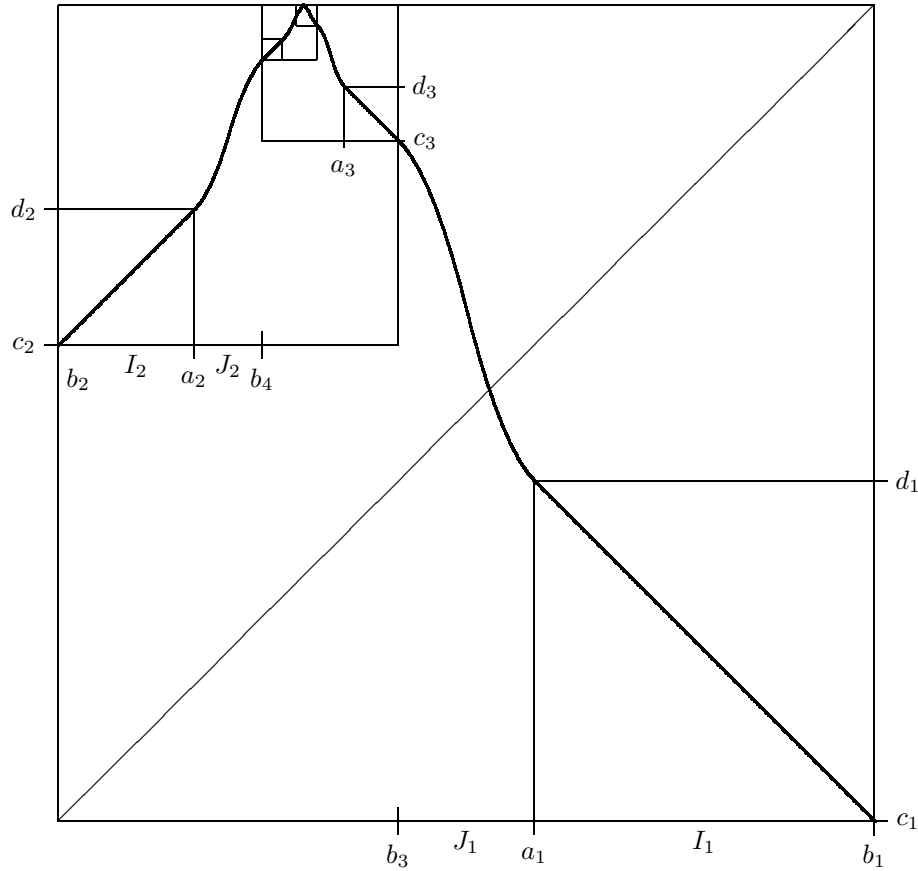


FIGURE 2. The graph of the map f from the example of Section 3. We have distorted the values of numbers γ_n to increase the clarity of the picture.

necessary $(\gamma_n)_{n=0}^\infty$ we can assume that $|\kappa_n - 1| < \delta_{\epsilon_n, n}$ for any n . So, $|\Psi'_{\kappa_n}(x) - 1| < \epsilon_n$ and $|\Psi_{\kappa_n}^{(k)}(x)| < \epsilon_n$ for any $x \in [0, 1]$ and $k = 2, 3, \dots, n$. Further, define $b_1 = 1$ and $b_n = b_{n-1} + (-1)^{n-1}\gamma_{n-2}$, $n = 2, 3, \dots$, and put $a_n = b_n + (-1)^n\gamma_n$. Write also $c_n = 1 - \gamma_{n-1}$, $d_n = 1 - \gamma_{n-1} + \gamma_n$ for any $n \geq 1$ and put $I_n = \text{conv}\{a_n, b_n\}$, $J_n = \text{conv}\{b_{n+2}, a_n\}$. Observe that $c_{n+2} - d_n = \gamma_{n-1} - \gamma_n - \gamma_{n+1}$ and $|b_{n+2} - a_n| = \gamma_{n-1} - 2\gamma_n$ for any n and so $\kappa_n = \frac{c_{n+2} - d_n}{|b_{n+2} - a_n|}$. Finally, put $c = \sum_{n=1}^\infty (-1)^{n-1}\gamma_n$.

We are ready to define f . For any $n \geq 1$ and $x \in I_n$ (resp. $x \in J_n$), put $f(x) = c_n + |x - b_n|$ (resp. $f(x) = d_n + |b_{n+2} - a_n|\Psi_{\kappa_n}(|\frac{x - a_n}{b_{n+2} - a_n}|)$). Finally put $f(c) = 1$ (see Figure 2).

It is easy to check that f is well defined, $f \in C([0, 1])$ and it is of type 2^∞ . Moreover, $f|_{[0, c]}$ and $f|_{[c, 1]}$ are clearly C^∞ maps. Further, recall that $|b_{n+2} - a_n| = \gamma_{n-1} - 2\gamma_n > \frac{\gamma_{n-1}}{3}$ and then $|f^{(k)}(x)| < \frac{1}{n}$ for any $x \in I_n \cup J_n$ and $k = 2, 3, \dots, n$, while $|f'(x) - 1| < \frac{1}{n}$ for any $x \in I_n \cup J_n$ if n is even and $|f'(x) + 1| < \frac{1}{n}$ for any $x \in I_n \cup J_n$ if n is odd. Therefore, $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f^{(n)}(x) = 0$ for any $n \geq 2$ while

$\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f'(x) = 1$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f'(x) = -1$. Using the L'Hôpital rule we get that $f|_{[0,c]}$ and $f|_{[c,1]}$ are C^∞ maps (whose first derivatives do not vanish).

So $A_0(I)$ failed as a candidate for the extension of our result. Still, some degree of generalization for it must be possible. Denote by $K_2(I)$ the class of continuous maps $I \rightarrow I$ consisting of two pieces with zero Schwarzian derivative. So, $f \in K_2(I)$ if $f \in C(I)$ and for some $c \in \text{int } I$, $f(x) = \frac{a_1x+b_1}{c_1x+d_1}$ for any $x \leq c$ and $f(x) = \frac{a_2x+b_2}{c_2x+d_2}$ for any $x \geq c$ ($a_id_i - b_ic_i \neq 0$, $i = 1, 2$). Let $K(I)$ be the class of similar maps with an arbitrary (finite) number of pieces of monotonicity. In [Ko] it is proved that if $f \in K_2(I)$, then it has no doubling period solenoid and so, by the Proposition, is not of type 2^∞ . In [AJS] it is proved that maps from $K_2(I)$ have no solenoids at all. We conjecture that the same result remains valid for maps from $K(I)$. Recently Martens and Tresser [MT] extended our Theorem by showing that piecewise linear maps do not have any solenoids at all. Thus, they answered in the affirmative the above conjecture for the subclass of $K(I)$ consisting of all piecewise linear maps.

It is easy to check that for the map f we discussed in the example above there is a sequence $(p_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ with every p_n a periodic point of f of period 2^n such that $|(f^{2^n})'(p_n)| \rightarrow 1$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$. On the other hand, in [MMS] (cf. also [MSt2], p. 268) it is proved that if $f \in B(I)$ (where $B(I)$ is the class of C^2 maps having only non-flat critical points), there are a real number $a_f > 1$ and an integer n_f depending only on f such that if p is a periodic point of f of period $n > n_f$, $|f^{(n)}(p)| > a_f$. Our example shows that this result cannot be generalized to maps from $A_0(I)$. However, we conjecture that it holds for maps from $K(I)$.

In connection with the result mentioned at the beginning of this section it was conjectured for some years that if f is “reasonably smooth” (ideally if $f \in A(I)$), then for almost every $x \in I$, $\omega_f(x)$ is either a periodic orbit, a cycle of periodic intervals or a solenoid. Indeed, this result has been proved in particular for the family of logistic maps [Ly2], but unfortunately it does not hold even for polynomial maps (see [BKNS]). We conjecture that if $f \in K(I)$, then $\omega_f(x)$ is either a periodic orbit or a cycle of periodic intervals for almost every x .

It is hard to propose more general settings where the above described properties may hold. In particular, it is not clear whether the existence of piecewise analytic maps (with non-vanishing derivatives) of type 2^∞ should be reasonably expected or not.

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