

## Classification of exotic circles of $PL_+(S^1)$

Hiroyuki MINAKAWA

(Received August 30, 1996; Revised February 28, 1997)

**Abstract.** Let  $G$  be a subgroup of the group  $\text{Homeo}_+(S^1)$  of orientation preserving homeomorphisms of the circle. An exotic circle of  $G$  is a subgroup of  $G$  which is topologically conjugate to  $SO(2)$  but not conjugate to  $SO(2)$  in  $G$ . The existence of an exotic circle shows us the fact that the subgroup  $G$  is far from being a Lie group. We previously proved that the group  $PL_+(S^1)$  of orientation preserving piecewise linear homeomorphisms of the circle has exotic circles. We give a more explicit construction of exotic circles of  $PL_+(S^1)$  and classify all exotic circles up to  $PL$  conjugacy.

*Key words:* topological circle, exotic circle,  $PL_+(S^1)$ , topologically conjugate,  $PL$  conjugate, total derivative, half total derivative.

### Introduction

Let  $G$  be a Lie group and  $M$  an oriented manifold of class  $C^k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq \infty$ ). Let  $\text{Diff}_+^k(M)$  denote the group of all  $C^k$  diffeomorphisms of  $M$ . A topological action is a continuous map  $\varphi : G \times M \rightarrow M$  such that

- 1)  $\varphi_e(x) = x$ ,
- 2)  $\varphi_{gh}(x) = \varphi_g(\varphi_h(x))$ .

where  $e$  is the unit of  $G$  and  $\varphi_g(x) = \varphi(g, x)$ . D. Montgomery and L. Zippin proved the following theorem ([4]).

**Theorem 0.1** *Let  $\varphi$  be a topological action. If every  $\varphi_g$  belongs to  $\text{Diff}_+^k(M)$  then  $\varphi$  is a map of class  $C^k$ .*

In the case where  $G = M = S^1$ , this theorem implies the following corollary.

**Corollary 0.2** *If every  $h \circ R_x \circ h^{-1}$  is contained in  $\text{Diff}_+^k(S^1)$ , then  $h$  belongs to  $\text{Diff}_+^k(S^1)$ . Here,  $R_x : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$  is the rotation of  $S^1$  by  $x$ , i.e.,  $R_x(y) = x + y$ .*

Indeed, for  $\varphi(x, y) = h \circ R_x \circ h^{-1}(y)$ .  $\varphi : S^1 \times S^1 \rightarrow S^1$  is a topological action with  $\varphi_x \in \text{Diff}_+^k(S^1)$ . Then  $\varphi$  is of class  $C^k$  by Theorem 0.1. Fix