

THE COMBINATORIAL RIGIDITY CONJECTURE IS FALSE FOR CUBIC POLYNOMIALS

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ABSTRACT. We show that there exist two cubic polynomials with connected Julia sets which are combinatorially equivalent but not topologically conjugate on their Julia sets. This disproves a conjecture by McMullen from 1995.

INTRODUCTION AND RESULT

Let $\mathcal{P}_d = \{z^d + a_{d-2}z^{d-2} + \cdots + a_0\} \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}^{d-1}$ be the space of monic centered polynomials of degree $d > 1$.

Our object is to show that there exists a cubic polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_3$ that is not combinatorially rigid. To specify what this means, we need to introduce some notation and results from the theory of holomorphic dynamics, and, more specifically, the dynamics of polynomials. We will assume that the reader has some knowledge of the theory of iteration of polynomials in one variable. There are several introductory books on holomorphic dynamics, such as [M1]; also Lyubich [L1] has recently published a survey article.

The filled Julia set $K(f)$ of $f \in \mathcal{P}_d$ is the set of values of z such that the orbit $z, f(z), f \circ f(z) = f^2(z), \dots$ is bounded. The boundary of this set $J(f) = \partial K(f)$ is called the Julia set of f , and it coincides with the set of points that admit no neighborhood restricted to which the iterates id, f, f^2, \dots form a normal family.

We denote by \mathcal{C}_d the connectedness locus of the degree d monic centered polynomials:

$$\mathcal{C}_d = \{f \in \mathcal{P}_d \mid K(f) \text{ is connected}\}.$$

The connectedness locus of the quadratic polynomials, \mathcal{C}_2 , is the Mandelbrot set, and we also denoted it by M .

Given $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$, there exists a unique conformal isomorphism

$$\phi_f : \mathbb{C} \setminus K(f) \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$$

that conjugates f to $z \mapsto z^d$ and satisfies $\phi_f(z) = z + \mathcal{O}(1/z)$. The conformal isomorphism is called a Böttcher coordinate.

Using the Böttcher coordinate, we can define the notion of the dynamical ray $R_f(\theta)$ of angle $\theta \in \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ as the preimage $\phi_f^{-1}\{\exp(\eta + 2i\pi\theta) \mid \eta > 0\}$ of a radial segment. For a polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_d$, we define the *potential* $G_f : \mathbb{C} \setminus K(f) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$G_f(z) = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{d^n} \log |f^n(z)|.$$

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Then, when $K(f)$ is connected, $G_f = \log |\phi_f|$, and a dynamical ray is parallel to the vector field $\text{grad } G_f$. This allows us to generalize the notion of a dynamical ray. Indeed, for an arbitrary polynomial $f \in \mathcal{P}_d$, the dynamical ray $R_f(\theta)$ is the curve that is tangent to $\text{grad } G_f$ and tangent to the segment $\{r \exp(2i\pi\theta) \mid r > 0\}$ near infinity.

Following a dynamical ray down potential, two things might happen. Either the ray hits a critical point of G_f and we say it bifurcates, or it accumulates on the Julia set. The first behaviour only takes place when G_f has critical points, which is equivalent to f having critical points that are attracted to infinity and to K_f being disconnected.

Suppose the ray $R_f(\theta)$ does not bifurcate. Consider $\overline{R_f(\theta)} \setminus R_f(\theta)$. This continuum is called the accumulation set of the ray. If it consists of only one point, we say that the ray *lands*. In the connected case, $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$, that means that the limit $z_0 = \lim_{\eta \searrow 0} \phi_f - 1 \circ \exp(\eta + 2i\pi\theta)$ exists.

Rays of rational angle are special, in that they always land when $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$:

Proposition 1. *Let $f \in \mathcal{P}_d$ and $\theta \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$. Then the ray $R_f(\theta)$ either bifurcates or lands at a (pre)periodic point γ . In the latter case, γ is periodic if θ is periodic, and preperiodic if θ is preperiodic; it is either repelling or parabolic.* \square

The proposition is proved in the Orsay Notes (Proposition 2 of exposé 8 in [DH1]).

This proposition allows us to distinguish the two fixed points of a quadratic polynomial $P_c : z \mapsto z^2 + c$ when $c \in M \setminus \{1/4\}$ (for $c = 1/4$, P_c has one fixed point and it is of multiplicity 2). Indeed, the ray $R_{P_c}(0)$ is fixed by P_c and then must land at a fixed point. This fixed point is called the β -fixed point, and the other fixed point is called the α -fixed point.

Definition 1. Following McMullen ([Mc1]) we define the *rational lamination* $\lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(f) \subset \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ of $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$ to be the equivalence relation under which two rational angles θ' and θ'' are equivalent if and only if the two dynamical rays $R_f(\theta')$ and $R_f(\theta'')$ land at the same point.

Definition 2. A polynomial $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$ with no indifferent cycles is said to be *combinatorially rigid* if for every $g \in \mathcal{C}_d$ with no indifferent cycles such that $\lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(f) = \lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(g)$, the composition of Böttcher coordinates $\phi_g^{-1} \circ \phi_f$ extends to a quasiconformal homeomorphism on the whole Riemann sphere.

Note that we do not require the extension to be a conjugacy on the sphere; however, by continuity, it will be a conjugacy on the Julia set $J(f)$.

The following statement has been conjectured:

Every polynomial $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$ without indifferent periodic cycles is combinatorially rigid. (See [Mc1].)

This conjecture can be viewed as a series of conjectures, one for each value of $d = 2, 3, \dots$

If the conjecture is true for quadratic polynomials ($d = 2$), then it would imply that the Mandelbrot set M is locally connected [Sch]. Local connectivity of M is one of the most important questions in the study of the dynamics of quadratic polynomials. It has been verified for most types of parameters in the boundary of M . A summary of known results on this question is given by Lyubich in [L2], Appendix B.

We shall show that the conjecture is false in degree 3, by finding two cubic polynomials with connected Julia sets, with no indifferent cycles and the same rational lamination, but which fail to be even topologically conjugate on their Julia sets.

A sketch of the proof follows: From work of Sørensen [Sø] it follows that there is an infinitely renormalizable quadratic polynomial $P_{c_\infty} : z \mapsto z^2 + c_\infty$ whose Julia set contains a subcontinuum without periodic or preperiodic points. Choose a quadratic polynomial Q whose critical point eventually lands at the β -fixed point. Let f_0 be the result of intertwining Q with P_{c_∞} at their β -fixed points, using the intertwining surgery construction of Epstein and Yampolsky [EY].

The cubic polynomial f_0 has a quadratic-like restriction $f_0 : U' \rightarrow U$ that is hybrid equivalent to P_{c_∞} .

There is a neighborhood Λ of f_0 such that for each f_λ there are disks U'_λ, U_λ for which the restriction $f_\lambda : U'_\lambda \rightarrow U_\lambda$ is quadratic-like. This can be accomplished so that the family $(f_\lambda : U'_\lambda \rightarrow U_\lambda)$ is an *analytic family* in the sense of [DH2]. Using results in [DH2], we can suppose that the set of parameters for which the corresponding quadratic-like mappings all are hybrid equivalent to P_{c_∞} locally forms a codimension-one submanifold of the space of cubic polynomials.

For parameters t in this submanifold, one critical point $\omega_1(t)$ belongs to this quadratic-like restriction, whereas the other $\omega_2(t)$ does not. Using holomorphic motion arguments, we see that there are copies of (part of) the Julia set of P_{c_∞} showing up in the set of t -values for which f_t has connected Julia set. Loosely speaking, the position of the parameter t in such a parameter copy corresponds to the position of an iterate of $\omega_2(t)$ in a copy of $K(P_{c_\infty})$, in the dynamical plane. So by varying t we can slide an iterate of $\omega_2(t)$ around in a continuum without periodic or preperiodic points. It follows that no rational ray bifurcates. However, we shall see that the dynamics on the Julia sets do change.

1. A SPECIAL QUADRATIC POLYNOMIAL

In this section we will find a quadratic polynomial that does not have indifferent cycles and whose Julia set contains a continuum with no periodic or preperiodic cycles.

Polynomial-like mappings and renormalization.

Definition 3. If U', U are topological disks with U' compactly contained in U and $f : U' \rightarrow U$ is a holomorphic, ramified covering of degree $d > 1$, then $f : U' \rightarrow U$ is called a *polynomial-like* map of degree d .

The notion of polynomial-like mappings was introduced by Douady and Hubbard (see [DH2]) and is extremely useful. When the degree of a polynomial-like map is two, we call it *quadratic-like*. As the name suggests, a quadratic-like map behaves qualitatively like a quadratic polynomial.

Analogously to the definitions for polynomials, we define the *filled Julia set* of a polynomial-like map f as the set of points that do not escape under iteration: $K(f) = \{z \in U' \mid f^1(z) \in U', f^2(z) \in U', \dots\}$, and the *Julia set* $J(f)$ of f as its boundary: $J(f) = \partial K(f)$. Two polynomial-like mappings f, g are called *hybrid equivalent* if there exists a quasiconformal mapping ϕ that maps a neighborhood of $K(f)$ onto a neighborhood of $K(g)$, conjugating f to g and satisfying $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \bar{\phi}} = \frac{\partial \phi / \partial \bar{z}}{\partial \phi / \partial z} =$

0 almost everywhere on $K(f)$. This clearly defines an equivalence relation, whose equivalence classes are called *hybrid classes*.

That quadratic-like mappings behave like quadratic polynomials follows from Douady and Hubbard's Straightening Theorem, which for quadratic-like mappings boils down to:

Straightening Theorem. *A quadratic-like map f is hybrid equivalent to a quadratic polynomial. If $K(f)$ is connected, f is hybrid equivalent to a unique monic centered polynomial $z \mapsto z^2 + \chi(f)$.* \square

It may happen that an iterate of a quadratic polynomial in some region behaves like a quadratic-like map.

Definition 4. A quadratic polynomial $P : z \mapsto z^2 + c$ is called *n-renormalizable* for an integer $n > 1$, if there exists a restriction $P^n : U' \rightarrow U$ that is quadratic-like with connected Julia set and $0 \in U'$. The restriction $P^n : U' \rightarrow U$ is called a *renormalization* of P^n , and the set of positive integers $n > 1$ such that P is *n-renormalizable* is called the *levels of renormalization* of P and is denoted $\mathcal{R}(P)$. If this set is nonempty, P is called *renormalizable*, and if it is infinite, P is called *infinitely renormalizable*.

In [Mc2] McMullen shows:

Theorem 2 (Uniqueness of renormalization). *Any two renormalizations of P^n have the same filled Julia set.* \square

An infinitely renormalizable quadratic polynomial. If $n \in \mathcal{R}(P)$, we denote by $K_n(P)$ the uniquely determined filled Julia set of $P^n : U' \rightarrow U$, and we set $J_n(P) = \partial K_n(P)$.

In [Sø], Sørensen proves the following result:

Theorem 3. *There is an infinitely renormalizable quadratic polynomial $P_{c_\infty} : z \mapsto z^2 + c_\infty$ with the following properties: There is a sequence of integers $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$ such that each $n_k \in \mathcal{R}(P_{c_\infty})$, $K_{n_k} \supset K_{n_{k+1}}$ and the continuum $J_\infty = \bigcap K_{n_k}(P_{c_\infty})$ is nontrivial (i.e., contains more than one point).* \square

A proof can also be found in [M2].

Let P_{c_∞} and J_∞ be as given by Theorem 3. Since J_∞ is obtained as an intersection of nested full continua, J_∞ is a full continuum.

By the following theorem of McMullen, J_∞ contains no periodic or preperiodic points.

Theorem 4. *If a quadratic polynomial P is infinitely renormalizable, then:*

- (1) *all periodic cycles of P are repelling;*
- (2) *the filled Julia set $K(P)$ has no interior; and*
- (3) *if $R \subset \mathcal{R}(P)$ is infinite, then the continuum $\bigcap_{n \in R} K_n(P)$ contains no periodic or preperiodic points.*

Proof. This is an immediate consequence of [Mc2], Theorems 8.1 and 7.8. \square

Arbitrarily small copies of J_∞ accumulate on the β -fixed point of P_{c_∞} :

Proposition 5. *Given any $\epsilon > 0$, there are an integer $n > 0$ and a topological disk contained in $\{|z - \beta| < \epsilon\}$ that $P_{c_\infty}^n$ maps univalently onto a neighborhood of J_∞ .*

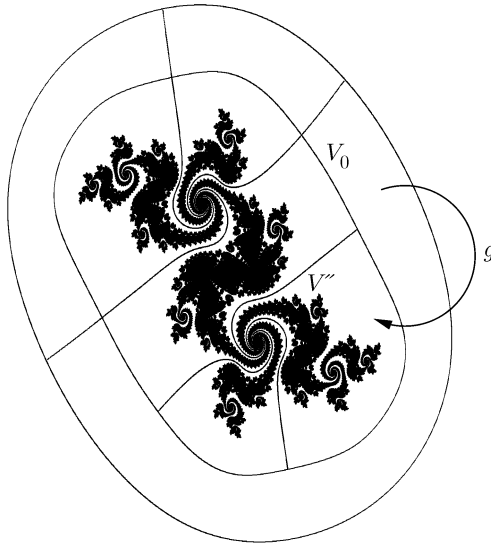


FIGURE 1. The inverse branch g used in the proof of Proposition 5. Due to inherent difficulties in drawing the filled Julia set $K(P_{c_\infty})$, a filled Julia set for another parameter is drawn.

Proof. By Theorem 4, the α -fixed point, α , of P_{c_∞} is repelling, since P_{c_∞} is infinitely renormalizable. By a result of Douady and Yoccoz, k rational rays land at α for some $k > 0$. The ray of angle 0° lands at the β -fixed point, β , and it follows that $k > 1$. The region $W = \{z \mid G_{P_{c_\infty}} < 1\}$ is a Jordan domain. The k rational rays landing at α cut this region into k pieces V_0, V_1, \dots, V_{k-1} , which we enumerate cyclically with respect to α in such a way that the critical point 0 is contained in V_0 . The preimage W' of W is cut into $2k - 1$ regions $V'_0, V'_1, \dots, V'_{2k-2}$ by the rational rays landing at α and $-\alpha$. We can assume $0 \in V'_0$. Each piece $V'_i, i \neq 0$, is mapped properly of degree one to a piece $V_{\sigma(i)}$, and V'_0 is mapped properly of degree 2 to a piece $V_{\sigma(0)}$. Since none of the rational rays landing at α are fixed, $V_{\sigma(0)}$ does not coincide with V_0 . It follows that V_0 has two preimages: one V'' that is compactly contained in V_0 , and the symmetric one $-V''$. Since 0 is contained in J_∞ and J_∞ contains neither α nor $-\alpha$, we get that J_∞ is contained in V_0 and does not intersect V'' .

Now consider the inverse branch $g = P_{c_\infty}^{-1} : V_0 \rightarrow V''$ (see Figure 1). This univalent map is a strong contraction with respect to the hyperbolic metric on V_0 and necessarily contains a fixed point, which then must be β . Now $V_0, g(V_0), g^2(V_0), \dots$ is a sequence of topological disks, each containing β in its closure, whose diameters tend towards zero. Finally, $P_{c_\infty}^n$ maps $g^n(V_0)$ univalently onto V_0 . \square

2. CUBIC POLYNOMIALS

In this section we consider the space of cubic polynomials, and see that deformed copies of (parts of) quadratic Julia sets show up both in dynamical planes and in parameter slices.

We parametrize the space of cubic monic centered polynomials by \mathbb{C}^2 , letting $f_{\mathbf{a}}(z) = z^3 - 3a^2z + b$, $\mathbf{a} = (a, b) \in \mathbb{C}^2$. This is a four-to-one covering of the cubic polynomials modulo affine conjugacy, ramified over $\{ab = 0\}$. The two critical points $\omega_1 = \omega_1(\mathbf{a}) = a$ and $\omega_2 = \omega_2(\mathbf{a}) = -a$ are then global holomorphic functions of the parameter \mathbf{a} .

Define $\mathcal{Q}_1 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ to be the set of parameters for which $f_{\mathbf{a}}$ can be restricted to a quadratic-like mapping $f_{\mathbf{a}} : U' \rightarrow U$ with $\omega_1 \in U'$. We say that \mathcal{Q}_1 is the set of parameters such that $f_{\mathbf{a}}$ is ω_1 -renormalizable, and we call $f_{\mathbf{a}} : U' \rightarrow U$ an ω_1 -renormalization of $f_{\mathbf{a}}$. Similarly, denote by \mathcal{Q}_2 the set of parameters for which $f_{\mathbf{a}}$ is ω_2 -renormalizable. Notice that a cubic polynomial being ω_i -renormalizable is quite different than a quadratic polynomial being renormalizable, since in the former case we are only considering restrictions of the cubic map, whereas in the latter case we only consider restrictions of some n th iterate, $n > 1$. (Also, this terminology is not completely standard, in the sense that it is usually required that the filled Julia set of the renormalization be connected for a mapping to be called renormalizable. However, in this context we find it convenient to drop that requirement for ω_i -renormalizations.)

An ω_1 -renormalization (or an ω_2 -renormalization) of $f_{\mathbf{a}}$ has the following properties, independent of the choice of domains:

Proposition 6. *Suppose $f_{\mathbf{a}_0}$ is ω_1 -renormalizable, and let $f_{\mathbf{a}_0} : U'_1 \rightarrow U_1$ and $f_{\mathbf{a}_0} : U'_2 \rightarrow U_2$ denote two ω_1 -renormalizations. Then $K(f_{\mathbf{a}_0} : U'_1 \rightarrow U_1) = K(f_{\mathbf{a}_0} : U'_2 \rightarrow U_2)$. Furthermore, if $K(f_{\mathbf{a}_0} : U'_1 \rightarrow U_1)$ is connected, then both renormalizations are hybrid equivalent to the same quadratic polynomial $z \mapsto z^2 + \chi_1(\mathbf{a}_0)$.*

Proof. The result follows readily from [Mc2] (Theorem 5.11) and from the Straightening Theorem. \square

A one-dimensional submanifold of the cubic polynomials. Let $\mathcal{K}_i \subset \mathcal{Q}_i$, $i = 1, 2$, denote the subset of parameters \mathbf{a} such that an ω_i -renormalization of $f_{\mathbf{a}}$ has connected Julia set.

It follows from Proposition 6 that for a given point $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{K}_i$ there is a unique monic centered polynomial $z \mapsto z^2 + \chi_i(\mathbf{a})$ that is hybrid-equivalent to an ω_i -renormalization of $f_{\mathbf{a}}$. This determines mappings χ_i of \mathcal{K}_i into the Mandelbrot set M .

Theorem 7. *There exists a parameter $\mathbf{a}_0 \in \mathcal{K}_1$ satisfying:*

- $\chi_1(\mathbf{a}_0) = c_{\infty}$ (where c_{∞} is the parameter whose existence is guaranteed by Theorem 3);
- an iterate $f_{\mathbf{a}_0}^k(\omega_2(\mathbf{a}_0))$ is equal to the fixed point of $f_{\mathbf{a}_0}$ corresponding to the β -fixed point of $z \mapsto z^2 + c_{\infty}$;
- the set $\chi_1^{-1}(c_{\infty})$ is a one-dimensional submanifold of \mathcal{Q}_1 locally at \mathbf{a}_0 .

The first step in proving Theorem 7 is to establish that $\chi_1^{-1}(c_{\infty})$ is an analytic set in \mathcal{Q}_1 . The definition of an analytic set is as follows.

Definition 5. Suppose D is an open set in \mathbb{C}^n . The set A is called *analytic* in D if for every $z \in D$ there exist an open neighborhood U of z in D and a finite number of holomorphic functions $f_i : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $i = 1, \dots, k$, such that $A \cap U = \{z \in U \mid f_1(z) = \dots = f_k(z) = 0\}$.

We will give a few properties of analytic sets. Proofs can be found in books on several complex variables, such as [KK] and [GF].

Let $\mathbf{a}_0 \in A$. If there are functions f_1, \dots, f_k , defined on a neighborhood U of \mathbf{a}_0 such that $A \cap U = \{z \in U \mid f_1(z) = \dots = f_k(z) = 0\}$ and

$$\text{rank} \left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial z_j} \right) = k,$$

then \mathbf{a}_0 is called a *regular* point or a manifold point. By the Implicit Function Theorem, A is locally biholomorphically equivalent to a domain in \mathbb{C}^{n-k} at \mathbf{a}_0 . We define the dimension of A at \mathbf{a}_0 to be $\dim_{\mathbf{a}_0} A = n - k$. A point in A that is not regular is called *singular*, and we denote the singular points of A by $S(A)$.

Proposition 8. *Let A be an analytic set in the open set $U \subset \mathbb{C}^n$. Then the set of singular points $S(A)$ is analytic in U , and the set of regular points $A \setminus S(A)$ is dense in A . \square*

Clearly, every point is regular and of the same dimension in a neighborhood of a regular point. By the proposition, every singular point lies in the closure of the regular points. The following definition therefore makes sense:

Definition 6. The dimension of an analytic set $A \subset \mathbb{C}^n$, $A \neq \emptyset$, at \mathbf{a}_0 is

$$\limsup_{\mathbf{a} \rightarrow \mathbf{a}_0} \dim_{\mathbf{a}}(A),$$

where \mathbf{a} tends to \mathbf{a}_0 through regular points. We define the dimension of A by

$$\dim A = \sup_{\mathbf{a} \in A} \dim_{\mathbf{a}} A.$$

If $d = \dim A = \inf_{\mathbf{a} \in A} \dim_{\mathbf{a}} A$, we say that A is *purely d -dimensional*.

Theorem 9. *Suppose $A \neq \emptyset$ is analytic in the open set $U \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ and $S(A) \neq \emptyset$. Then*

$$\dim S(A) \leq \dim A - 1.$$

An analytic set is called *irreducible* if it cannot be written as a union of two analytic sets $A = A_1 \cup A_2$ with both A_1 and A_2 proper subsets of A . Every analytic set can be decomposed into irreducible components:

Theorem 10. *Suppose A is analytic in $U \subset \mathbb{C}^n$. Then A has a unique representation $A = \bigcup_{\alpha} A_{\alpha}$ as a locally finite union of irreducible subsets, with $A_{\alpha} \not\subset A_{\beta}$ for $\alpha \neq \beta$. This decomposition is given by*

$$\{A_{\alpha}\}_{\alpha} = \{\overline{C} \mid C \text{ is a connected component of } A \setminus S(A)\}.$$

Here the closure \overline{C} is taken in U . \square

Remark 1. It follows directly from Theorem 10 that if A is analytic in $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ and of dimension 0, then A is discrete in U .

Most of the work to see that $\chi_1^{-1}(c_{\infty})$ is analytic in \mathcal{Q}_1 has been carried out in [DH2]; in fact, they prove (Corollary 2, page 313) that for any analytic family $(f_{\lambda})_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ of quadratic-like mappings, and any parameter c in the Mandelbrot set, the set of parameters λ for which f_{λ} is hybrid equivalent to $z^2 + c$ is an analytic subset of Λ . The definition of an analytic family of polynomial-like maps is the following.

Definition 7. Let Λ denote a complex analytic manifold and suppose $\mathbf{f} = (f_\lambda : U'_\lambda \rightarrow U_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ is a family of polynomial-like mappings. Set $\mathcal{U}' = \{(\lambda, z) \mid \lambda \in \Lambda, z \in U'_\lambda\}$, $\mathcal{U} = \{(\lambda, z) \mid \lambda \in \Lambda, z \in U_\lambda\}$ and $f(\lambda, z) = f_\lambda(z)$. We say that \mathbf{f} is an *analytic family of polynomial-like maps* if the following three conditions are satisfied:

- (1) \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{U}' are homeomorphic over Λ to $\Lambda \times \mathbb{D}$;
- (2) the projection π_Λ from the closure of \mathcal{U}' in \mathcal{U} to Λ is proper; and
- (3) $f : \mathcal{U}' \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ is complex analytic and proper.

For parameters $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{Q}_1$, we have that ω_1 -renormalizations of $f_{\mathbf{a}}$ locally form an analytic family. More precisely:

Lemma 1. *Given $\mathbf{a}_0 \in \mathcal{Q}_1$, there are a bi-disk $\Lambda \subset \mathcal{Q}_1$ containing \mathbf{a}_0 and ω_1 -renormalizations $(f_{\mathbf{a}} : U'_{\mathbf{a}} \rightarrow U_{\mathbf{a}})_{\mathbf{a} \in \Lambda}$ that form an analytic family of quadratic-like mappings. In particular, $\chi_1^{-1}(c_\infty)$ is an analytic set in \mathcal{Q}_1 .*

Of course a similar statement about \mathcal{Q}_2 is true, and it follows that \mathcal{Q}_1 and \mathcal{Q}_2 are open sets.

Proof. Let $\mathbf{a}_0 \in \mathcal{Q}_1$. Then there are topological disks U, U' with $\omega_1(\mathbf{a}_0) \in U'$ such that $f_{\mathbf{a}_0} : U' \rightarrow U$ is quadratic-like. Shrinking U and taking for U' the component of $f_{\mathbf{a}_0}(U)$ that is compactly contained in U , we may assume that the boundaries of U and U' are simple closed analytic curves and that the critical values $f_{\mathbf{a}_0}(\omega_i(\mathbf{a}_0))$, $i = 1, 2$, are not contained in ∂U . Choose a bi-disk Λ around \mathbf{a}_0 such that for all \mathbf{a} in a neighborhood of $\overline{\Lambda}$, the critical values avoid ∂U . We then have a unique holomorphic motion $h : \Lambda \times \partial U' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ of $\partial U'$ such that $f_{\mathbf{a}}(h(\mathbf{a}, z)) = f_{\mathbf{a}_0}(z) \in \partial U$. Since the image of a compact set under a holomorphic motion depends continuously on the parameter (in the Hausdorff metric on compact subsets of the sphere), we may suppose that $h_{\mathbf{a}}(\partial U')$ is contained in U for all $\mathbf{a} \in \Lambda$, by shrinking Λ if necessary. Note that $h(\mathbf{a}, \partial U)$ is a Jordan curve for each $\mathbf{a} \in \Lambda$, and denote by $U'_{\mathbf{a}}$ the domain bounded by it. Then $f_{\mathbf{a}} : U'_{\mathbf{a}} \rightarrow U$ is a quadratic-like mapping for each $\mathbf{a} \in \Lambda$. Set $\mathcal{U}' = \{(\mathbf{a}, z) \mid \mathbf{a} \in \Lambda, z \in U'_{\mathbf{a}}\}$ and $\mathcal{U} = \Lambda \times U$. We claim that $(f_{\mathbf{a}} : U'_{\mathbf{a}} \rightarrow U)_{\mathbf{a} \in \Lambda}$ is an analytic family of quadratic-like mappings. To see this we must verify (1)–(3) in the definition.

Let $\phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a homeomorphism. Then $\Phi(\mathbf{a}, z) = (\mathbf{a}, \phi(z))$ is a homeomorphism over Λ mapping \mathcal{U} onto $\Lambda \times \mathbb{D}$. Let $\psi_{\mathbf{a}} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow U'_{\mathbf{a}}$ be the conformal map that takes 0 to $\omega_1(\mathbf{a})$ and whose derivative $\psi'_{\mathbf{a}}(0)$ is real and positive. Then $\Psi(\mathbf{a}, z) = (\mathbf{a}, \psi_{\mathbf{a}}(z))$ is a homeomorphism over Λ , mapping $\Lambda \times \mathbb{D}$ onto \mathcal{U}' . This shows (1).

Note that the closure of \mathcal{U}' in \mathcal{U} is $\hat{\mathcal{U}}' = \{(\mathbf{a}, z) \mid \mathbf{a} \in \Lambda, z \in \overline{U'_{\mathbf{a}}}\}$. This follows since $\overline{U_{\mathbf{a}}}$ depends continuously on $\mathbf{a} \in \Lambda$ in the Hausdorff topology. Let $A \subset \Lambda$ denote a compact set. Then the preimage of this set under the projection of $\hat{\mathcal{U}}'$ onto Λ is $\{(\mathbf{a}, z) \mid \mathbf{a} \in A, z \in \overline{U'_{\mathbf{a}}}\}$. Since $\overline{U'_{\mathbf{a}}}$ depends continuously on \mathbf{a} , this set is compact. This shows (2).

Clearly $f : (\mathbf{a}, z) \mapsto f_{\mathbf{a}}(z)$ is complex analytic. Note that $f(\mathbf{a}, z) = f_{\mathbf{a}}(z)$ maps $\hat{\mathcal{U}}' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$ onto $\Lambda \times \partial U$. Hence the preimage K' of a compact set $K \subset \mathcal{U}$ avoids $\hat{\mathcal{U}}' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$. Using that $\pi_\Lambda(K') = \pi_\Lambda(K)$, it follows that K' does not intersect the boundary of \mathcal{U}' . So K' is a closed and bounded subset of \mathbb{C}^2 . We conclude that f is proper, which finishes the proof of (3).

That $\chi_1^{-1}(c_\infty)$ is analytic in \mathcal{Q}_1 now follows directly by applying Corollary 2 on page 313 in [DH2] and Proposition 6. \square

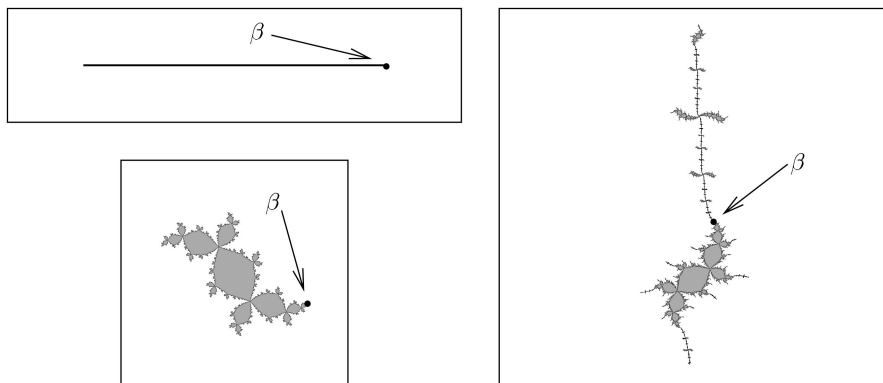


FIGURE 2. To the upper left is drawn an approximation of the Julia set of $z \mapsto z^2 - 2$. Below is the “rabbit”, that is, the Julia set of $z \mapsto z^2 + c$ with $c \approx -0.12236 + 0.74486i$. To the right is illustrated the Julia set of $f_{\mathbf{a}}(z) = z^3 - 3a^2z + b$, with $\mathbf{a} = (a, b) \approx (-0.03124478736 - 0.8615522432i, -0.1514859674 + 0.3334260962i)$. This cubic polynomial is the result of intertwining the two mentioned quadratic polynomials at their β -fixed points. Notice the copies of the Julia sets of the quadratic maps inside the Julia set of the cubic polynomial.

Next we are going to state a result from [EY] (see also [Ha]) that shows that Julia sets of quadratic polynomials show up inside Julia sets of certain cubic polynomials. To do so, we first need some notation. From the Straightening Theorem we know that for $\mathbf{a} \in \mathcal{Q}_i$, an ω_i -renormalization has a unique fixed point corresponding to the β -fixed point. This point we denote by $\beta_i(\mathbf{a})$.

The following result is an immediate consequence of the work of Epstein and Yampolsky in [EY]. They obtain it using intertwining surgery, although for this particular case the word “joining” surgery might be more appropriate since two quadratic-like mappings are joined together at their β -fixed points; see Figure 2.

Theorem 11. *There is a map $B : M \setminus \{1/4\} \times M \setminus \{1/4\} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}_1 \cap \mathcal{K}_2$, which is a homeomorphism onto its image, mapping (c_1, c_2) to \mathbf{a} , where \mathbf{a} satisfies $\beta_1(\mathbf{a}) = \beta_2(\mathbf{a})$ and $\chi_i(\mathbf{a}) = c_i$, $i = 1, 2$. \square*

We can now finish the proof of Theorem 7.

Let \mathcal{Q}'_1 denote the component of \mathcal{Q}_1 that contains $B(\{c_\infty\} \times (M \setminus \{1/4\}))$. The set $A = (\chi_1|_{\mathcal{Q}'_1})^{-1}(c_\infty)$ is analytic in \mathcal{Q}'_1 . This set cannot be of dimension 2. If it were, then it would contain a bi-disk, which contradicts that $B : (M \setminus \{1/4\}) \times (M \setminus \{1/4\}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}'_1$ is a homeomorphism. Since A contains the homeomorphic image of $M \setminus \{1/4\}$, it follows that A has dimension 1. In particular (see Remark 1), the set of singular points $S(A)$ is discrete in \mathcal{Q}'_1 .

Let $\mathcal{M} = \{c \in M \mid \exists k(P_c^k(0) = \beta(c))\}$, where $\beta(c)$ denotes the β -fixed point of $P_c : z \mapsto z^2 + c$. A standard normality argument (such as the one that shows that the boundary of M is contained in the closure of the center parameter, see e.g. [CG]) shows that this set is dense in ∂M . Now, no point in $\mathcal{M} \subset M$ is isolated, and we deduce that infinitely many points in the image $B(\{c_\infty\}, \mathcal{M})$ are regular.

Taking \mathbf{a}_0 for a regular point in $B(\{c_\infty\} \times \mathcal{M})$, the polynomial $f_{\mathbf{a}_0}$ has the required dynamical properties. This proves Theorem 7.

Relating the dynamical plane to a parameter slice. Let $\mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$, $t \mapsto \mathbf{a}(t)$, denote a parametrization of the complex submanifold given by Theorem 7, with $\mathbf{a}(0) = \mathbf{a}_0$. Abusing notation, we write $f_t = f_{\mathbf{a}(t)}$, $\beta_1(t) = \beta_1(\mathbf{a}(t))$ and $\omega_i(t) = \omega_i(\mathbf{a}(t))$, $i = 1, 2$.

For all $t \in \mathbb{D}$, we have that f_t is ω_1 -renormalizable and the renormalization is hybrid equivalent to P_{c_∞} . We denote by $K^1(t)$ the filled Julia set of the ω_1 -renormalization of f_t . This set moves holomorphically with t :

Theorem 12. *There is a holomorphic motion $h : \mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $h_t(K^1(0)) = K^1(t)$ and h_t commutes with the dynamics on $K^1(0)$, i.e.,*

$$h_t \circ f_0 = f_t \circ h_t$$

on $K^1(0)$.

Proof. Choose a period p and denote by $Z_p(t)$ the set of points in $K^1(t)$ that are periodic of period p under f_t .

Let $\mathcal{Y}_p = \{(t, z) \mid t \in \mathbb{D}, z \in Z_p(t)\}$, and let $\pi_i : \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ denote the projections such that for every $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$ we have that $\mathbf{a} = (\pi_1(\mathbf{a}), \pi_2(\mathbf{a}))$. We claim that the projection $\pi_1 : \mathcal{Y}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$, $(t, z) \mapsto t$, is a covering map. Let $t_0 \in \mathbb{D}$ denote an arbitrary point. Any ω_1 -renormalization $f_{t_0} : U' \rightarrow U$ is hybrid equivalent to P_{c_∞} ; so $\#Z_p(t_0)$ is constant. The set $Z_p(t_0)$ contains no indifferent cycles, for the same reason. It then follows from the Implicit Function Theorem that there are a neighborhood W of t_0 and holomorphic functions $z_i : W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $i = 1, \dots, \#Z_p(t_0)$, such that $z_i(t) \in Z_p(t)$ for all i . Shrinking W , we can assume that $z_i - z_j$ is non-vanishing for $i \neq j$. That $\#Z_p(t)$ is constant implies that $\bigcup_i \{(t, z) \mid t \in W, z \in z_i(W)\}$ is an open neighborhood of the fiber $\pi_1^{-1}(t_0)$. The claim now follows because for each i the map $\pi_1 : \{(t, z) \mid t \in W, z \in z_i(W)\} \rightarrow W$ is a homeomorphism.

Using that the projection $\pi_1 : \mathcal{Y}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ is a covering map, we can lift $\pi_1 : \mathbb{D} \times Z_p(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ to $\pi_1 : \mathcal{X}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ and obtain a mapping $H : \mathbb{D} \times Z_p(0) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_p$.

Then define $h : \mathbb{D} \times Z_p(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $h = \pi_2 \circ H$; i.e., such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{C} & \xleftarrow{\pi_2} & \mathcal{Y}_p \\ \uparrow h & \nearrow H & \downarrow \pi_1 \\ \mathbb{D} \times Z_p(0) & \xrightarrow{\pi_1} & \mathbb{D} \end{array}$$

The map h is a holomorphic motion: By the Implicit Function Theorem, $t \mapsto h(t, z)$ is holomorphic for each $z \in Z_p(0)$. Suppose $h_{t_0}(x) = h_{t_0}(y)$. Now $t \mapsto (t, h(t, x))$ is a lift of the identity to the map $\pi_1 : \mathcal{Y}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$, and the same is true for $t \mapsto (t, h(t, y))$. So by uniqueness of liftings, $h(t, x) = h(t, y)$ for all t . Since $z \mapsto h(0, z)$ is injective, it follows that $x = y$. Thus $z \mapsto h(t, z)$ is injective for all $t \in \mathbb{D}$.

The same line of arguments shows that h commutes with the dynamics. Both the map $t \mapsto (t, f_t \circ h(t, x))$ and $t \mapsto (t, h(t, f_0(x)))$ are lifts of the identity map to $\pi_1 : \mathcal{Y}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ that agree for $t = 0$, and by uniqueness they agree for all t . Thus the equation

$$h(t, f_0(x)) = f_t \circ h(t, x)$$

holds for all $t \in \mathbb{D}$ and all $x \in Z_p(0)$.

Noting that for each t the sets $Z_1(t), Z_2(t), \dots$ are disjoint, we get a holomorphic motion $h : \mathbb{D} \times \bigcup_p Z_p(0)$ that commutes with the dynamics.

By the Straightening Theorem, $\bigcup_p Z_p(0)$ is dense in $K^1(0)$, so by the λ -lemma (see [MSS]) we can extend h continuously to a holomorphic motion $h : \mathbb{D} \times K^1(0) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Now $h(t, K^1(0)) = K^1(t)$ by continuity; and, also by continuity, the extension commutes with the dynamics.

Finally, using Ślodkowski's Theorem (see [Sl]), we can extend h to $h : \mathbb{D} \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. \square

Define the connectedness locus \mathcal{S} of the family $\{f_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{D}}$ by

$$\mathcal{S} = \{t \in \mathbb{D} \mid K(f_t) \text{ is connected}\}.$$

Remark 2. Using a theorem of McMullen (see [Mc3]), it can be shown that \mathcal{S} contains a quasiconformal image of the connectedness locus $M_d \subset \mathbb{C}$ of the family $\{z \mapsto z^d + c\}_{c \in \mathbb{C}}$, with the image of the boundary of M_d contained in the boundary of \mathcal{S} , for some $d \geq 2$.

We will not use or prove this fact; instead we will show that the connectedness locus also contains a copy of J_∞ . For this we need a map relating the parameter disk $\{t \in \mathbb{D}\}$ to the dynamical plane $\{z \in \mathbb{C}\}$ of f_0 .

Lemma 2. *Let $h_t(z) = h(t, z)$, and denote by k the preperiod of $\omega_2(0)$ under f_0 . Then the mapping $H : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $t \mapsto h_t^{-1} \circ f_t^k(\omega_2(t))$, is quasiregular on domains compactly contained in \mathbb{D} and non-constant. In fact, H is K -quasiregular on $\{t < \rho\}$, $\rho < 1$, with $K = (1 + \rho)/(1 - \rho)$.*

Proof. Let us first show that H is not constant. If it were, then for all $t \in \mathbb{D}$ we would have $f_t^k(\omega_2(t)) = h(\beta(0)) = \beta(t)$, where the last equality is due to the fact that h commutes with the dynamics. However, by Theorem 11 we can find a sequence of parameters t_n , converging to 0, such that f_{t_n} is ω_2 -renormalizable and the critical point of the renormalization is not prefixed.

Let us now show that H is quasiregular on domains compactly contained in \mathbb{D} . To see this, we will use the fact that the time t map of a holomorphic motion is quasiconformal. Indeed, it follows from Proposition 5 of [D] (compare with the λ -lemma in [MSS]) that for $|t| < \rho < 1$ the mapping h_t is K -quasiconformal with $K = (1 + \rho)/(1 - \rho)$.

Taking the $\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{t}}$ distributional derivate of the equation

$$h_t \circ H(t) = f_t^k(\omega_2(t)),$$

we get

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{t}} h_t|_{H(t)} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} h_t|_{H(t)} \frac{\partial H}{\partial \bar{t}}(t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} h_t|_{H(t)} \frac{\partial \bar{H}}{\partial \bar{t}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{t}} f_t^k(\omega_2(t)).$$

Since $t \mapsto h(t, z)$ and $t \mapsto f_t^k(\omega_2(t))$ are holomorphic functions, it follows that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} h_t|_{H(t)} \frac{\partial H}{\partial \bar{t}}(t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} h_t|_{H(t)} \frac{\partial \bar{H}}{\partial \bar{t}} = 0.$$

Rearranging and taking absolute values, we obtain

$$\left| \frac{\partial H / \partial \bar{t}}{\partial H / \partial t}(t) \right| = \left| \frac{\partial h_t / \partial \bar{z}}{\partial h_t / \partial z}(H(t)) \right|.$$

So H is K quasiregular on $\{|t| < \rho\}$, for $\rho < 1$, with $K = (1 + \rho)/(1 - \rho)$. \square

Main theorem. We can now prove the main theorem:

Main Theorem. *There exist two cubic polynomials f, g which have no indifferent cycles and which are not topologically conjugate on their Julia sets, but which nevertheless have the same rational lamination. In particular, f and g are not combinatorially rigid.*

Proof. We denote by $\psi : U' \rightarrow V'$ a hybrid equivalence that maps a neighborhood U' of $K^1(0)$ to a neighborhood V' of $K(P_{c_\infty})$ and conjugates $f_0 : U' \rightarrow U$ to P_{c_∞} . Using that ψ is a conjugacy and Proposition 5, we get that $\beta_1(0)$ is accumulated by arbitrary small copies of $\hat{J}_\infty = \psi^{-1}(J_\infty)$, each of which is being mapped bijectively to \hat{J}_∞ by an iterate of f_0 . Since H is quasiregular and not constant, it maps 0 to $\beta_1(0)$ with a local degree $d > 0$. The copies of \hat{J}_∞ are full and do not contain $\beta_1(0)$, and from this it follows that we can find a copy \hat{J}'_∞ and an integer $l > 0$ such that

- f_0^l maps \hat{J}'_∞ bijectively onto \hat{J}_∞ ; and
- $H^{-1}(\hat{J}'_\infty)$ intersected with a neighborhood of 0 is the disjoint union of d continua C_1, \dots, C_d such that H maps each C_i bijectively onto \hat{J}'_∞ .

By bijectivity there is exactly one point $t_1 \in C_1$ such that $P_{c_\infty}^l \circ \psi(t_1) = 0 \in J_\infty$. Since h commutes with the dynamics on $K^1(0)$, we get

$$(1) \quad f_{t_1}^{k+l}(\omega_2(t_1)) = \omega_1(t_1).$$

By injectivity of $H|_{C_1}$, we get that if $t_2 \in C_1$ and $t_2 \neq t_1$, then $f_{t_1}^{k+l}(\omega_2(t_1)) \neq \omega_1(t_1)$.

We claim that $f = f_{t_1}$ and $g = f_{t_2}$ for $t_2 \in C_1 \setminus \{t_1\}$ will satisfy the requirements of the theorem. We must prove:

- (a) f and g do not possess indifferent cycles;
- (b) f and g are not topologically conjugate on their Julia sets; and
- (c) f and g have the same rational lamination, $\lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(f) = \lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(g)$.

Part (a) is an immediate consequence of the following lemma:

Lemma 3. *Suppose $t \in \mathbb{D}$. If there exists an integer $k > 0$ such that $f_t^k(\omega_2(t)) \in K^1(t)$, then*

- (1) *the filled Julia set of f_t has no interior: $K(f_t) = J(f_t)$, and*
- (2) *all cycles of f_t are repelling.*

Part (b). Suppose there exists a homeomorphism $\eta : J(f) \rightarrow J(g)$ that conjugates f to g on $J(f)$. By Lemma 3, $K(f) = J(f)$ and $K(g) = J(g)$. The critical points $\omega_i(t_1)$ are distinguished in $K(f)$ in that they are the only points that have only one preimage. The critical points $\omega_i(t_2)$ are likewise distinguished in $K(g)$. It follows, since η is a conjugacy, that η maps the two critical points of f onto the two critical points of g . By equation (1), we must have either $g^{k+l}(\omega_2(t_2)) = \omega_1(t_2)$ or $g^{k+l}(\omega_1(t_2)) = \omega_2(t_2)$. However, we have already seen that $g^{k+l}(\omega_2(t_2)) \neq \omega_1(t_2)$, and we cannot have $g^{k+l}(\omega_1(t_2)) = \omega_2(t_2)$, since all the forward images of $\omega_1(t_2)$ are contained in $K^1(t_2)$ and $\omega_2(t_2)$ is not an element in $K^1(t_2)$. This proves (b).

Part (c). To complete the proof we shall show that the polynomials f_t have the same rational lamination for all $t \in C_1$. We will show that every rational ray lands, and that the landing point depends holomorphically on t for values of t in a neighborhood of C_1 . This will follow from the following stability result (Proposition 2 of exposé 8 in the Orsay Notes, [DH1]).

Proposition 13. *Let $P_0 \in \mathcal{P}_d$ and $\theta \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$. Assume that $R_{P_0}(\theta)$ lands at the (pre)periodic point $\gamma_0 \in J(P_0)$ and that the corresponding cycle is repelling. If $P_0^i(\gamma_0)$ is not a critical point for any $i \geq 0$, then there is a neighborhood Λ of P_0 in \mathcal{P}_d such that*

- (1) *the ray $R_P(\theta)$ lands at a (pre)periodic repelling point $\gamma(P)$ for all $P \in \Lambda$;*
- (2) *the map $\Lambda \times \{\eta \geq 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ that maps (P, η) to the point of potential η on the ray $R_P(\theta)$ is continuous and holomorphic in P .* \square

Indeed, fix a rational angle θ and a parameter $t_0 \in C_1$. By Proposition 1, the dynamical ray of angle θ lands at a (pre)periodic point that is either parabolic or repelling. We have seen that f_t has no indifferent cycles. So to apply Proposition 13 we just have to see that the (forward) critical orbits do not contain the landing point. This follows easily, since the forward orbits of the critical point $\omega_i(t_0)$ are trapped in a forward invariant region on which f_{t_1} is conjugate to $P_{c_\infty} : J_\infty \rightarrow J_\infty$. By Theorem 4, J_∞ contains no (pre)periodic points. So the critical orbits do not contain any (pre)periodic point such as the landing point of $R_{t_0}(\theta)$.

We conclude that the ray $R_t(\theta)$ keeps landing and moves holomorphically in a neighborhood of each point in C_1 .

Suppose that the rays of angles θ_1 and θ_2 land at distinct points, for a parameter $t_0 \in \mathbb{D}$. Because the landing points depend holomorphically on t in a neighborhood of t_0 , they will keep on landing at distinct points for all parameters in a neighborhood of t_0 . Conversely, suppose two rational rays land at the same point for a parameter $t_0 \in C_1$. Since the rays are disjoint and the rays including landing points depend holomorphically on t in a neighborhood of t_0 , we get from Hurwitz's Theorem that the two rays keep landing at the same point for all parameters in a neighborhood of t_0 . Noting that C_1 is connected, we conclude that if two rays land at the same point for a parameter $t_0 \in C_1$, they will do so for all parameters $t \in C_1$. So $\lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(f_t) = \lambda_{\mathbb{Q}}(f_0)$ for all $t \in C_1$. \square

We still have to prove Lemma 3. To do so we will use the fact that the multiplier at an indifferent fixed point is a quasiconformal invariant.

Lemma 4. *Suppose the two holomorphic germs $g_1, g_2 : (\mathbb{C}, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ have indifferent fixed points at the origin, and a quasiconformal germ conjugates g_1 to g_2 . Then the multiplier $g'_1(0)$ is equal to the multiplier $g'_2(0)$.* \square

The lemma is well known; in fact, Naïshul' [Nai] proves that the multiplier of an indifferent fixed point is even a topological invariant.

We now prove Lemma 3.

Proof. It follows from the classification of Fatou components that (2) implies (1); so we need only prove (2). First note that $K^1(t)$ does not contain any non-repelling cycles. Indeed, the ω_1 -renormalization of f_t is hybrid equivalent to P_{c_∞} . So if $K^1(t)$ contains an indifferent cycle, then also P_{c_∞} possesses such a cycle by Lemma 4. But Theorem 4 asserts that all the cycles of P_{c_∞} are repelling.

We distinguish two cases, supposing f_t has a non-repelling cycle.

Case 1: The cycle is contained in $J(f_t)$. Then it is indifferent. Since both critical orbits are captured by $K^1(t)$, in the sense that $f_t^n(\omega_1(t)) \in K^1(t)$ for all $n \geq 0$ and $f_t^n(\omega_2(t)) \in K^1(t)$ for all $n \geq k$, the cycle must be contained in $K^1(t)$. We have seen that this cannot be the case.

Case 2: The cycle is contained in the interior of $K(f_t)$. Again, since the orbits of the critical points are captured by $K^1(t)$ and (by Theorem 4) this set has no interior, the cycle cannot be attracting. By the classification of Fatou components, it is necessarily a Siegel cycle. The boundary of the cycle of Siegel disks is contained in the closure of the postcritical set, and thus in $K^1(t)$. Since $K^1(t)$ is a full set, the Siegel disks themselves are also contained in $K^1(t)$. As before, this is not the case. \square

Question. I pass on a question I was asked by McMullen during a presentation of the result of this paper.

Question 1. Is there a natural combinatorial object associated to a polynomial $f \in \mathcal{C}_d$, $d > 2$, that uniquely determines the dynamics of f on $J(f)$?

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