

Periodic point free continuous self-maps on graphs and surfaces

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A **discrete dynamical system** (\mathbb{M}, f) is formed by a topological space \mathbb{M} and a continuous map $f : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{M}$.

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We denote the **set of periods** of all the periodic points of f by $\text{Per}(f)$.

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What kind of results we want to obtain?

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The following two results are well known:

Let $f : \mathbb{S}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1$ be a continuous map of degree d . If $\text{Per}(f) = \emptyset$ (i.e. if f is **periodic point free**), then $d = 1$.

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Let $f : \mathbb{T}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^2$ be a continuous map of degree d . If $\text{Per}(f) = \emptyset$, then the eigenvalues of f_{*1} are 1 and d .

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LI. Alsedà, S. Baldwin, J. Llibre, R. Swanson and W. Szlenk,
Minimal sets of periods for torus maps via Nielsen numbers,
Pacific J. of Math. **169** (1995), 1–32.

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The **tools** used for proving these results can be applied for studying the periodic point free continuous self-maps of many other compact absolute neighborhood retract spaces.

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A **graph** is a union of **vertices** (points) and **edges**, which are homeomorphic to the closed interval, and have mutually disjoint interiors. The endpoints of the edges are vertexes (not necessarily different) and the interiors of the edges are disjoint from the vertices.

GRAPH THEOREM

Let \mathbb{G} be a connected compact graph such that $\dim_{\mathbb{Q}} H_1(\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{Q}) = r$, and let $f : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}$ be a continuous map.

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An **orientable connected compact surface WITHOUT boundary** of genus $g \geq 0$, \mathbb{M}_g , is homeomorphic to the sphere if $g = 0$, to the torus if $g = 1$, or to the connected sum of g copies of the torus if $g \geq 2$.

An orientable connected compact surface WITHOUT boundary of genus $g \geq 0$, \mathbb{M}_g , is homeomorphic to the sphere if $g = 0$, to the torus if $g = 1$, or to the connected sum of g copies of the torus if $g \geq 2$.

An orientable connected compact surface WITH boundary of genus $g \geq 0$, $\mathbb{M}_{g,b}$, is homeomorphic to \mathbb{M}_g minus a finite number $b > 0$ of open discs having pairwise disjoint closures. In what follows $\mathbb{M}_{g,0} = \mathbb{M}_g$.

ORIENTABLE SURFACE THEOREM

Let $\mathbb{M}_{g,b}$ be an orientable connected compact surface of genus $g \geq 0$ with $b \geq 0$ boundary components, and $f : \mathbb{M}_{g,b} \rightarrow \mathbb{M}_{g,b}$ be a continuous map. The degree of f is d if $b = 0$.

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NON-ORIENTABLE SURFACE THEOREM

Let $\mathbb{N}_{g,b}$ be a non-orientable connected compact surface of genus $g \geq 1$ with $b \geq 0$ boundary components, and let $f : \mathbb{N}_{g,b} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_{g,b}$ be a continuous map.

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Given a continuous map $f : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{M}$ it induces linear maps $f_{*k} : H_k(\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow H_k(\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{Q})$ on the homological spaces of \mathbb{M} .

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Every linear map f_{*k} is given by an $n_k \times n_k$ matrix with integer entries, where n_k is the dimension of $H_k(\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{Q})$.

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One of the main results connecting the algebraic topology with the fixed point theory is the **Lefschetz Fixed Point Theorem** which establishes the existence of a fixed point if $L(f) \neq 0$.

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If we consider the Lefschetz number of f^m , in general, it is not true that $L(f^m) \neq 0$ implies that f has a periodic point of period m ;

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If we consider the Lefschetz number of f^m , in general, it is not true that $L(f^m) \neq 0$ implies that f has a periodic point of period m ; it only implies the existence of a periodic point of period a divisor of m .

From the Lefschetz Fixed Point Theorem it follows immediately the next result.

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PROPOSITION 1

Let M be a polyhedron. A necessary condition in order that a map $f : M \rightarrow M$ be **periodic point free** (i.e. $\text{Per}(f) = \emptyset$) is that all Lefschetz numbers $L(f^m)$ be zero for $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

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PROPOSITION 1

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We define that a continuous self-map f of \mathbb{M} is **Lefschetz periodic point free** if $L(f^m) = 0$ for $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

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The Lefschetz zeta function $\mathcal{Z}_f(t)$ is a generating function for all the Lefschetz numbers of all iterates of f .

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$$\mathcal{Z}_f(t) = \prod_{k=0}^n \det(\text{Id}_k - t f_{*k})^{(-1)^{k+1}},$$

where $n = \dim \mathbb{M}$ and Id_k is the identity map of $H_k(\mathbb{M}, \mathbb{Q})$, and by convention $\det(\text{Id}_k - t f_{*k}) = 1$ if $n_k = 0$.

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Note that the Lefschetz zeta function is a **rational function with integers coefficients**, so the power series defining it converges.

Moreover, the Lefschetz zeta function with a **finite number of integers** (the coefficients of the rational function) keeps the information of the infinite sequence $\{L(f^m)\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ for $m = 1, 2, \dots$

From the definition of Lefschetz zeta function and Proposition 1 it follows immediately the next result.

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PROPOSITION 2

A necessary condition in order that a map $f : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{M}$ be periodic point free is that the Lefschetz zeta function $\mathcal{Z}_f(t) = 1$.

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Then, f_{*1} is an $r \times r$ matrix, and f_{*0} is the 1×1 matrix (1) because \mathbb{G} is connected.

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Therefore, if $p(\lambda)$ is the characteristic polynomial of the matrix f_{*1} , we have

$$\mathcal{Z}_f(t) = \prod_{k=0}^1 \det(\text{Id}_k - t f_{*k})^{(-1)^{k+1}} = \frac{\det(\text{Id} - t f_{*1})}{1 - t}.$$

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Therefore, from the following equalities the characteristic polynomial of f_1^* must be $p(\lambda) = (-1)^r(\lambda^r - \lambda^{r-1})$, because then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{Z}_f(t) &= \frac{\det(\text{Id} - tf_{*1})}{1-t} = \frac{t^r \det\left(\frac{1}{t}\text{Id} - f_{*1}\right)}{1-t} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^r t^r \det\left(f_{*1} - \frac{1}{t}\text{Id}\right)}{1-t} = \frac{(-1)^r t^r p\left(\frac{1}{t}\right)}{1-t} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{2r} t^r \left(\frac{1}{t^r} - \frac{1}{t^{r-1}}\right)}{1-t} = 1.\end{aligned}$$

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Clearly the zeros of the characteristic polynomial $(-1)^r \lambda^{r-1}(\lambda - 1)$ are 1 and 0, this last with multiplicity $r - 1$.

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Hence the **GRAPH THEOREM** is proved.

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We recall the homological spaces of $\mathbb{M}_{g,b}$ with coefficients in \mathbb{Q} , i.e.

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Preliminaries, definitions and results

The tools

The proof for continuous self-maps on graphs

The proof for continuous self-maps on orientable surfaces

The proof for continuous self-maps non-orientable surfaces

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The characteristic polynomial of f_1^* must be

$p(\lambda) = \lambda^{2g} - (d+1)\lambda^{2g-1} + d\lambda^{2g-2}$, because then $\mathcal{Z}_f(t) =$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{k=0}^2 \det(\text{Id}_k - t f_{*k})^{(-1)^{k+1}} &= \frac{\det(\text{Id} - t f_{*1})}{(1-t)(1-dt)} \\ &= \frac{t^{2g} \det\left(\frac{1}{t} \text{Id} - f_{*1}\right)}{1 - (d+1)t + dt^2} = \frac{t^{2g} \det\left(f_{*1} - \frac{1}{t} \text{Id}\right)}{1 - (d+1)t + dt^2} = \frac{t^{2g} p\left(\frac{1}{t}\right)}{1 - (d+1)t + dt^2} \\ &= \frac{t^{2g} \left(\frac{1}{t^{2g}} - (d+1)\frac{1}{t^{2g-1}} + d\frac{1}{t^{2g-2}}\right)}{1 - (d+1)t + dt^2} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly the zeros of the characteristic polynomial

$\lambda^{2g} - (d + 1)\lambda^{2g-1} + d\lambda^{2g-2} = \lambda^{2g-2}(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - d)$ are 1 , d and 0 , this last with multiplicity $2g - 2$.

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Hence the **ORIENTABLE SURFACE THEOREM** is proved when $b = 0$.

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The talk is based in the article:

J. Llibre, [Periodic point free continuous self-maps on graphs and surfaces](#), *Topology and its Applications* **159** (2012), 2228–2231.

Outline

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The end

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION