

Continuity of Julia sets and its Hausdorff dimension of $P_c(z) = z^d + c$

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(Received October 14, 2011; Revised February 17, 2012)

Abstract. Given $d \geq 2$ consider the family of monic polynomials $P_c(z) = z^d + c$, for $c \in \mathbb{C}$. Denote by J_c and $HD(J_c)$ the Julia set of P_c and the Hausdorff dimension of J_c respectively, and let $\mathcal{M}_d = \{c | J_c \text{ is connected}\}$ be the connectedness locus; for $d = 2$ it is called the Mandelbrot set. We study semihyperbolic parameters $c_0 \in \partial\mathcal{M}_d$: those for which the critical point is not recurrent by P_{c_0} , $0 \in J_{c_0}$, and without parabolic cycles. We prove that if $P_{c_n} \rightarrow P_{c_0}$ algebraically, then for some $C > 0$,

$$d_H(J_{c_n}, J_{c_0}) \leq C|c_n - c_0|^{1/d},$$

where d_H denotes the Hausdorff distance. If, in addition, $P_{c_n} \rightarrow P_{c_0}$ preserving critical relations, then P_{c_n} is semihyperbolic for all $n \gg 0$, and

$$HD(J_{c_n}) \rightarrow HD(J_{c_0}).$$

Key words: Julia set, Hausdorff dimension, net, conformal measure.

1. Introduction and main results

Let $R(z)$ be a rational map of degree $d = \deg R \geq 2$ on the complex sphere $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$. The Julia set $J(R)$ of a rational function R is defined to be the closure of all repelling periodic points of R , its complement set is called Fatou set $F(R)$. It is known that $J(R)$ is a perfect set (so $J(R)$ is uncountable, and no point of $J(R)$ is isolated), and also that if $J(R)$ is disconnected, then it has infinitely many components.

Let \mathcal{C} be the set of critical points of a rational map R . Then the set of critical values of R^n is

$$Ctv_n(R) = R(\mathcal{C}) \cup R^2(\mathcal{C}) \cup \cdots \cup R^n(\mathcal{C}).$$

The ω -limit set of the set $Ctv_n(R)$ of critical values of $R : \bar{\mathbb{C}} \mapsto \bar{\mathbb{C}}$ is defined by

$$\Omega(R) = \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} \overline{\bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} R^k(Ctv_n(R))}.$$

In other words $z \in \Omega(R)$ if and only if there exist $c \in Ctv_n(R)$ and a sequence $n_k \rightarrow \infty$ ($k \geq 1$) of positive integers such that $z = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} R^{n_k}(c)$.

We call a critical point c of R recurrent if $c \in \Omega(R)$; otherwise c is called non-recurrent, denoted by NCP maps.

In this paper we consider the NCP maps $R : \overline{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ called semihyperbolic maps: those for which the critical points are not recurrent by R and without parabolic cycles.

We say rational maps R_n converge to R algebraically if $\deg R_n = \deg R$ and, when R_n is expressed as the quotient of two polynomials, the coefficients can be chosen to converge to those of R . Equivalently, $R_n \rightarrow R$ uniformly in the spherical metric.

Given that $R_n \rightarrow R$ algebraically. Let $b \in J(R)$ be a preperiodic critical point, satisfying $R^i(b) = R^j(b)$ for some $i > j > 0$. Suppose for all such b and for all $n \gg 0$, the maps R_n have critical points $b_n \in J(R_n)$ with the same multiplicity as b , $b_n \rightarrow b$ and $R_n^i(b_n) = R_n^j(b_n)$. Then we say $R_n \rightarrow R$ preserving critical relations.

In this paper we study dynamics of polynomials $P_c = z^d + c$, $d \geq 2$, such that the critical point 0 is not recurrent and $0 \in J_c$. These polynomials are semihyperbolic in the sense of [1].

HD denotes the Hausdorff dimension; $n \gg 0$ means for all n sufficiently large. We have the following main theorem:

Main Theorem *Let $c_0 \in \partial\mathcal{M}_d$ be such that P_{c_0} is semihyperbolic. If $P_{c_n} \rightarrow P_{c_0}$ algebraically, then for some $C > 0$,*

$$d_H(J_{c_n}, J_{c_0}) \leq C|c_n - c_0|^{1/d},$$

where d_H denotes the Hausdorff distance.

If, in addition, $P_{c_n} \rightarrow P_{c_0}$ preserving critical relations, then P_{c_n} is semihyperbolic for all $n \gg 0$, and

$$HD(J_{c_n}) \rightarrow HD(J_{c_0}).$$

2. Preliminaries and the construction of a net

Let X be a connected complex manifold. A *holomorphic family of rational maps*, parameterized by X , is a holomorphic map $R : X \times \overline{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$. We denote this map by $R_\lambda(z)$, where $\lambda \in X$ and $z \in \overline{\mathbb{C}}$; then $R_\lambda : \overline{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ is a rational map.

Let x be a basepoint in X . A *holomorphic motion* of a set $E \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ parameterized by (X, x) is a family of injections

$$\phi_\lambda : E \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}},$$

one for each λ in X , such that $\phi_\lambda(e)$ is a holomorphic function of λ for each fixed e , and $\phi_x = id$.

Given a holomorphic family of rational maps R_λ , we say the corresponding Julia sets $J(R_\lambda) \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ *move holomorphically* if there is a holomorphic motion

$$\phi_\lambda : J(R_x) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$$

such that $\phi_\lambda(J(R_x)) = J(R_\lambda)$ and

$$\phi_\lambda \circ R_x(z) = R_\lambda \circ \phi_\lambda(z)$$

for all z in $J(R_x)$. Thus ϕ_λ provides a conjugacy between R_x and R_λ on their respective Julia sets. The motion ϕ_λ is unique if it exists, by density of periodic cycles in $J(R_x)$.

The Julia sets move holomorphically *at x* if they move holomorphically on some neighborhood U of x in X .

A periodic point z of R_x of period n is *persistently indifferent* if there is a neighborhood U of x and a holomorphic map $\mathcal{W} : U \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ such that $\mathcal{W}(x) = z$, $R_\lambda^n(\mathcal{W}(\lambda)) = \mathcal{W}(\lambda)$, and $|(R_\lambda^n)'(\mathcal{W}(\lambda))| = 1$ for all λ in U . (Here $(R_\lambda^n)'(z) = dR_\lambda^n/dz$.)

Lemma 2.1 ([2], Characterizations of stability) *Let R_λ be a holomorphic family of rational maps parameterized by X , and let x be a point in X . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

1. *The number of attracting cycles of R_λ is locally constant at x .*
2. *The maximum period of an attracting cycle of R_λ is locally bounded at x .*

- 3. The Julia set moves holomorphically at x .
- 4. For all y sufficiently close to x , every periodic point of R_y is attracting, repelling or persistently indifferent.
- 5. The Julia set J_λ depends continuously on λ (in the Hausdorff topology) on a neighborhood of x .

Suppose in addition that $c_i : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$, are holomorphic maps parameterizing the critical points of R_λ . Then the following conditions are also equivalent to those above:

- 6. For each i , the function $\lambda \mapsto R_\lambda^n(c_i(\lambda))$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ form a normal family at x .
- 7. There is a neighborhood U of x such that for all λ in U , $c_i(\lambda) \in J_\lambda$ if and only if $c_i(x) \in J_x$.

The definition of *conformal measures* for rational maps was first given by Sullivan as a modification of the Patterson measures for limit sets of Fuchsian groups. A more general definition, showing the connection to ergodic theory, has been given by M. Denker and M. Urbański earlier. Let $t \geq 0$, a probability measure m on $J(R)$ is called t -conformal for $R : J(R) \rightarrow J(R)$ if $m(J(R)) = 1$ and

$$m(R(A)) = \int_A |R'|^t dm$$

for every Borel set $A \subset J(R)$ such that $R|_A$ is injective.

Let R be an NCP map. Denote by $\Lambda(R)$ the set of all parabolic periodic points of R (these points belong to the Julia set and have an essential influence on its fractal structure), and $Crit(R)$ of all critical points of R . We put

$$Crit(J(R)) = Crit(R) \cap J(R).$$

Set

$$Sing(R) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} R^{-n}(\Lambda(R) \cup Crit(J(R))).$$

Definition 2.1 We define the *conical set* $Con(R)$ of R as follow. First, say x belongs to $Con(R, r)$ if for any $\epsilon > 0$, there is a neighborhood U of x and $n > 0$ such that $diam(U) < \epsilon$ and

$$R^n : U \rightarrow B(R^n(x), r)$$

is a homeomorphism. Then set

$$Con(R) = \bigcup_{r>0} Con(R, r).$$

We have $x \in Con(R)$ if and only if arbitrary small neighborhood of x can be blow up univalently by the dynamics to balls of definite size centered at $R^n(x)$.

Lemma 2.2 ([3]) *If $R : J(R) \rightarrow J(R)$ is an NCP map, then*

$$Con(R) = J(R) \setminus Sing(R).$$

Note that Curtis T. McMullen used the term *radial Julia set* $J_{rad}(R)$ instead of *conical set* $Con(R)$ in analogy with Kleinian groups; see ref. [4].

By paper [4], we have the set $Sing(R)$ is countable.

Let $0 < \lambda < 1$. Then there exist an integer $m \geq 1$, $C > 0$, an open topological disk U containing no critical values of R up to order m and analytic inverse branches $R_i^{-mn} : U \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ of R^{mn} ($i = 1, \dots, k_n \leq d^{nm}$, $n \geq 0$), satisfying:

- (1) $\forall n \geq 0, \forall 1 \leq i \leq k_{n+1}, \exists 1 \leq j \leq k_n, R^m \circ R_i^{-m(n+1)} = R_j^{-mn}$,
- (2) $diam(R_i^{-mn}(U)) \leq c\lambda^n$ for $n = 0, 1, \dots$ and $i = 1, \dots, k_n$,
- (3) for each fixed $n \geq 1$, for all $i = 1, \dots, k_n$ the sets $\overline{R_i^{-mn}(U)}$ are pairwise disjoint and $\overline{R_i^{-mn}(U)} \subset U$.

By Definition 2.1 and Lemma 2.2, the conical set $J_c(R)$ is a hyperbolic set. Now we state as a lemma the following consequence of (1)–(3).

Lemma 2.3 *Let $R(z)$ be a semihyperbolic map. For each n , let $\mathcal{N}_n = \bigcup\{R_j^{-n}(U) : j = 1, \dots, k_n\}$ and let $\mathcal{N} = \bigcup \mathcal{N}_n$. Then \mathcal{N} is a net of $Con(R)$, i.e. any two sets in \mathcal{N} are either disjoint or one is a subset of the other.*

Consider the net \mathcal{N} , given by Lemma 2.3. For $n \geq 0$, the preimages of the sets \mathcal{N}_i under R^n that intersect $J(R)$ are called the *nth step pieces* of the net. Note that for $n \geq 1$ the collection of all the *nth step pieces* also is a net; we call it a *refinement* of the net \mathcal{N} .

Lemma 2.4 *Let W be an n th step piece of the net \mathcal{N}_i , then the inverse of*

$$P_{c_0}^n : W \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_i = P_{c_0}^n(W)$$

extends in a injective way to a neighborhood of $\overline{\mathcal{N}_i}$, only depending on i .

Proof. Refining the net if necessary, we will prove that for some $m \geq 1$ all the m th step pieces (or some of the m th step pieces) of the net are compactly contained in some \mathcal{N}_i . Then the net formed by the m th step pieces will be the desired net. Thus it is enough to prove that the diameters of the m th step pieces of the net converge uniformly to zero as $m \rightarrow \infty$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$, and $N \geq 1$ be such that we can partition each \mathcal{N}_i in at most N connected sets of diameter less than $\varepsilon > 0$. If necessary we can refine the disks \mathcal{N}_i small enough, then P_{c_0} is injective in each cover of the net. Let W be an m th step piece of the net, so that $P_{c_0}^m$ is injective in W . Then by the property (2) of net we have $\text{diam}(W) \rightarrow 0$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$. The proof of this lemma is complete. \square

As in immediate consequence, together with the Koebe Distortion Theorem, we obtain the Bounded Distortion Property.

Lemma 2.5 (Bounded Distortion Property) *For any $k \geq 0$ the distortion of $P_{c_0}^k$ in each of the k th step pieces of the net is bounded by some constant $K > 1$, independent of k .*

3. Proof of the main Result

Proof of the Main Theorem.

Step 1: Since P_{c_0} is a semihyperbolic map, it has no Siegel disks and Herman rings. For each $x \in F(P_{c_0}) = \overline{\mathbf{C}} - J_{c_0}$ (the Fatou set of P_{c_0}), under iteration $P_{c_0}^i(x)$ converges to an attracting or super-attracting fixed-point c of P_{c_0} . Then this behavior persists under algebraic perturbation of P_{c_0} . In fact there is a small neighborhood U of c such that $P_{c_n}(U) \subset U$ for all $n \gg 1$. Thus $U \subset F(P_{c_n})$, and we have shown a neighborhood of c persists in the Fatou set for large n . Therefore the multiplier of an attracting cycle of a semihyperbolic map P_λ is constant as λ varies small, and hence the number of repelling cycles of P_λ is constant in the neighborhood of λ . Thus the repelling periodic points of sufficiently high period move holomorphically and without collision as λ varies small. Since the repelling points are dense

in the Julia set, the Julia set moves holomorphically by the λ -lemma ([2, Theorem 4.1]). It follows by Lemma 2.1 (Characterizations of stability) that the Julia set moves holomorphically at c_0 , and there is a unique holomorphic motion

$$\phi_{c_n} : J_{c_0} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$$

such that $\phi_{c_n}(J_{c_0}) = J_{c_n}$ and

$$\phi_{c_n} \circ P_{c_0} = P_{c_n} \circ \phi_{c_n}(z) \tag{3.1}$$

for all z in J_{c_0} .

Since the holomorphic motion ϕ_{c_n} is a holomorphic function of c_n in a neighborhood of c_0 , and $\phi_{c_0} = id$. We have

$$|\phi_{c_n}(z) - z| = |\phi_{c_n}(z) - \phi_{c_0}(z)|$$

for all z in J_{c_0} . By item 5 in Lemma 2.1, the Julia set J_{c_n} depends continuously on c_n (in the Hausdorff topology) on a neighborhood of c_0 . So we have

$$|\phi_{c_n}(z) - z| = |\phi_{c_n}(z) - \phi_{c_0}(z)| \sim |c_n - c_0|, \tag{3.2}$$

where $A \sim B$ means $C^{-1}B < A < CB$ for two numbers A and B and some implicit constant C .

Let $w = \phi_{c_n}(z) \in J_{c_n}$, where $\forall z \in J_{c_0}$. Then it follows by (3.1) and (3.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} |w - z| &\sim |P_{c_n}^{-1}(\phi_{c_n}(z)) - P_{c_0}^{-1}(z)| \sim |P_{c_0}^{-1}(\phi_{c_n}(z)) - P_{c_0}^{-1}(z)| \\ &\sim |P_{c_0}^{-1}(\phi_{c_n}(z) - z)| \sim |\phi_{c_n}(z) - z|^{1/d} \sim |c_n - c_0|^{1/d}. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that $\forall z \in J_{c_0}, w = \phi_{c_n}(z) \in J_{c_n}$,

$$dist(w, z) \sim |c_n - c_0|^{1/d}.$$

Thus we get that for any small $\epsilon > 0$ the Julia sets J_{c_n} are contained in the ϵ -neighborhood of J_{c_0} for all $n \gg 0$.

Therefore

$$d_H(J_{c_n}, J_{c_0}) \sim |c_n - c_0|^{1/d}.$$

So we obtain

$$d_H(J_{c_n}, J_{c_0}) \leq C|c_n - c_0|^{1/d}$$

for some constant $C > 0$ only depending on P_{c_0} , where d_H denotes the Hausdorff distance.

Step 2: Since P_{c_n} and P_{c_0} have the same critical point 0, we have if $0 \in J_{c_0}$, then $0 \in J_{c_0}$ is preperiodic, and so is $0 \in J_{c_n}$ and P_{c_n} has no parabolic cycles for all $n \gg 0$ by our assumption that critical point relations are preserved. Hence P_{c_n} is semihyperbolic.

Now we only prove that

$$HD(J_{c_n}) \rightarrow HD(J_{c_0}).$$

Let $h = HD(J_{c_0})$ be the Hausdorff dimension of the Julia set J_{c_0} of the semihyperbolic map P_{c_0} . It follows by [6] that there exists exactly one h -conformal measure μ and this measure is atomless (the μ measure of a point is zero). The unique h -conformal measure for $P_{c_0} : J_{c_0} \rightarrow J_{c_0}$ supported on J_{c_0} has exponent $h = HD(J_{c_0})$. For all $n \gg 0$, P_{c_n} is a semihyperbolic map. The unique h_n -conformal probability measure μ_n for $P_{c_n} : J_{c_n} \rightarrow J_{c_n}$ supported on J_{c_n} has exponent $h_n = HD(J_{c_n})$ and it is atomless; see ref. [6]. Thus to prove that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} HD(J_{c_n}) = HD(J_{c_0})$$

it is enough to prove that there is a neighborhood $B_r(0)$ of the critical point $0 \in J_{c_0}$ such that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(B_r(0)) = 0.$$

Since P_{c_0} is semihyperbolic, there exists $l > 1$ such that $P_{c_0}^l(0) = w \in \omega(0)$, where the set $\omega(0)$ of accumulation points of the orbit of 0 is a hyperbolic set of P_{c_0} . By the completely invariant property of the Julia set, it is enough that we only prove the following

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(B_r(w)) = 0.$$

In fact any weak accumulation point ν of μ_n gives a P_{c_0} -invariant measure for $P_{c_0} : J_{c_0} \rightarrow J_{c_0}$. The previous limit implies that $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu = \nu$, and it follows that $h_n \rightarrow h$. Hence, we obtain that

$$HD(J_{c_n}) \rightarrow HD(J_{c_0}).$$

Since P_{c_0} is semihyperbolic, we consider the net \mathcal{N} as in Lemma 2.3 and consider constants $C_0 > 0$ and $\theta_0 \in (0, 1)$. Let $w \in \omega(0)$ be any point, then we have

$$|(P_{c_n}^m)'(w)|^{-1} \leq C_0 \theta_0^m, \tag{3.3}$$

for all $m \geq 1$ and $n \gg 0$. Moreover we may suppose that there is a uniform Bounded Distortion property: *There is a constant $K > 1$ so that for every $k \geq 1$ and every k th step piece W of the net \mathcal{N}_i , the distortion of $P_{c_n}^k$ in W is bounded by K for all $n \gg 0$; see Lemma 2.5.*

Let $w \in \omega(0)$ be any point and B_q be the q th step piece containing w , $u_w = P_{c_0}^l(w)$ and V_q be the pull-back of B_q by $P_{c_0}^l$ containing w . Since $P_{c_n} \rightarrow P_{c_0}$ algebraically and $d_H(J_{c_n}, J_{c_0}) \leq C|c_n - c_0|^{1/d}$, we let \tilde{V}_q be the pull-back of B_q by $P_{c_n}^l$ containing w , $n \gg 0$. It follows that for $r > 0$ small there is $q = q(r) \rightarrow \infty$, as $r \rightarrow 0$ so that $B_r(w) \subset \tilde{V}_q$ for all $n \gg 0$. So we only need to prove that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(\tilde{V}_q) = 0.$$

Let D be a disc containing w , small enough so that $P_{c_n}^l|_D$ is at most of degree d . Refining the net if necessary, suppose that $B_1 \subset P_{c_n}^l(D)$. Since the probability measure μ_n is atomless for all $n \gg 0$, we have

$$\mu_n(\tilde{V}_q) = \sum_{m \geq q} \mu_n(\tilde{V}_m - \tilde{V}_{m+1}).$$

Note that for $m \geq 1$ we have

$$\mu_n(\tilde{V}_m - \tilde{V}_{m+1}) \leq d\mu_n(B_m - B_{m+1}) \inf_{(\tilde{V}_m - \tilde{V}_{m+1}) \cap J_{c_n}} |(P_{c_n}^l)'(z)|^{-h_n}.$$

By formula (3.3), we have

$$\inf_{(\tilde{V}_m - \tilde{V}_{m+1}) \cap J_{c_n}} |(P_{c_n}^l)'(z)|^{-h_n} < C_1$$

for all $n \gg 0$ and some constant C_1 . By the uniform Bounded Distortion Property and considering that μ_n is a probability measure, for some constant C_2 we have

$$\mu_n(B_m - B_{m+1}) \leq K^{h_n} |(P_{c_n}^m)'(w)|^{-h_n} \leq C_2 \theta_0^{mh_n},$$

for all $w \in B_m$. So

$$\mu_n(\tilde{V}_q) \leq \sum C_1 C_2 \theta_0^{mh_n} \leq \sum C_3 \theta_0^{mh_n}.$$

Since

$$\sum_{m \geq q} \theta_0^{mh_n} = \frac{(\theta_0^{h_n})^q}{1 - \theta_0^{h_n}},$$

we conclude that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \mu_n(\tilde{V}_q) = 0.$$

Therefore, we get

$$HD(J_{c_n}) \rightarrow HD(J_{c_0}).$$

The proof of the Main Theorem is finished. □

We remark that this theorem is sharp, that is, $O(|c_n - c_0|^{1/d})$ cannot be replaced by $o(|c_n - c_0|^{1/d})$. Assume that $d = 2$ and let $c_0 = -2$. It is well known, and can be easily checked, that the critical point 0 is pre-periodic. It eventually lands on 2, which is a repelling fixed point. Moreover we have $J_{-2} = [-2, 2]$. For any $\varepsilon > 0$ let $c_\varepsilon = -2 - \varepsilon$. The Julia set J_{c_ε} is a Cantor set that lies on the real line and is symmetric with respect to 0. Its extreme points are $Z_\varepsilon = (1 + \sqrt{1 - 4c_\varepsilon})/2$, the positive fixed point, and $-Z_\varepsilon$. Let $z_\varepsilon = \sqrt{-Z_\varepsilon - c_\varepsilon}$. One easily compute that $z_\varepsilon \sim \sqrt{(2/3)\varepsilon}$ and that $(-z_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) \not\subseteq J_{c_\varepsilon}$. We can thus conclude that for ε small enough,

$$d_H(J_{c_\varepsilon}, J_{-2}) \sim \sqrt{\varepsilon}.$$

Since $c_0 - c_\varepsilon = \varepsilon$, there is no hope to find a constant C such that

$$d_H(J_{c_\varepsilon}, J_{-2}) \sim o(|c_n - c_0|^{1/d}).$$

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