

## Some functional equations which generate both crinkly broken lines and curves

By

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### §0. Preliminary.

Since the discovery of Peano's plane filling curve, we have known many irregular curves as von Koch curve [5], Pólya curve [11] and Lévy curve [6]. In recent years, these curves have found to be related to Mandelbrot's Fractal theory and studied by many authors. They have shown that these curves can be defined as limits of sequences of broken lines generated by a kind of transformation. In fact, such an idea has already given in [9] by E. H. Moore.

A sequence of complex numbers  $a = \{a_n\}_{n=0}^{+\infty} \in \mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{N}}$  generates a broken line  $L(a)$  in the complex plane whose turning points  $\{z_n\}_{n=0}^{+\infty}$  are given by

$$z_0 = 0, \quad z_n = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

**Definition.** For  $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}) \in \mathbf{C}^n - \{0\}$ , we define  $T_\gamma: \mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{N}} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{N}}$  such that  $T_\gamma(a_0, a_1, \dots) = (\gamma_0 a_0, \gamma_1 a_0, \dots, \gamma_{n-1} a_0, \gamma_0 a_1, \gamma_1 a_1, \dots)$ .

This transformation  $T_\gamma$  replaces a segment  $a_j$  by segments  $\gamma_0 a_j, \gamma_1 a_j, \gamma_2 a_j, \dots, \gamma_{n-1} a_j$ . We will treat such a type of transformation in a new view point, which is different from previous studies, in the following sections. In §1, we will direct our attention to the broken lines which are invariant under  $T_\gamma$ . Roughly speaking, the invariant broken line is the eigen vector of the linear map  $T_\gamma$  and in the course of the discussion, the eigen vector turns out to be the solution of a functional equation on the formal power series  $\mathbf{C}[[z]]$ . In §2, it will be also shown that the solution of the functional equation has the natural boundary at the unit circle. In the rest of this section, we will review the previous results in our formulation.

The following theorem gives the process of generation of the irregular curves by  $T$ .

**Theorem 1.** Let  $a = \{a_j\} \in \mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{N}}$  and  $\gamma = (\gamma_0, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}) \in \mathbf{C}^n$ . If  $\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \gamma_j = 1$ ,  $|\gamma_j| < 1$  for all  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$  and  $L(a)$  is a compact subset of the plane, then  $L(T_\gamma^n(a))$  is compact and converges as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  in the sense of Hausdorff metric.

In the book [7] by Mandelbrot, such  $\gamma$  is called the generator of Fractal curves

**Example 1.**

(1) Let  $\gamma = \left(\frac{1+i}{2}, \frac{1-i}{2}\right)$  and  $a = (1, 0, 0, \dots) \in \mathbf{C}^N$ , then  $L(T_\gamma^n(a))$  is convergent to Lévy curve as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .

(2) Let  $\gamma = \left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{6} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}i, \frac{1}{6} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}i, \frac{1}{3}\right)$  and  $a = \left(1, \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2}, \frac{-1 - \sqrt{3}i}{2}, 0, \dots\right)$ , then  $L(T_\gamma^n(a))$  is convergent to the snowflake curve (i.e. von Koch curve).

(3) Let  $\gamma = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}i, -\frac{1}{2}i, \frac{1}{2}\right)$  and  $a = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$ , then  $L(T_\gamma^n(a))$  is convergent to Pólya's plane filling curve.

Similar theorem is shown by Dekking [2]. His theory of recurrent sets is able to apply some of the curves generated by  $T_\gamma$ . Hata [4] has studied different type of transformations viewing from the point of self similarity.

*Proof of Theorem 1.* We will show that

$$d_H(L(T_\gamma a), L(T_\gamma^2 a)) \leq r d_H(L(a), L(T_\gamma a)), \quad (0.1)$$

where  $r = \sup\{|\gamma_j| : j=0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $d_H(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes Hausdorff metric. For the simplicity of the discussion, we assume  $a = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$ . In this case,  $T_\gamma a = (\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}, 0, 0, \dots)$ . Let  $a^j = (0, 0, \dots, 0, \gamma_j, 0, \dots)$ , then

$$d_H(L(T_\gamma a), L(T_\gamma^2 a)) \leq \sup_{j=0, \dots, n-1} d_H(L(a^j), L(T_\gamma a^j)).$$

Here  $d_H(L(a^j), L(T_\gamma a^j)) = |\gamma_j| d_H(L(a), L(T_\gamma a))$ . Therefore we obtain (0.1). Now, using (0.1) inductively, we have

$$d_H(L(T_\gamma^n a), L(T_\gamma^{n-1} a)) \leq r^n d_H(L(a), L(T_\gamma a)).$$

Hence, for  $n < m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} d_H(L(T_\gamma^n a), L(T_\gamma^m a)) &\leq \sum_{k=n}^{m-1} d_H(L(T_\gamma^k a), L(T_\gamma^{k+1} a)) \\ &\leq (\sum_{k=n}^{m-1} r^k) d_H(L(a), L(T_\gamma a)) \\ &\leq \frac{r^n}{1-r} d_H(L(a), L(T_\gamma a)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $L(T_\gamma^n a)$  is convergent in Hausdorff metric as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .

**§1. Invariant broken lines.**

We will establish a new viewpoint on the transformation  $T_\gamma$  from the fact that  $T_\gamma$  is a linear map from  $\mathbf{C}^N$  to itself. At first, let us consider a broken line which is invariant in shape under  $T_\gamma$ . Here, the shape of a broken line is determined by a equivalence in  $\mathbf{C}^N$ :  $a, b \in \mathbf{C}^N$  are equivalent if and only if there exists  $\alpha \in \mathbf{C} - \{0\}$  and

$a_n = \alpha b_n$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now, a broken line  $a$  is invariant in shape under  $T_\gamma$  when  $T_\gamma a$  and  $a$  are equivalent in above sense, in other words,  $a$  is an eigen vector of  $T_\gamma$  for a nonzero eigen value.

**Proposition 1.**  $T_\gamma$  has a nontrivial eigen vector if and only if  $\gamma_0 \neq 0$ . And in this case,  $T_\gamma$  has only one eigen value  $\gamma_0$  and the eigen vector corresponds to this eigen value.

*Proof.* First, we rewrite explicitly the definition of  $T_\gamma$ . Let  $T_\gamma a = (b_0, b_1, \dots)$ , then

$$\gamma_k a_p = b_{nq+k} \tag{1.1}$$

for  $k=0, 1, \dots, n-1$  and  $p=0, 1, 2, \dots$ .

Let  $a = (a_0, a_1, \dots) \neq 0$  be an eigen vector of  $T_\gamma$  with an eigen value  $\lambda$ . By (1.1), we have

$$\gamma_k a_p = \lambda a_{np+k}. \tag{1.2}$$

For some  $k$  and  $p$ ,  $\gamma_k a_p \neq 0$  and this implies  $\lambda \neq 0$  by (1.2). Now using the formula  $a_{np+k} = \lambda^{-1} \gamma_k a_p$  inductively, it turns out that  $a_0 = 0$  implies  $a_m = 0$  for all  $m$ . Therefore,  $a_0 \neq 0$ , and hence by  $a_0 = \gamma_0 a_0$ , we have  $\lambda = \gamma_0$ . Thus, we obtain  $\gamma_0 = \lambda \neq 0$ , and the eigen vector is determined inductively from  $a_0$  by the formula  $a_{np+k} = \lambda^{-1} \gamma_k a_p$ .

By Proposition 1, it turns out that  $\gamma_0 \neq 0$  must be assumed to study the broken lines invariant in shape under  $T_\gamma$ . And then, the eigen vector of  $T_\gamma$  is the fixed point of  $(\gamma_0)^{-1} T_\gamma = T_{\gamma'}$ , where  $\gamma' = (1, \gamma_1/\gamma_0, \gamma_2/\gamma_0, \dots, \gamma_{n-1}/\gamma_0)$ . So, let  $\omega = (1, \omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_{n-1})$  and study the fixed points of  $T_\omega$ .

It is convenient to identify  $\mathbb{C}^{\mathbb{N}}$  with the formal power series  $C[[z]]$  as  $(a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots) \leftrightarrow a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots$ .

In this expression, for  $f \in C[[z]]$

$$T_\omega f(z) = \psi_\omega(z) f(z^n),$$

where  $\psi_\omega(z) = 1 + \omega_1 z + \omega_2 z^2 + \dots + \omega_{n-1} z^{n-1}$ . Therefore, the fixed points of  $T_\omega$  are the solutions of the functional equation in  $C[[z]]$

$$\psi_\omega(z) f(z^n) = f(z). \tag{1.3}$$

**Remark.** Such a functional equation as (1.3) is seen on several occasions. In the kneading theory of iteration of the interval maps, the functional equation  $(1-t)D(f, t^2) = D(f, t)$  is used to characterize the kneading determinant  $D$  of the unimodal map  $f$  lying on a critical state. See §9 of [8] for the details. In [10], Odlyzko has studied functional equations

$$f(z) = P(z) + f(Q(Z)) \tag{1.4}$$

from the interest in the enumeration of 2, 3-trees. Naturally, this type of functional equations are closely related with the famous works of Fatou and Julia (See [1]). We will treat the details in §3.

Using (1.3) for  $f(z^n)$ , the solution  $f$  of (1.3) turns out to satisfy  $\psi_\omega(z) \psi_\omega(z^n) f(z^{n^2}) = f(z)$ . So, repeating this process infinitely, we can find the solution of (1.3) as follows.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $f_\omega(z) = \prod_{k=0}^{+\infty} \psi_\omega(z^{n^k})$ , then  $f_\omega$  is well defined as an element of

$\mathcal{C}[[z]]$ , and the solution of (1.3) is given by  $\alpha f_\omega(z)$  for  $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$ .

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Let  $f^{(k)}(z) = \prod_{j=0}^{k-1} \psi_\omega(z^{n^j})$ , then  $\psi_\omega(z^{n^k}) f^{(k)}(z) = f^{(k+1)}(z)$ . Here  $\psi_\omega(z^{n^k}) = 1 + \omega_1 z^{n^k} + \dots + \omega_{n-1} z^{(n-1)n^k}$ , therefore we have

$$f^{(k)}(z) - f^{(k+1)}(z) \in z^{n^k} \mathcal{C}[[z]]. \quad (1.5)$$

Hence  $f^{(k)}(z)$  is convergent in the formal power series topology and the limit  $f_\omega(z)$  has the property

$$f_\omega(z) - f^{(k)}(z) \in z^{n^k} \mathcal{C}[[z]]. \quad (1.6)$$

By (1.5) and (1.6), we have  $\psi_\omega(z) f_\omega(z^n) - f_\omega(z) \in z^{n^k} \mathcal{C}[[z]]$  for all  $k$ . Hence  $f_\omega(z)$  is the solution of (1.3). By (1.2), for a solution  $f(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{+\infty} a_j z^j$  of (1.3),  $a_n$  is uniquely determined by  $a_0$ . And so, we obtain  $f(z) = a_0 f_\omega(z)$ .

**Definition.** For  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N} - \{0\}$  and  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ , we define  $S(m; n, j)$  as follows. If  $m = \sum_{k=1}^p j_k \cdot n^k$  such that  $j_k \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ , then

$$S(m; n, j) = |\{k : j_k = j\}|,$$

where  $|\cdot|$  represents the number of elements of the set.

Especially,  $S(m) = S(m; 2, 1)$ .

The following lemma is immediately verified by above definition.

**Lemma.**  $S(nm+k; n, j) = S(m; n, j) + \delta_{jk}$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .

Making use of  $S(m; n, j)$ ,  $f_\omega(z)$  can be expressed by its coefficients.

**Theorem 3.**  $f_\omega(z) = \sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} (\prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \omega_j^{S(m;n,j)}) z^m$ .

**Remark.** In this paper, we define  $0^0 = 1$ .

*Proof of Theorem 3.* Let  $a_n = \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \omega_j^{S(m;n,j)}$ , then by the lemma, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_k a_p &= \omega_k^{S(p;n,k)+1} \prod_{j=1, j \neq k}^{n-1} \omega_j^{S(p;n,j)} \\ &= \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \omega_k^{S(p+n^k;n,j)} = a_{np+k}, \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

where  $\omega_0 = 1$ . Using (1.2) in the proof of Proposition 1, (1.7) implies that  $\sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} a_m z^m$  is a solution of (1.3). By Theorem 2 and the fact that  $a_0 = 1$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} a_m z^m = f_\omega(z).$$

**Example 2.** Let  $\omega = (1, e^{2\pi i \alpha})$  where  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , then the solution of  $(1 + e^{2\pi i \alpha z}) f(z^2) = f(z)$  is  $f_\omega(z) = \sum_{m=0}^{+\infty} e^{2\pi i \alpha S(m)} z^m$ . If  $\alpha = \frac{3}{4}$ , then  $\omega = \left(1, \frac{1-i}{1+i}\right)$  and  $f_\omega(z)$  represents the broken line which is invariant under  $T_\gamma$  of Example 1-(1). For arbitral  $\alpha$ , Dekking and Mendès France have studied the broken lines represented by  $f_\omega(z)$  in Example 4.3 of [3].

**§2. Radius of convergence and natural boundary of  $f_\omega(z)$ .**

We have considered the functional equation (1.3) on the formal power series  $C[[z]]$ . The solution of (1.3) is given by theorems in §1 as a formal power series. Now, we will discuss some properties of the solution  $f_\omega(z)$  as an analytic function in this section. By the way, if  $\omega=(1, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ , then  $f_\omega(z) \equiv 1$  and this case is often a trivial exception in the below discussion. Therefore we will eliminate this case from our consideration.

**Proposition 2.** *The radius of convergence of  $f_\omega$  is 1.*

*Proof of Proposition 2.* Let  $a_m$  be the same as in the proof of Theorem 3 and  $w = \sup_{j=0, 1, \dots, n-1} |\omega_j|$  where  $\omega_0=1$ . By the definition of  $S(m; n, j)$  we have  $\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} S(m; n, j) \leq \log_n m + 1$ . Therefore,  $|a_m| = \prod_{j=1}^{n-1} |\omega_j|^{S(m; n, j)} \leq w^{1 \cdot \log_n m + 1}$ . Hence we have  $\limsup_{m \rightarrow +\infty} |a_m|^{1/m} \leq \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} w^{(\log_n m + 1)/m} = 1$ .

On the other hand, if  $\omega_k \neq 0$  for some  $k$ , then  $a_{m(p)} = \omega_k$  where  $m(p) = kn^p$ . Hence we have  $\limsup_{m \rightarrow +\infty} |a_m|^{1/m} \leq \lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} |a_{m(p)}|^{1/m(p)} = 1$ . Thus we obtain  $\limsup_{m \rightarrow +\infty} |a_m|^{1/m} = 1$ .

It is also obtained that  $f^{(k)}(z)$  converges uniformly on the unit disk  $D = \{z : |z| < 1\}$  and for  $|z| > 1$ ,  $f^{(k)}(z) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ . And then, the next question is naturally on the possibility of analytic continuation of  $f_\omega$ .

**Theorem 4.**  *$f_\omega$  has the natural boundary at the unit circle  $C = \{z : |z| = 1\}$  with the exception of the following case.*

*Exception.* Let  $\zeta_{n-1} = e^{2\pi i/n-1}$  and  $\omega = (1, \zeta_{n-1}^m, \zeta_{n-1}^{2m}, \dots, \zeta_{n-1}^{(n-2)m}, 1)$  where  $m = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ , then  $f_\omega(z) = 1/(1 - \zeta_{n-1}^m z)$ .

The natural boundary of  $f_\omega$  can be thought to represent the complexity of the corresponding broken line. For example,  $f_\omega(z)$  in Exception corresponds to a regular  $(n-1)$  polygon. The rest of this section is filled with the proof of Theorem 4.

*Proof of Theorem 4.* We will show that if  $f_\omega(z)$  can be continued on an open set  $V \ni D$ , then  $f_\omega(z)$  is one of the exceptional cases.

**Lemma 1.** *If  $f_\omega(z)$  can be continued to an analytic function on an open set  $V \ni D$ , then  $f_\omega(z)$  can be continued to a rational function on an open set  $U \supset \bar{D}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $P(z) = z^n$ , then for all  $\zeta \in P(U) \cap C$ , there exists  $z_0 \in U \cap C$  such that  $P(z_0) = \zeta$ . Taking a branch of  $P^{-1}$  as  $Q(z)$  such that  $Q(\zeta) = z_0$ , we can continue  $f_\omega(z)$  to a rational function on a neighborhood of  $\zeta$  by  $f_\omega(z) = f_\omega(Q(z))/\psi_\omega(Q(z))$ . And so, it is easily verified that  $\bigcup_{m \geq 1} P^m(U) = C$ , therefore for all  $\zeta \in C$ , we can continue  $f_\omega(z)$  to a rational function on a neighborhood of  $\zeta$  by repeating above process. And then, all of the function element on a neighborhood of  $\zeta$  are compatible as the direct analytic continuation from  $D$ . Thus we can continue  $f_\omega(z)$  to a rational function  $F(z)$  on an open set  $U \supset \bar{D}$ .

We can choose an open set  $W$  such that  $U \supset W \supset \bar{D}$  and  $P(W) \subset U$ , then for all  $z \in W$ ,

$$\psi_\omega(z)F(P(z))=F(z). \quad (2.1)$$

Now, the radius of convergence of  $f(z)$  is one and there is a pole  $\eta$  of  $F(z)$  such that  $|\eta|=1$ .

**Lemma 2.**  $\eta$  is a periodic point of  $P$ .

*Proof.* By (2.1), we have  $\psi_\omega(\eta)F(P(\eta))=F(\eta)$ . Hence, if  $F(\eta)=\infty$ , then  $F(P(\eta))=\infty$  and  $P(\eta)$  is a pole of  $F(z)$ . The same discussion shows that  $P^n(\eta)$  is also a pole of  $F(z)$  for  $n=0, 1, \dots$ . Here, if  $\eta$  is not a periodic point of  $P$ , then  $\{P^n(\eta)\}_{n=0}^{+\infty}$  has some accumulated points on  $C$ . This contradicts the fact that  $F$  is a rational function on  $U$ .

Let  $\eta$  be a  $q$ -periodic point of  $P$  and  $\eta_0=P^{q-1}(\eta)$ . Then  $P^{-1}(\eta)$  has exactly  $n$ -different points  $\eta_0, z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{n-1}$ .

**Lemma 3.**  $\psi_\omega(z_j)=0$  for  $j=1, \dots, n-1$ .

*Proof.* If  $\psi_\omega(z_j) \neq 0$ , then by (2.1),  $F(z_j)=\psi_\omega(z_j)F(\eta)=\infty$ . Therefore,  $z_j$  is a pole of  $F$ . Then by the same discussion as Lemma 1, we have  $z_j$  is a periodic point of  $P$ . This contradicts the fact that  $\eta$  is a  $q$ -periodic point and  $P^{q-1}(\eta)=\eta_0 \neq z_j$ .

By the above lemma,  $\psi_\omega(z)$  must have at least  $n-1$  different zeros. On the other hand,  $\psi_\omega(z)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n-1$  at most. Hence we obtain  $\psi_\omega(z)=\prod_{j=1}^{n-1}(1-z/z_j)$ . And now, making the same discussion as above, we also obtain  $P^{-1}(\eta_0)=\{P^{q-1}(\eta_0), z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{n-1}\}$ . Therefore  $\eta_0=\eta$  and  $\eta$  is a fixed point of  $P$ . Hence we obtain  $\psi_\omega(z)=\prod_{j=1}^{n-1}(1-z/z_j)$  where  $P^{-1}(P(z_j))=\{P(z_j), z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{n-1}\}$ . By the elementary calculation, the above condition implies that  $\psi_\omega(z)$  is one of the exceptional cases.

### §3. The natural boundary and Julia set.

In the preceding section, we show that the solution of (1.3) has the natural boundary at  $|z|=1$  except for a few cases. It is also known that Julia set of  $z \rightarrow z^n$  is  $|z|=1$ . This correspondence will lead us to a new problem. Let us consider a functional equation

$$f(z)=\psi(z)f(P(z)), \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\psi$  is a given entire function and  $P$  is a given polynomial which satisfy  $\psi(0)=1$ ,  $P(0)=0$  and  $|P'(0)|<1$ . A continuous function  $f$  on an open set  $U$  is said to be the solution of (3.1) if  $P(U) \subset U$  and  $f(z)=\psi(z)f(P(z))$  for all  $z \in U$ . The problem is the relation between the natural boundary of the solution of (3.1) and the Julia set of  $P$ .

**Definition.** The stable set of 0 is the set

$$W_0^s = \{z: P^n(z) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow +\infty\}.$$

The immediate stable set  $A_0$  of 0 is the component of  $W_0^s$  containing 0.  $J(P)$  denotes the Julia set of  $P$ .

The following proposition is the known fundamental facts about  $W_0^s$ ,  $A_0$  and  $J(P)$ . See [1] for the proofs and the details.

**Proposition 3.** (1)  $W_0^s$  and  $A_0$  are open sets. The frontier of  $W_0^s$  is contained in  $J(P)$  and the frontier of  $A_0$  is also contained in  $J(P)$ . (2)  $W_0^s$  is completely invariant by  $P$  and  $A_0$  is forward invariant by  $P$ .

We can find the solution of (3.1) on  $W_0^s$  by the same method used in Theorem 2.

**Theorem 5.**

- (1)  $\prod_{k=0}^n \psi(P^k(z))$  is uniformly convergent on  $W_0^s$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .
- (2) The limit  $F(z) = \prod_{k=0}^{+\infty} \psi(P^k(z))$  is the solution of (3.1) on  $W_0^s$ .
- (3) Every solution of (3.1) on a neighborhood of 0 coincides with  $\alpha F(z)$  for some  $\alpha \in C$  on some neighborhood of 0.

*Proof.* (1) We can choose  $\lambda$  and a bounded open set  $V \ni 0$  so as to satisfy  $|P'(0)| < \lambda < 1$ ,  $P(V) \subset V$  and  $|P(z)| < \lambda|z|$  for all  $z \in V$ . Then let  $R = \sup_{z \in V} |z|$ , we have

$$|P^n(z)| < \lambda^n R \quad \text{for all } n=1, 2, \dots \text{ and } z \in V.$$

Hence,  $\log |\psi(P^k(z))| < c\lambda^k$  for some  $c > 0$ . Therefore,  $e^{c\lambda^k}$  is the majorant of  $\psi(P^k(z))$ .  $\prod_{k=0}^{+\infty} e^{c\lambda^k}$  is obviously convergent to  $e^{c\lambda/\lambda-1}$  and this implies that  $\prod_{k=0}^n \psi(P^k(z))$  is uniformly convergent on  $V$ . Now, for all compact set  $K \subset W_0^s$ , we have  $P^k(K) \subset V$  for sufficiently large  $k$ . Hence we can also obtain that  $\prod_{k=0}^n \psi(P^k(z))$  is uniformly convergent on  $K$ . Thus,  $\prod_{k=0}^n \psi(P^k(z))$  is uniformly convergent on  $W_0^s$ .

(2) This is obvious by the definition of  $F(z)$  and (1).

(3) Let  $f(z)$  be a solution of (3.1) on an open set  $U \ni 0$ . We can choose an open set  $W \ni 0$  such that  $U \cap A_0 \supset W$  and  $P(W) \subset W$ . Then for all  $z \in W$ , we have  $f(z) = \psi(z)\psi(P(z))\dots\psi(P^{n-1}(z))f(P^n(z))$ . Here,  $\prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \psi(P^j(z))$  and  $f(P^n(z))$  are uniformly convergent to  $F(z)$  and  $f(0)$  on  $W$  respectively. Thus, we obtain

$$f(z) = f(0)F(z) \quad \text{on } W.$$

Now we can state our problem precisely.

**Problem.** When does the natural boundary of  $F(z)|_{A_0}$  coincide with the frontier of  $A_0$ ?

The following theorem is one of the sufficient conditions to our problem, which is very simple and meaningful.

**Theorem 6.** If there is  $\eta \in A_0$  such that  $\psi(\eta) = 0$ , then the natural boundary of  $F(z)|_{A_0}$  is the frontier of  $A_0$ .

*Proof.* **Lemma.** Let  $\zeta \in A_0$  and  $P^m(\zeta) = \eta$ , then  $F(\zeta) = 0$ .

*Proof.* This is obvious by the equation

$$F(\zeta) = \psi(\zeta) \dots \psi(P^m(\zeta)) F(P^{m+1}(\zeta)).$$

It is easily verified that  $P: A_0 \rightarrow A_0$  is surjective. Therefore, we have  $(P|_{A_0})^{-m}(\eta) \neq \emptyset$  for all  $m \geq 1$ . Then, by the above lemma, the accumulated points of  $\bigcup_{m \geq 1} (P|_{A_0})^{-m}(\eta)$  is the accumulated points of the zero's of  $F|_{A_0}$ . By the theorem of identity, the accumulated points of the zero's of  $F|_{A_0}$  are contained in  $\partial A_0$ . Therefore we obtain the following lemma.

**Lemma.** *There exists  $\xi \in \partial A_0$  such that  $F|_{A_0}$  can not be continued to any rational map on a neighborhood of  $\xi$ .*

Now, if  $F|_{A_0}$  can be continued to some analytic function on an open set  $U \ni A_0$ , then making use of the same argument as is used in the proof of Theorem 4,  $F|_{A_0}$  can be continued to a rational map on an neighborhood of  $\xi$ . This contradicts to the preceding lemma.

**Remark.** In [10], Odlyzko has studied the functional equation (1.4) and encountered a problem similar to ours. To avoid the confusion with our notation, we rewrite (1.4) as

$$g(z) = \phi(z) + g(P(z)). \quad (3.2)$$

Odlyzko assume that  $P(z)$  and  $\phi(z)$  are nonzero polynomial with real nonnegative coefficients, which satisfy  $\phi(0) = P(0) = P'(0) = 0$ . If we consider the exponential form of (3.2),  $e^{g(z)} = e^{\phi(z)} e^{g(P(z))}$  and let  $e^{g(z)} = f(z)$  and  $e^{\phi(z)} = \psi(z)$ , then it comes to our functional equation (3.1). Odlyzko has proved that the natural boundary of the solution of (3.1) is the Julia set of  $P$  under some extensive assumptions.

**Remark.** If  $\psi(z)$  and  $P(z)$  are formal power series, we can define a linear map  $T_\psi^P: C[[z]] \rightarrow C[[z]]$  by  $T_\psi^P(f)(z) = \psi(z)f(P(z))$ . The eigen vector of  $T_\psi^P$  is given by the formal power series  $\prod_{k=0}^{+\infty} \left( \frac{1}{\psi(0)} \psi(P^k(z)) \right)$  when  $\psi(0) \neq 0$ ,  $P(0) = 0$  and  $P'(0) = 0$ . This formal power series represents an invariant broken line under  $T_\psi^P$ . So, we can generate a broad class of crinkly broken lines by the transformations  $T_\psi^P$ .

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