

# Marker automorphisms of the one-sided $d$ -shift

JONATHAN ASHLEY

Department of Mathematical Sciences, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center,  
PO Box 218, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, USA

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*Abstract.* We identify a set of generators for the automorphism group of the one-sided  $d$ -shift. For the 3-shift, this set of generators has an application to the dynamics of cubic polynomials.

## 1. Introduction

The *one-sided  $d$ -shift*,  $X_d$ , is defined to be the set

$$X_d = \prod_{i=0}^{\infty} \{0, 1, \dots, d-1\},$$

with the topology given by the product of the discrete topologies on the coordinate spaces. The shift map  $\sigma: X_d \rightarrow X_d$  defined by

$$(\sigma(x))_i = x_{i+1}$$

is a continuous  $d$ -to-1 map. In this paper we study the group of homeomorphisms  $\psi: X_d \rightarrow X_d$  that commute with the shift  $\sigma$ . We denote this group by  $\text{aut}(X_d, \sigma)$ ; it is the group of automorphisms of the dynamical system  $(X_d, \sigma)$ .

The system  $(X_d, \sigma)$  is *isomorphic* to the system  $(J_p, p)$ , where  $p$  is a degree  $d$  complex polynomial all of whose critical points escape to infinity and  $J_p$  is the Julia set of  $p$  [B]. For  $(X_d, \sigma)$  and  $(J_p, p)$  to be *isomorphic* or *conjugate* as dynamical systems means that there is a homeomorphism  $\psi: J_p \rightarrow X_d$  with  $\psi \circ p = \sigma \circ \psi$ .

Blanchard et al. [BDK] have constructed automorphisms of  $(J_p, p)$  where  $p$  is a cubic polynomial all of whose critical points escape to infinity. These automorphisms are given by traversing loops in a parameter space for cubic polynomials. In conversation with me, Linda Keen and Robert Devaney posed the question: Does this construction give all of the automorphisms of  $(J_p, p)$ ? The answer is yes. We prove this by identifying the automorphisms of  $(J_p, p) \cong (X_3, \sigma)$  arising from their construction as those given by a simple combinatorial algorithm; and, using the algorithm, prove that these automorphisms generate the automorphism group of  $(X_3, \sigma)$ ,  $\text{aut}(X_3, \sigma)$ .

In § 2, we state a result of Boyle et al. [BFK] giving a certain set of generators for  $\text{aut}(X_d, \sigma)$ , called *marker* automorphisms.

In §§ 3 and 4 we show a way to factor a marker automorphism into a composition of *minimal marker* automorphisms; these are the automorphisms arising from the construction of Blanchard, Devaney and Keen (as shown in § 6).

In § 5 we present a simplified algorithm for constructing minimal marker automorphisms.

In § 6 we show that the minimal marker automorphisms of  $(X_3, \sigma)$  are exactly the automorphisms constructed by Blanchard, Devaney and Keen.

2. Marker automorphisms and state splitting

Let  $G_{st} \subseteq \text{aut}(X_d, \sigma)$  be that subgroup of automorphisms  $g$  such that

$$g(x)_i = x_i \text{ if } x_i \neq s \text{ and } x_i \neq t, x \in X_d.$$

Thus  $g \in G_{st}$  fixes all symbols except perhaps  $s$  and  $t$ . In [BFK], Boyle, Franks and Kitchens show that  $\{G_{st}: 0 \leq s, t \leq d - 1\}$  generate  $\text{aut}(X_d, \sigma)$  and that  $G_{st}$  is generated by marker automorphisms. To describe the construction of marker automorphisms we must first explain the state splitting algorithm.

State splitting

Let  $G_0$  be the directed graph with one state,  $\varepsilon$ , and  $d$  directed edges  $e_0, \dots, e_{d-1}$  from state  $\varepsilon$  to itself. Edge  $e_i$  is labeled with symbol  $i$ ; we denote the labeling function as  $L_{G_0}$ , or  $L$  if no confusion is possible. Thus  $L(e_i) = i$ . The system  $(X_d, \sigma)$  is obviously conjugate to the symbolic system  $(\Sigma_{G_0}, \sigma)$ , where for a directed graph  $G$ , we define

$$\Sigma_G = \{e_{i_0}e_{i_1}e_{i_2} \dots : \text{edge } e_{i_{j+1}} \text{ follows } e_{i_j} \text{ in } G\}.$$

The conjugacy is given by extending the map  $L$  to  $\Sigma_{G_0}$  by setting

$$L(e_{i_0}e_{i_1} \dots) = L(e_{i_0})L(e_{i_1}) \dots = i_0i_1 \dots.$$

We say that a labeled graph  $G$  presents  $X_d$  if  $L_G: \Sigma_G \rightarrow X_d$  is a conjugacy from  $(\Sigma_G, \sigma)$  to  $(X_d, \sigma)$ .

Given any labeled directed graph  $G$  presenting  $X_d$  we may define a new graph  $G'$  as follows. Denote by  $\mathcal{F}(S)$  the set of edges in  $G$  whose initial state is state  $S$ . For each state  $S_i$  in  $G$ , choose a partition  $\{S_i^{(1)}, \dots, S_i^{(r_i)}\}$  of the set of edges  $\mathcal{F}(S_i)$ . The states of  $G'$  are defined to be  $\{S_i^{(j)}: S_i \text{ is a state of } G \text{ and } 1 \leq j \leq r_i\}$ . For each edge  $e \in S_i^{(j)}$  whose terminal state is  $S_k$ ,  $G'$  has  $r_k$  edges:

$$S_i^{(j)} \xrightarrow{a} S_k^{(l)}, \quad 1 \leq l \leq r_k$$

each labeled with  $a = L_G(e)$ . The graph  $G'$  is said to be obtained from  $G$  by one round of (forward) state splitting. We show in Corollary (2.2) that  $G'$  presents  $X_d$ .

Denote the set  $\{x \in X_d: x_0 = b_0, \dots, x_{k-1} = b_{k-1}\}$  by the string  $b = b_0b_1 \dots b_{k-1}$ . The set  $b$  is called a  $k$ -block.

LEMMA 2.1. Let  $G$  be a graph obtained from  $G_0$  by a finite number  $k \geq 0$  of rounds of state splitting. The states  $\mathcal{S}$  of  $G$  partition  $X_d$  where we identify state  $S \in \mathcal{S}$  with the set

$$S = \{x \in X_d: L(p) = x \text{ where } p \text{ is a path in } G \text{ starting at state } S\}.$$

The edges  $\mathcal{E}$  of  $G$  also partition  $X_d$ , where we identify  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  with the set

$$e = \{x \in X_d: L(p) = x \text{ where } p \text{ is a path in } G \text{ with } p_0 = e\}.$$

Moreover, the states of  $G$  are unions of  $k$ -blocks and the edges of  $G$  are unions of

$(k + 1)$ -blocks. Each state of  $G$  has exactly  $d$  incoming edges, labeled distinctly from the set  $\{0, 1, \dots, d - 1\}$ .

*Proof.* The proof is an induction on  $k$ . When  $k = 0$ ,  $G = G_0$ . The edge  $e_i$  of  $G_0$  is identified with the 1-block  $i$  of  $X_d$ . Thus the edges

$$\mathcal{E}_0 = \{e_0, \dots, e_{d-1}\} = \{0, \dots, d - 1\}$$

partition the space  $X_d$  into 1-blocks. The single state of  $G_0$  is identified with the set  $X_d$ ; in block notation, the single state of  $G_0$  is the 0-block denoted by the empty word  $\varepsilon$ : no coordinates are specified.

Let  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  be the set of states and of edges of  $G$ . The state splitting rule says exactly that if  $G'$  is obtained from  $G$  by a round of splitting then

$$\mathcal{S} \leq \mathcal{S}' \leq \mathcal{E}$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}' = \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1}\mathcal{S}'$$

where  $\mathcal{S}'$  and  $\mathcal{E}'$  are the states and edges of  $G'$  and

$$\sigma^{-1}\mathcal{S}' = \{\sigma^{-1}S'_1, \dots, \sigma^{-1}S'_n\}$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}' = \{S'_1, \dots, S'_n\}.$$

Thus if each  $S \in \mathcal{S}$  is a union of  $k$ -blocks and each  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  is a union of  $(k + 1)$ -blocks, then each  $S' \in \mathcal{S}'$ , being a union of elements of  $\mathcal{E}$ , is a union of  $(k + 1)$ -blocks and each  $e' \in \mathcal{E}'$  is a union of  $(k + 2)$ -blocks. Now for each edge  $e' \in \mathcal{E}'$ , we have  $\sigma(e') = S'$ , where  $S'$  is the terminal state of  $e'$  in graph  $G'$ . Thus, the incoming edges of state  $S'$  in  $\mathcal{S}'$  are  $0S', 1S', \dots, (d - 1)S'$ . □

**COROLLARY 2.2.** *If graph  $G$  is as in Lemma (2.1), the map  $L: \Sigma_G \rightarrow X_d$  is a conjugacy. Thus  $G$  presents  $X_d$ .*

*Proof.* If  $x \in X_d$ , then the unique path  $p$  in  $G$  labeled by  $x$  is given by  $p_0p_1 \dots$ , where  $p_0 \supseteq x_0x_1 \dots x_k$ ,  $p_1 \supseteq x_1x_2 \dots x_{k+1}$ , etc. Thus  $L^{-1}: X_d \rightarrow \Sigma_G$  is given by the  $(k + 1)$ -block map  $L^{-1}(x_ix_{i+1} \dots x_{i+k}) = e$  where  $e$  is that edge in graph  $G$  with  $e \supseteq x_i \dots x_{i+k}$ . □

**Marker automorphisms**

Define, after Nasu [N], a *simple* automorphism of  $X_d$  to be an automorphism  $\varphi$  of the form

$$\varphi = L \circ \psi \circ L^{-1},$$

where  $L: \Sigma_G \rightarrow X_d$  is the label conjugacy for some graph  $G$  obtained from  $G_0$  by state splitting and  $\psi$  is an automorphism of  $\Sigma_G$  given by switching two fixed edges  $e_{i_0}$  and  $e_{i_1}$  in graph  $G$ , where  $e_{i_0}$  and  $e_{i_1}$  are *parallel* edges: they have a common initial state  $P$  and a common final state  $M$ .

In terms of  $X_d$ ,  $\varphi$  is a *marker* automorphism: it acts on  $x \in X_d$  only where a marker occurs in  $x$  as follows. If  $L(e_{i_0}) = a$  and  $L(e_{i_1}) = b$ , then  $\varphi$  switches symbol

$a$  with symbol  $b$  wherever  $a$  or  $b$  is followed by a  $k$ -block  $c \subseteq M$  (recall that states of  $G$  are unions of  $k$ -blocks in  $X_d$ ). To emphasize the marker  $M$  we denote  $\varphi$  by  $\varphi_M$ .

It follows from a more general result in [BFK] that

**THEOREM 2.3.** *The simple automorphisms generate  $\text{aut}(X_d)$ .*

We concentrate on describing markers for automorphisms of  $X_d$  switching symbols 1 and 2 for definiteness. Marker automorphisms switching other symbols are conjugate to these.

**Definition 2.4.** A  $k$ -block marker  $M$  is a union of  $k$ -blocks that occurs as a union of states, each with parallel incoming edges labeled 1 and 2, occurring in a graph  $G$  obtained from  $G_0$  by state splitting. We say that graph  $G$  presents marker  $M$ .

**Observation 2.5.** If a graph  $G$  simultaneously presents markers  $M_1, \dots, M_r$ , then the automorphisms  $\varphi_{M_1}, \dots, \varphi_{M_r}$  pair-wise commute. If in addition the  $M_i$  are disjoint sets, then the product of  $\varphi_{M_1}, \dots, \varphi_{M_r}$  is given by the marker automorphism with marker  $\bigcup_i M_i$ .

*Proof.* The automorphism  $\varphi_{M_i}$  is given by  $L \circ \psi_i \circ L^{-1}$ , where  $\psi_i$  is the automorphism of  $\Sigma_G$  given by switching certain pairs of edges of graph  $G$ . The  $\psi_i$  pair-wise commute because each leaves any pair of edges switched by another set-wise fixed. If the  $M_i$  are disjoint, no two of the  $\psi_i$  switch the same pair of edges. Therefore, the set of pairs of edges switched by the product of all  $\psi_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , is the union over  $1 \leq i \leq r$  of the set of pairs switched by  $\psi_i$ . □

In fact, a converse to (2.5) is true, but we do not use it.

We now show that any  $k$ -block marker  $M$  is presented by a graph  $G$  that is obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of state splitting. First we must characterize those partitions  $\mathcal{S}$  of  $X_d$  obtained by state splitting the graph  $G_0$ .

If  $a \subseteq X_d$  and  $\mathcal{S}$  is a partition of  $X_d$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{S}|a$  the induced partition of the set  $a$ .

**LEMMA 2.6.** *Let  $\mathcal{S}$  be a partition of  $X_d$  coarser than the partition of  $X_d$  into all  $k$ -blocks. Then  $\mathcal{S}$  is given by state splitting  $G_0$  iff*

$$\mathcal{S} \geq \sigma(\mathcal{S}|a) \quad \text{for all 1-blocks } a \subseteq X_d.$$

*Moreover, if the condition is satisfied,  $\mathcal{S}$  is obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of splitting.*

*Proof.* We prove ( $\Leftarrow$ ). The other direction is an easy consequence of Lemma 2.1. If  $a$  is a  $k$ -block, denote  $|a| = k$ . Now

$$\mathcal{S} \geq \bigvee_{|a|=1} \sigma(\mathcal{S}|a)$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \bigvee_{|b|=l} \sigma^l(\mathcal{S}|b) &\geq \bigvee_{|b|=l} \sigma^l\left(\left[\bigvee_{|a|=1} \sigma(\mathcal{S}|a)\right] \Big| b\right) \\ &= \bigvee_{|b|=l} \bigvee_{|a|=1} \sigma^l([\sigma(\mathcal{S}|a)]|b) \\ &= \bigvee_{|b|=l} \bigvee_{|a|=1} \sigma^{l+1}(\mathcal{S}|ab) \\ &= \bigvee_{|c|=l+1} \sigma^{l+1}(\mathcal{S}|c), \quad l \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

If we denote

$$\mathcal{S}_l = \bigvee_{|a|=k-l} \sigma^{k-l}(\mathcal{S} | a) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{S}_k = \mathcal{S},$$

we have

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_k \geq \mathcal{S}_{k-1} \geq \dots \geq \mathcal{S}_1 \geq \mathcal{S}_0 = \{X_d\}.$$

Let

$$\mathcal{E}_l = \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}_l, \quad 0 \leq l \leq k,$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_0 = \{0, 1, \dots, d-1\}$ . We claim that  $\mathcal{S}_{l+1}$  and  $\mathcal{E}_{l+1}$  are the states and edges of a graph  $G_{l+1}$  obtained by one round of state splitting from a graph  $G_l$ ,  $0 \leq l \leq k-1$ . It only remains to show

$$\mathcal{S}_l \leq \mathcal{E}_{l-1} = \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}_{l-1} = \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \cdot \bigvee_{|b|=k-l+1} \sigma^{k-l+1}(\mathcal{S} | b).$$

If  $e$  and  $e'$  are in the same atom of the right-hand-side, then  $e = ad$  and  $e' = ad'$ , where  $|a|=1$ , and where for all  $(k-l+1)$ -blocks  $b$ ,  $bd$  and  $bd'$  are in the same atom of  $\mathcal{S}$ . In particular, for all  $(k-l)$ -blocks  $c$ ,  $cad$  and  $cad'$  are in the same atom of  $\mathcal{S}$ . Hence  $e = ad$  and  $e' = ad'$  are in the same atom of  $\mathcal{S}_l$ . □

We denote the complement of a subset  $M$  of  $X_d$  by  $M^c$ .

LEMMA 2.7. *Let  $M$  be a finite union of  $k$ -blocks. The partition*

$$\mathcal{S} = \bigvee_{\substack{\{b: b \text{ is a} \\ \text{block, and} \\ 0 \leq |b| \leq k\}}} \{\sigma^{|b|}(M \cap b), \sigma^{|b|}(M^c \cap b)\}$$

*is the unique coarsest partition having  $M$  as a union of atoms among all partitions of  $X_d$  obtained by rounds of state splitting from graph  $G_0$ . Moreover, the partition  $\mathcal{S}$  can be obtained by  $k$  rounds of splitting from graph  $G_0$ .*

*Proof.* We first show that  $\mathcal{S}$  is a partition obtained by state splitting  $G_0$ . If  $a$  is a 1-block then

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\mathcal{S} | a) &= \bigvee_{\{b: 0 \leq |b| \leq k\}} \{\sigma^{|ba|}(M \cap ba), \sigma^{|ba|}(M^c \cap ba)\} \\ &= \{\phi, X_d\} \vee \bigvee_{\{b: 0 \leq |b| \leq k-1\}} \{\sigma^{|ba|}(M \cap ba), \sigma^{|ba|}(M^c \cap ba)\} \\ &\leq \mathcal{S}. \end{aligned}$$

Now the elements of  $\mathcal{S}$  are unions of  $k$ -blocks, so  $\mathcal{S}$  is obtained by  $k$  rounds of state splitting from  $G_0$  by Lemma 2.6. We now show  $\mathcal{P} \geq \mathcal{S}$  for any partition  $\mathcal{P}$  of  $X_d$  obtained by splitting  $G_0$  having  $M$  as a union of atoms. For each  $P \in \mathcal{P}$ , either  $P \subseteq M$  or  $P \subseteq M^c$ . Hence for each block  $b$ , either  $\sigma^{|b|}(P \cap b) \subseteq \sigma^{|b|}(M \cap b)$  or  $\sigma^{|b|}(P \cap b) \subseteq \sigma^{|b|}(M^c \cap b)$ . Hence

$$\sigma^{|b|}(\mathcal{P} | b) \geq \{\sigma^{|b|}(M \cap b), \sigma^{|b|}(M^c \cap b)\}.$$

Because  $\mathcal{P}$  is obtained by splitting, we have by Lemma 2.6 and an induction on the length of  $b$  that

$$\mathcal{P} \cong \sigma^{|b|}(\mathcal{P} | b).$$

Thus

$$\mathcal{P} \cong \bigvee_{|b| \geq 0} \{ \sigma^{|b|}(M \cap b), \sigma^{|b|}(M^c \cap b) \} = \mathcal{S}. \quad \square$$

We can now show

**THEOREM 2.8.** *Any  $k$ -block marker  $M$  is presented by a graph  $G$  obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of splitting.*

*Proof.* Let  $G$ , by Lemma 2.7, be the graph obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of splitting whose states  $\mathcal{S}$  give the unique coarsest partition of  $X_d$  among all graphs obtained by splitting  $G_0$  and having  $M$  as a union of states. We must show  $G$  presents  $M$  as a marker. Let  $G'$  be any graph with states  $\mathcal{S}'$  that presents  $M$  as a marker. The states of  $G'$  are invariant under the automorphism  $\varphi_M$ , and since  $\mathcal{S} \leq \mathcal{S}'$ , the states  $\mathcal{S}$  of  $G$  are invariant as well. In particular, if  $S \in \mathcal{S}$  is such that  $S \subseteq M$ , then  $1S$  and  $2S$  are contained in the same state  $P \in \mathcal{S}$ . Thus there are parallel edges labeled 1 and 2 from state  $P$  to state  $S$  in  $G$ . Thus graph  $G$  presents the marker  $M$ .  $\square$

### 3. Minimal markers

In this section we show that any  $k$ -block marker  $M$  can be partitioned into a union of  $k$ -block markers that are minimal with respect to inclusion among all  $k$ -block markers. These markers are defined by a particular kind of state splitting.

*Notation.* Denote the union of 1-blocks  $1 \cup 2$  by  $\bar{0}$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $M$  be a marker presented by a graph  $G$  and let  $U \subseteq M$  be any subset of  $M$ . The  $U$ -complete round of state splitting of  $G$  is defined as follows: each state  $P$  of  $G$  is partitioned into states

$$\{ a_1 Q_1, \dots, a_k Q_k, \bar{0} M_1, \dots, \bar{0} M_l \},$$

where

- (i)  $M_i$  is a marker state with  $\bar{0} M_i \subseteq P$  and  $M_i \cap U \neq \emptyset$ ,
- (ii)  $Q_j$  is a state with 1-block  $a_j \notin \{1, 2\}$  or  $\bar{0} Q_j \not\subseteq P$  or  $Q_j \cap U = \emptyset$ .

The  $U$ -complete round of splitting gives the finest possible partition of the states of  $G$  subject to the constraint that the set  $U$  remain contained in a marker in  $G'$ .

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $M$  be a marker presented by a graph  $G$  and let  $U \subseteq M$  be any subset of  $M$ . A round of splitting on  $G$  is  $U$ -preserving if for each state  $P$  of  $G$ , the partition of  $P$  given by the splitting is coarser than the partition of  $P$  given by the  $U$ -complete splitting.

A  $U$ -preserving splitting preserves  $U$  as a subset of a marker in  $G'$ .

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $a$  be a  $k$ -block in  $X_d$ . Define the marker  $m_a$  to be the state containing  $a$  in the graph  $G_k$  obtained from graph  $G_0$  from  $k$  rounds of  $a$ -complete splitting.

LEMMA 3.4. *The set of  $k$ -blocks in  $X_d$  is partitioned by*

$$\{m_a : a \text{ is a } k\text{-block in } X_d\}.$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $b$  is a  $k$ -block with  $b \subseteq m_a$ . We show  $m_b = m_a$  giving that if  $m_a \cap m_b \neq \emptyset$ , then  $m_a = m_b$ . Let  $G_j$  be the graph resulting from  $j$  rounds of  $a$ -complete splitting applied to  $G_0$ . The  $k$ -blocks  $a$  and  $b$  are contained in the same single state of  $G_j$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq k$ , since this is true of  $G_k$ . Thus the  $k$  rounds of splitting leading to  $G_k$  are also  $b$ -complete. Thus  $m_a = m_b$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 3.5. *Let  $G$  be a graph presenting marker  $M$  and let  $U \subseteq M$ . If  $G_1$  is the graph obtained from  $G$  by  $n$  rounds of  $U$ -complete splitting and  $G_2$  is any graph obtained from  $G$  by  $n$  rounds of  $U$ -preserving state splitting, then the partition of  $X_d$  given by the states of  $G_1$  refines the partition of  $X_d$  given by the states of  $G_2$ .*

*Proof.* An easy induction on the number of rounds of splitting.  $\square$

We can now prove the main theorem of this section.

THEOREM 3.6. *Any  $k$ -block marker  $M$  is partitioned by*

$$\{m_a : a \text{ is a } k\text{-block contained in } M\}.$$

*Proof.* By Theorem 2.8,  $M$  is presented by a graph  $G$  obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of state splitting. For any  $k$ -block  $a \subseteq M$ , each of the  $k$  rounds of splitting is  $a$ -preserving (because it is  $M$ -preserving). By Lemma 3.5, the partition of  $X_d$  given by the graph  $G'$  obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of  $a$ -complete splitting refines the partition of  $X_d$  given by the states of  $G$ . Thus the state  $m_a$  of  $G'$  is contained in that state  $S$  of  $G$  with  $a \subseteq S$ . Now  $a \subseteq M$ , so  $S \subseteq M$ , so  $m_a \subseteq M$ . Now apply Lemma 3.4 to conclude that  $M$  is partitioned by  $\{m_a : a \text{ is a } k\text{-block contained in } M\}$ .  $\square$

We may introduce a tree  $\mathcal{T}$  of markers defined as follows:

- (i) the root of  $\mathcal{T}$  is the 0-block marker  $\varepsilon$ .
- (ii) the children of a marker  $m$  of length  $k$  are the markers

$$\{ma : a \text{ is a } (k+1)\text{-block contained in } m\}$$

in the partition of  $m$  into  $(k+1)$ -block markers.

COROLLARY 3.7. *Given a  $k$ -block  $a$ , there is unique marker minimal with respect to inclusion among all  $k$ -block markers that contain  $a$ : namely,  $m_a$ .*

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.6 any  $k$ -block marker  $M$  containing the  $k$ -block  $a$  also contains  $m_a$ .  $\square$

#### 4. Factoring a marker automorphism

We now show that  $\text{aut}(X_d, \sigma)$  is generated by

$$\{\varphi_m : m \text{ is a minimal marker}\}.$$

We do this by showing that any marker automorphism  $\varphi_M$  factors into minimal marker automorphisms and then apply Theorem 2.3.

THEOREM 4.1. *Let  $M$  be an  $n$ -block marker for the automorphism  $\varphi_M$  of  $X_d$  switching the symbols 1 and 2 in  $x \in X_d$  when followed in  $x$  by any  $n$ -block in  $M$ .*

- (1) The automorphism  $\varphi_M$  can be factored into the automorphisms  $\varphi_{\bar{m}_1}, \dots, \varphi_{\bar{m}_i}$ , where  $\{\bar{m}_1, \dots, \bar{m}_i\}$  is the partition of  $M$  into minimal markers of length  $n$ .
- (2) The automorphism  $\varphi_M$  can be iteratively factored as follows:

$$\varphi_{M \circ m} = \varphi_{M \circ m^{(1)}} \circ \varphi_{M \circ m^{(2)}} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{M \circ m^{(r)}}$$

where  $m$  is a minimal marker of length  $k \geq 0$  and  $\{m^{(1)}, \dots, m^{(r)}\}$  is the partition of  $m$  into minimal markers of length  $k + 1$ . Moreover, the factors

$$\varphi_{M \circ m^{(1)}}, \dots, \varphi_{M \circ m^{(r)}}$$

pair-wise commute.

*Proof.* Statement (1) follows from statement (2) and an induction on the length  $k$  of  $m$ : observe that  $M = M \cap \varepsilon$  and that statement (2) enables us to work our way down the tree  $\mathcal{T}$  of minimal markers to factor  $M \cap \varepsilon$  as claimed.

We prove statement (2). Let  $\bar{m}_1$  be one of the  $n$ -block minimal markers  $\{\bar{m}_1, \dots, \bar{m}_i\}$  that partition  $M$ . Let

$$\varepsilon = m_0^{(1)} \supseteq m_1^{(1)} \supseteq \dots \supseteq m_n^{(1)} = \bar{m}_1$$

be the sequence of minimal markers leading from the root of the tree  $\mathcal{T}$  to the  $n$ -block marker  $\bar{m}_1$ . For  $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$ , let

$$\{m_k^{(1)}, m_k^{(2)}, \dots, m_k^{(r_k)}\}$$

be the partition of  $m_{k-1}^{(1)}$  into minimal markers of length  $k$ .

For  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , let  $G_k$  be the graph obtained from  $G_0$  by  $k$  rounds of  $m_n^{(1)}$ -complete splitting. Notice that  $m_k^{(1)}, m_k^{(2)}, \dots, m_k^{(r_k)}$  all occur as marker states in graph  $G_k$ . Thus  $G_{k+1}$  is obtained from  $G_k$  by one round of  $m_k^{(1)}$ -complete splitting.

Let  $G'_0$  be any graph obtained from  $G_0$  by state splitting that presents marker  $M$ . For  $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$ , inductively define  $G'_{k+1}$  as the graph obtained from  $G'_k$  by one round of  $M \cap m_k^{(1)}$ -complete splitting.

We have two sequences of graphs:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} G_0 & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & G_1 & \xrightarrow{m_1^{(1)}} & G_2 & \xrightarrow{m_2^{(1)}} & \dots \xrightarrow{m_{n-1}^{(1)}} G_n \\ G'_0 & \xrightarrow{M \cap \varepsilon} & G'_1 & \xrightarrow{M \cap m_1^{(1)}} & G'_2 & \xrightarrow{M \cap m_2^{(1)}} & \dots \xrightarrow{M \cap m_{n-1}^{(1)}} G'_n. \end{array}$$

We will show by induction on  $k$  that the partition  $\mathcal{S}'_k$  of  $X_d$  given by the states of  $G'_k$  refines the partition  $\mathcal{S}_k$  of  $X_d$  given by the states of  $G_k$ . This is clear for  $k = 0$  because  $\mathcal{S}_0 = \{\varepsilon\} = \{X_d\}$ .

Now suppose  $\mathcal{S}_k \leq \mathcal{S}'_k$ . We have

$$\mathcal{S}_{k+1} \leq \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}_k$$

and

$$\mathcal{S}'_{k+1} \leq \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}'_k$$

by the proof of Lemma 2.1. Now  $\mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}_k \leq \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}'_k$  by the inductive hypothesis. We need only show that if two atoms  $e$  and  $f$  of  $\mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1} \mathcal{S}'_k$  are contained in the same atom of  $\mathcal{S}'_{k+1}$ , then  $e$  and  $f$  are contained in the same atom of  $\mathcal{S}_{k+1}$ .



Assume  $e$  and  $f$  are such atoms of  $\mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1}\mathcal{S}'_k$ . By the definition of  $m_k^{(1)} \cap M$ -complete state splitting, we have that  $e = 1m'$  and  $f = 2m'$ , where:

- (i)  $m'$  is an atom of  $\mathcal{S}'_k$
- (ii)  $\bar{0}m'$  is contained in an atom  $p'$  of  $\mathcal{S}'_k$
- (iii)  $m' \cap m_k^{(1)} \cap M \neq \emptyset$ .

Now since  $\mathcal{S}_k \leq \mathcal{S}'_k$ , there are atoms  $m, p \in \mathcal{S}_k$  with  $m' \subseteq m$  and  $p' \subseteq p$ . Now  $1m \cap p \supseteq 1m' \cap p' = 1m' \neq \emptyset$ . But  $\mathcal{S}_k \leq \mathcal{E}_0 \vee \sigma^{-1}\mathcal{S}_k$ , so  $1m \subseteq p$ . Similarly,  $2m \subseteq p$ . Also,  $m \cap m_k^{(1)} \supseteq m' \cap m_k^{(1)} \cap M \neq \emptyset$ . Thus, by the definition of  $m_k^{(1)}$ -complete splitting,  $\bar{0}m$  is an atom of  $\mathcal{S}_{k+1}$ . But  $e \cup f = \bar{0}m' \subseteq \bar{0}m$ ; in particular  $e$  and  $f$  are in the same atom of  $\mathcal{S}_{k+1}$ . Thus  $\mathcal{S}_{k+1} \leq \mathcal{S}'_{k+1}$ , completing the induction.

We now show by induction that the graph  $G'_k$  presents each of

$$M \cap m_k^{(1)}, M \cap m_k^{(2)}, \dots, M \cap m_k^{(r_k)}$$

as a marker, for  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . This is true for  $k = 0$ , since  $M = M \cap \varepsilon = M \cap m_0^{(1)}$ . Now suppose that the hypothesis is true for  $k$ . As  $G'_{k+1}$  is obtained from  $G'_k$  by a round of  $M \cap m_k^{(1)}$ -complete splitting, the graph  $G'_{k+1}$  also presents  $M \cap m_k^{(1)}$  as a marker (perhaps spread over more states). As  $\mathcal{S}_{k+1} \leq \mathcal{S}'_{k+1}$  and as  $m_{k+1}^{(i)}, 1 \leq i \leq r_{k+1}$ , occur as states of the graph  $G_{k+1}$ , the sets  $m_{k+1}^{(i)}, 1 \leq i \leq r_{k+1}$ , occur as unions of states in the graph  $G'_{k+1}$ . Hence the set  $(M \cap m_k^{(1)}) \cap m_{k+1}^{(i)} = M \cap m_{k+1}^{(i)}$  occurs as a union of states in the graph  $G'_{k+1}$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq r_{k+1}$ . But all states of  $G'_{k+1}$  contained in  $M \cap m_k^{(1)}$  are marker states. Thus  $M \cap m_{k+1}^{(i)}$  is presented as a marker in graph  $G'_{k+1}$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq r_{k+1}$ . This completes the induction.

That

$$\varphi^{M \cap m_k^{(1)}} = \varphi^{M \cap m_{k+1}^{(1)}} \circ \varphi^{M \cap m_{k+1}^{(2)}} \circ \dots \circ \varphi^{M \cap m_{k+1}^{(r_{k+1})}}$$

and that the factors commute follows from Observation (2.5). This completes the proof of statement (2).

**Example 4.2.** Minimal marker automorphisms do not always commute even if they have the same length. For example,

$$\varphi_{210}\varphi_{10\bar{0}} = \varphi_{10\bar{0}}\varphi_{110\bar{0}}\varphi_{2100}$$

and  $\varphi_{210} \neq \varphi_{110\bar{0}}\varphi_{2100}$ . The automorphism  $\varphi_{210}\varphi_{10\bar{0}}$  has order 4. The automorphism  $\varphi_{01\bar{0}}\varphi_{210}$  has infinite order, as can be seen by observing the orbit of the point  $(2220)^n 1(2)^\infty$ . In particular, the size of the orbit is at least  $n/2$ . Thus a union of minimal markers need not be a marker.

### 5. A minimal marker algorithm

We have already stated an algorithm that computes the minimal marker  $m_a$  containing a given  $k$ -block  $a$ : namely, perform  $k$  rounds of  $a$ -complete splitting on the graph  $G_0$  and observe the contents of the state containing the  $k$ -block  $a$  in the resulting graph.

The algorithm we present below keeps track of only a few states of the graph after each round of  $a$ -complete splitting. In the algorithm, the elements of the set  $M_i$  are the states in the graph  $G_i$  that partition the marker state  $m_{i-1}$  containing the  $k$ -block  $a$  in graph  $G_{i-1}$ , for  $i \geq 1$ . The elements of the set  $P_i$  are the states in the

graph  $G_i$  that partition the state  $p_{i-1}$  containing  $\bar{0}m_{i-1}$  in graph  $G_{i-1}$ ,  $i \geq 1$ . In understanding the algorithm it might be helpful to keep in mind that all of the states in graph  $G_i$  are of the form  $b_1b_2 \dots b_i$  with  $b_j \in \{\bar{0}, 0, 1, 2, \dots, d-1\}$ .

We present the algorithm for the case  $d = 3$ . The only change needed when  $d > 3$  is in the initialization step 0, where the set  $P_1$  should be set to  $P_1 := \{\bar{0}, 0, 3, 4, \dots, d-1\}$ .

ALGORITHM 5.1. *Given a  $k$ -block  $a$ , construct the minimal marker  $m_a$  containing  $a$ .*

0. *Initialize:*

- $i := 1,$
- $M_0 := \{\varepsilon\},$
- $m_0 := \varepsilon,$
- $P_0 := \{\varepsilon\},$
- $P_1 := \{\bar{0}, 0\}.$

1. *Loop:*

*If  $\bar{0}$  occurs in  $m_{i-1}$  then:*

$$u := \text{prefix of } m_{i-1} \text{ preceding the first occurrence of } \bar{0}.$$

*If  $\bar{0}$  does not occur in  $m_{i-1}$  then:*

$$u := m_{i-1}$$

$$j := |u|.$$

- 2.  $M_i := \{ux : x \in P_{i-j}\}.$
- 3.  $m_i :=$  that marker in  $M_i$  such that  $m_i \cap a \neq \emptyset.$
- 4. *If  $i = |a|$  then:*

$$m_a := m_i \quad \text{and stop,}$$

*otherwise*

$$P_{i+1} := \{\bar{0}m_i\} \cup \{1x : x \in M_i \text{ and } x \neq m_i\} \cup \{2x : x \in M_i \text{ and } x \neq m_i\}.$$

- 5.  $i := i + 1$  and go to 1.

THEOREM 5.2. *Algorithm 5.1 correctly computes the minimal marker  $m_a$  containing the  $n$ -block  $a$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $G_i$  be the graph obtained from  $G_{i-1}$  by one round of  $a$ -complete state splitting, for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We make two inductive hypotheses:

- (i) The sets in  $M_i$  are those states in  $G_i$  that partition the unique state  $m_{i-1}$  in  $G_{i-1}$  with  $m_{i-1} \cap a \neq \emptyset,$
- (ii) The sets in  $P_i$  are those states in  $G_i$  that partition the unique state  $p_{i-1}$  in  $G_{i-1}$  with  $\bar{0}m_{i-1} \subseteq p_{i-1}.$

These statements are clear for the case  $i = 1$ . We assume (i) and (ii) are true for  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$ , and show that they are true for  $i = k$ , where  $k \geq 2$ .

We show (ii). By the application of step 4 when  $i = k-2$  (or by step 0 if  $k = 2$ ) we have  $p_{k-1} = \bar{0}m_{k-2}$  in graph  $G_{k-1}$ . By hypothesis (i), state  $m_{k-2}$  in graph  $G_{k-2}$  is partitioned into the states in  $M_{k-1}$  in graph  $G_{k-1}$ . Thus, in graph  $G_{k-1}$ , state  $p_{k-1}$

has outgoing edges

$$\{1x: x \in M_{k-1}\} \cup \{2x: x \in M_{k-1}\}.$$

Now  $m_{k-1} \in M_{k-1}$  is that unique state in graph  $G_{k-1}$  with  $m_{k-1} \cap a \neq \emptyset$  (by step 3 when  $i = k - 1$ ). Thus, a round of  $a$ -complete splitting applied to  $G_{k-1}$  partitions state  $p_{k-1}$  into the elements of

$$P_k = \{\bar{0}m_{k-1}\} \cup \{1x: x \in M_{k-1} \text{ and } x \neq m_{k-1}\} \cup \{2x: x \in M_{k-1} \text{ and } x \neq m_{k-1}\}.$$

This proves (ii). □

In showing (i), it is helpful to establish the following

*Claim.* If  $p$  is a state of  $G_i$  and  $u_j u_{j-1} \dots u_1$  is a string over  $\{0, 1, \dots, d - 1\}$  where  $i + j \leq k$ , then the following are equivalent:

- (a) For  $1 \leq l \leq j$ , either  $u_l \notin \{1, 2\}$  or  $u'p \cap a = \emptyset$ , where  $u'$  is the suffix of  $u$  of length  $l - 1$ ,
- (b)  $up$  occurs as a state of  $G_{i+j}$ .

*Proof of claim.* If (a), then  $u_l u_{l-1} \dots u_1 p$  occurs in graph  $G_{i+l}$ ,  $1 \leq l \leq j$ , by the definition of  $a$ -complete splitting and an induction on  $l$ .

If not (a), let  $l$  be the least integer such that  $u_l \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $u'p \cap a \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $u'p$  occurs as a state in graph  $G_{i+l-1}$  (by (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b)) and since  $G_{i+l-1}$  was obtained from  $G_0$  by rounds of  $a$ -complete splitting,  $u'p$  is a *marker* state. Thus  $\bar{0}u'p$  occurs as a state of  $G_{i+l}$ . Thus any state in  $G_{i+j}$  which contains  $up$  also contains  $u_j \dots u_{l+1} \bar{0}u'p$ . Therefore (b) is false. This proves the claim.

We show (i). If  $u := \varepsilon$  in step 1 when  $i = k$ , then  $m_{k-1} = p_{k-1}$  and  $M_k = P_k$  (by step 3). But we have already shown that  $P_{k-1}$  is partitioned by a round of  $a$ -complete splitting into the states in  $P_k$ .

If  $u$  is not set equal to  $\varepsilon$  in step 1, then  $u = u_j u_{j-1} \dots u_1$  for some  $j \geq 1$ , and  $m_{k-1} = u_j u_{j-1} \dots u_1 p$  where  $p$  is, by step 2, some element of  $P_{k-1-j}$ . In fact  $p = \varepsilon$  if  $k - 1 - j = 0$  (by step 0), or  $p = \bar{0}m_{k-2-j}$  if  $k - 1 - j > 0$  (by step 4). In either case  $p = p_{k-1-j}$ , the unique state of  $G_{k-1-j}$  with  $\bar{0}m_{k-1-j} \subseteq p_{k-1-j}$  (by inductive hypothesis (ii)).

By inductive hypothesis (ii), the state  $p_{k-1-j}$  in graph  $G_{k-1-j}$  is partitioned into states  $P_{k-j} = \{q^{(1)}, \dots, q^{(r)}\}$  in graph  $G_{k-j}$ . Since  $m_{k-1} = u_j u_{j-1} \dots u_1 p_{k-1-j}$ , we have by the claim ((b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a)) that for  $1 \geq l \leq j$ ,

$$\text{either } u_l \notin \{1, 2\} \text{ or } u'p_{k-1-j} \cap a = \emptyset,$$

where  $u'$  is the suffix of  $u$  of length  $l - 1$ . Hence we also have

$$\text{either } u_l \notin \{1, 2\} \text{ or } u'q^{(i)} \cap a = \emptyset \text{ where } q^{(i)} \in P_{k-j}.$$

Thus, by the claim ((a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b)),  $uq^{(i)}$  occurs as a state of  $G_k$ . Since  $\{uq^{(1)}, \dots, uq^{(r)}\}$  is a partition of  $u p_{k-1-j} = m_{k-1}$ , we have that state  $m_{k-1}$  in graph  $G_{k-1}$  is partitioned into

$$\{ux: x \in P_{k-j}\}$$

in graph  $G_k$ . This proves hypothesis (i) and the theorem. □

*Example 5.3.* We apply the algorithm to  $a = 020$ .

i	$M_i$	$m_i$	$P_i$
0	$\{\varepsilon\}$	$\varepsilon$	$\{\varepsilon\}$
1	$\{\bar{0}, 0\}$	0	$\{\bar{0}, 0\}$
2	$\{0\bar{0}, 00\}$	$0\bar{0}$	$\{0\bar{0}, 1\bar{0}, 2\bar{0}\}$
3	$\{0\bar{0}\bar{0}, 01\bar{0}, 02\bar{0}\}$	$0\bar{0}\bar{0}$	$\{0\bar{0}\bar{0}, 100, 200\}$ .

**6. An application to the dynamics of cubic polynomials**

In this section we describe a construction of Blanchard et al. [BDK] that motivated this paper. We apologize to those authors for the shortcomings of this description.

If  $R: \bar{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{C}}$  is a rational map then the *Fatou set*  $F_R$  is defined by

$$F_R = \{z \in \bar{\mathbb{C}}: \exists \text{ a neighborhood } U \text{ of } z \text{ so that the iterates of } R, \text{ when restricted to } U, \text{ form a normal family}\}.$$

The *Julia set*  $J_R$  is defined to be the complement of  $F_R$ .

If  $p$  is a degree  $d$  polynomial over  $\mathbb{C}$  all of whose critical points escape to infinity under iteration of  $p$ , then

$$J_p = \{z \in \mathbb{C}: \{p^n(z)\} \text{ is a bounded sequence}\}$$

and  $J_p$  is a Cantor set. As a dynamical system,  $(J_p, p)$  is conjugate to the one-sided  $d$ -shift [B].

Blanchard, Devaney and Keen have constructed automorphisms of  $(J_p, p)$  for cubic polynomials  $p$  [BKK]. In their construction, an automorphism of  $(J_p, p)$  is obtained by traversing a loop starting and ending at the polynomial  $p$  in the space  $\mathcal{P}_3$  of cubic polynomials both of whose critical points escape to infinity. We are not qualified to delve into the parameterization or description of this space [BH].

For  $p \in \mathcal{P}_3$  one can define (we do not) the rate-of-escape function  $h_p: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  [BH]. The function  $h_p$  has the properties that

- (i)  $h_p(p(z)) = 3h_p(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{C}$
- (ii)  $J_p = \{z \in \mathbb{C}: h_p(z) = 0\}$
- (iii)  $h_p$  is continuous and  $h_p$  is harmonic outside of  $J_p$ .

A polynomial  $p \in \mathcal{P}_3$  is chosen by Blanchard et al. [BDK] so that the two critical points  $c^{(1)}$  and  $c^{(2)}$  of  $p$  are such that

$$h_p(p(c^{(1)})) < \rho < h_p(p(c^{(2)}))$$

and  $\{z: h_p(z) = \rho\}$  is a Jordan curve enclosing  $J_p$ . In figure 1, we have labeled the curve  $\{z: h_p(z) = \rho\}$  as  $\Gamma_\rho$ . Let

$$D_\rho = \{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho\}.$$

The set  $p^{-1}(D_\rho) = \{z: h_p(z) \leq \frac{1}{3}\rho\}$  has two connected components: A disk  $D_0$  which maps by  $p$  in a degree 1 manner onto  $D_\rho$ , and a disk  $D_{\bar{0}}$  containing  $c^{(1)}$  which maps in a degree 2 manner onto  $D_\rho$ .

If  $p(c^{(1)})$  is connected to  $\Gamma_\rho$  by an arc  $\gamma$  along which  $h_p(z)$  is increasing to  $h_p(z) = \rho$ , then the preimage of this arc divides the interior of  $D_{\bar{0}}$  into two regions:  $U_1$  and  $U_2$ . If we denote the interior of  $D_0$  by  $U_0$ , we can coordinatize the Julia

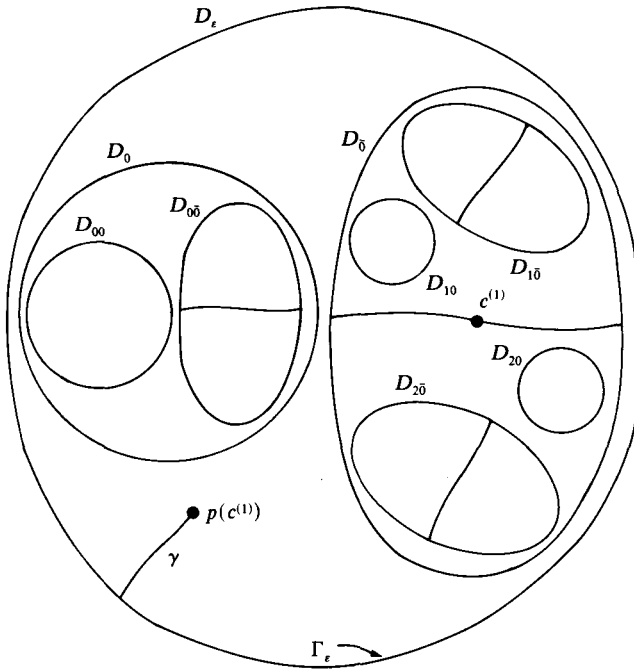


FIGURE 1

set  $J_p$  by  $\psi : J_p \rightarrow X_3$  defined by

$$\psi(z) = a_0 a_1 a_2 \dots,$$

where  $p^n(z) \in U_{a_n}$ . The map  $\psi$  is a conjugacy from  $(J_p, p)$  to  $(X_3, \sigma)$ .

For each  $k \geq 0$ , we denote each connected component of the set  $\{z : h_p(z) = \rho/3^k\}$  by  $D_u$ , where  $u$  is the set  $\psi(J_p \cap D_u)$  in  $X_3$ . The set  $u \subseteq X_3$  is actually a union of  $k$ -blocks since  $p^k D_u = D_\epsilon$ . For example, in figure 2,  $D_{0\bar{0}}$  is the connected component of  $\{z : h_p(z) \leq (1/3^2)\rho\}$  that contains  $\psi^{-1}(0\bar{0})$ .

According to Blanchard et al. [BDK], the polynomial  $p \in \mathcal{P}_3$  may be chosen so that the critical value  $p(c^{(1)})$  is in the same connected component of  $\{z : h_p(z) \leq (1/3^{k-1})\rho\}$  as  $\psi^{-1}(a) \in J_p$  where  $a$  is any  $(k-1)$ -block in  $X_3$ , for any  $k > 0$ . We address the essentially combinatorial question: What is the configuration of the level curves  $h_p(z) = (1/3^k)\rho$  as a function of the location of the critical value  $p(c^{(1)})$ ? This question was pointed out to me by Linda Keen and is of interest because Blanchard, Devaney and Keen have constructed a loop in the space of polynomials  $\mathcal{P}_3$ , parameterized by  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ , such that:

- (i)  $p_0 = p_1 = p$
- (ii)  $h_{p_t}(p_t(c_i^{(1)})) = \rho/3^k$ , where  $c_i^{(1)}$  is a critical point of  $p$ ,
- (iii)  $h_{p_t}(p_t(c_i^{(2)})) > \rho$
- (iv)  $p_t(c_i^{(1)})$  winds once around exactly one of the connected components, say  $D_u$ , of  $\{z : h_{p_t}(z) < \rho/3^k\}$  and winds zero times around all other such components.

In fact,  $p_t$  is given by  $p_t = \psi_t \circ \varphi_t \circ p \circ \psi_t^{-1}$  where  $\psi_t$  and  $\varphi_t$  are quasi-conformal homeomorphisms of  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\varphi_t$  is the identity on  $J_p$ , for  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ . Hence  $p_t \psi_t = \psi_t p$



In particular, the connected component of  $\{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^{k-1}\}$  containing the point  $p(c^{(1)})$  is  $D_{m_a}$ , and the connected components of  $D_{m_a} \cap \{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^k\}$  are  $D_{m_1}, \dots, D_{m_r}$ , where  $m_1, \dots, m_r$  are the minimal markers of length  $k$  that partition the marker  $m_a$ .

*Remark.* The proof of the theorem does not really depend on the degree  $d \geq 3$  of  $p$ . We state it for  $d = 3$  only for definiteness and simplicity.

*Proof.* We induct on  $k$ . The case  $k = 1$  is true by the definition of  $D_e, D_0$ , and  $D_{\bar{0}}$  given above. Supposing the theorem is true for  $k$ , we prove it for  $k + 1$ . Let  $a$  be a  $k$ -block such that  $p(c^{(1)})$  is in the same connected component of  $\{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^k\}$  as  $\psi^{-1}(a)$ . Let  $S$  be any state in  $G_k$ . Now

$$p(D_S) \cap J_p = \psi^{-1}(\sigma(S)).$$

But

$$\sigma(S) = \bigcup \{S': \text{state } S' \text{ follows state } S \text{ in } G_k\},$$

so the inductive hypothesis gives that the connected components of

$$p(D_S) \cap \{z: h(z) \leq \rho/3^k\}$$

are

$$\{D_{S'}: \text{state } S' \text{ follows state } S \text{ in } G_k\}.$$

The remainder of the proof divides into two cases.

*Case 1.*  $c^{(1)} \notin D_S$ . We have  $D_S \subseteq D_0 \cup D_{\bar{0}}$  and  $c^{(2)} \notin D_0 \cup D_{\bar{0}}$ , so  $p|_{D_S}$  is 1-to-1. So the connected components of  $D_S \cap \{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^{k+1}\}$  are

$$\{p^{-1}(D_{S'}) \cap D_S: \text{state } S' \text{ follows state } S \text{ in } G_k\}.$$

But  $\psi(J_p \cap p^{-1}(D_{S'}) \cap D_S) = S \cap \sigma^{-1}S'$ , so this set is

$$\{D_{S \cap \sigma^{-1}S'}: \text{state } S' \text{ follows state } S \text{ in } G_k\}.$$

Since  $p|_{D_S}$  is 1-to-1,  $\sigma|_S$  is 1-to-1 also, so no parallel edges begin at state  $S$  in  $G_k$ . Thus state  $S$  in  $G_k$  is completely split into its following edges:

$$\{S \cap \sigma^{-1}S': S' \text{ follows } S \text{ in } G_k\}.$$

This completes Case 1.

*Case 2.*  $c^{(1)} \in D_S$ . Again  $D_S \subseteq D_0 \cup D_{\bar{0}}$ , so  $c^{(2)} \notin D_S$ . Thus  $p|_{D_S}$  is 2-to-1 except at  $c^{(1)}$ .

By the inductive hypothesis  $\psi^{-1}(a) \subseteq D_{m_a}$  because  $m_a$  is the state in graph  $G_k$  with  $a \subseteq m_a$ . By assumption  $p(c^{(1)}) \in D_{m_a}$ . Hence  $D_{m_a}$  is a connected component of

$$p(D_S) \cap \{z: h(z) \leq \rho/3^k\}.$$

As  $c^{(1)} \in D_S$ , we have  $D_S \subseteq D_{\bar{0}}$ , so  $S \subseteq \bar{0}$ . Thus  $S = p_k$ , the unique state in  $G_k$  with  $\bar{0}m_a \subseteq p_k$ . Now  $p^{-1}(D_{m_a}) \cap D_S$  has a single connected component  $D$  mapping 2-to-1 onto  $D_{m_a}$  (except at  $c^{(1)}$ ) because  $p(c^{(1)}) \in D_{m_a}$  and  $c^{(1)} \in D_S$ . Now

$$\psi(J_p \cap D) = \psi(J_p \cap p^{-1}(D_{m_a}) \cap D_S) = \sigma^{-1}m_a \cap S = \bar{0}m_a.$$

Thus  $D = D_{\bar{0}m_a}$ . Any other connected component  $D_{S'}$  of

$$p(D_S) \cap \{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^k\}$$

is such that  $p^{-1}(D_{S'}) \cap D_S$  has two connected components,  $D^{(1)}$  and  $D^{(2)}$ , each mapping 1-to-1 onto  $D_{S'}$ . As  $p|_{D^{(i)}}$  is 1-to-1 onto  $D_{S'}$ ,  $\sigma|_{\psi(J_p \cap D^{(i)})}$  is 1-to-1 onto  $S'$ . Now  $D^{(i)} \subseteq D_{\bar{0}}$ , so  $\psi(J_p \cap D^{(i)}) \subseteq \bar{0}$ . Thus

$$\{\psi(J_p \cap D^{(1)}), \psi(J_p \cap D^{(2)})\} = \{1S', 2S'\},$$

so the connected components of

$$D_S \cap \{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^{k+1}\}$$

are

$$\{D_u: \text{state } u \text{ in graph } G_{k+1} \text{ is partitioned from state } S \text{ in graph } G_k\}.$$

This completes Case 2. □

*Example 6.2.* Figure 2 gives the nesting of the components of  $\{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^k\}$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3$  when  $p(c^{(1)})$  is the same connected component of  $\{z: h_p(z) \leq \rho/3^2\}$  as  $\psi^{-1}(02)$ . We list below the corresponding states of  $G_k$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3$ .

$k$	States of $G_k$
0	$\{\varepsilon\}$
1	$\{\bar{0}, 0\}$
2	$\{\bar{00}, 1\bar{0}, 2\bar{0}, 0\bar{0}, 00\}$
3	$\{\bar{00}\bar{0}, 100, 200, 1\bar{0}0, 11\bar{0}, 12\bar{0}, 2\bar{0}0, 21\bar{0}, 22\bar{0}, 0\bar{0}0, 01\bar{0}, 02\bar{0}, 000, 00\bar{0}\}$

Compare to example (5.3).

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