Mandelbrot and Sierpinski arcs and spirals

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TCD2015

E. Chang (Boston University) Mandelbrot and Sierpinski arcs and spirals

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Outline

1 Introduction and Exploration

- 2 Classification of the parameter plane
- 3 Exploration
- 4 The setup
- 5 The payoff
- **6** n = 4, d = 3
- Payoff part 2



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- 8 The future

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The Rational Map

• Consider the function

$$F_{\lambda}(z) = z^n + \frac{\lambda}{z^d}, \quad z, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$$
 (1)

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- F_{λ} most likely behaves differently for different λ . How can we visualize that information?
- Let's take a look, for n = 2, d = 3.



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• Some program drew this parameter plane arranged into differently colored regions. What do they correspond to?



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- The parameter plane has Re(λ) and Im(λ) for axes, and different values of λ probably result in different behavior for F_λ.



- Some program drew this parameter plane arranged into differently colored regions. What do they correspond to?
- The parameter plane has $Re(\lambda)$ and $Im(\lambda)$ for axes, and different values of λ probably result in different behavior for F_{λ} .
- Let's see what the dynamical plane looks like as we fix λ at different values:

λ outside the spaceship thing



• • • • • • • • • • • •

λ outside the spaceship thing



• That's kind of neat

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Image: A math a math

λ in an orange region



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λ in an orange region



• Pretty cool.

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• That looks more or less the same.

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- That looks more or less the same.
- We could say something about topological conjugacy



- That looks more or less the same.
- We could say something about topological conjugacy
- but we won't.

λ in a black spot



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λ in a black spot



• What is happening here?

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Where to begin?

• If only we had a way to classify the regions in the parameter plane.

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- If only we had a way to classify the regions in the parameter plane.
- Such a way exists, based on the Julia set and orbits of the critical values of F_{λ} .

Where to begin?

- If only we had a way to classify the regions in the parameter plane.
- Such a way exists, based on the Julia set and orbits of the critical values of F_{λ} .
- Apologies if the following is boring to you:

• For
$$F_{\lambda}(z) = z^2 + \frac{\lambda}{z^3}, \ z, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$$

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• For
$$F_{\lambda}(z) = z^2 + \frac{\lambda}{z^3}$$
, $z, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$
• There are 5 critical points given by $c^{\lambda} = \left(\frac{3\lambda}{2}\right)^{1/5}$.

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• For
$$F_{\lambda}(z) = z^2 + \frac{\lambda}{z^3}, \ z, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$$

- There are 5 critical points given by $c^{\lambda} = \left(\frac{3\lambda}{2}\right)^{1/5}$.
- Each has a corresponding critical value $v^{\lambda} = \frac{5\lambda^{2/5}}{3^{3/5}2^{2/5}}$.

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• Each has a corresponding critical value $v^{\lambda} = \frac{5\lambda^{2/5}}{3^{3/5}2^{2/5}}.$

• There are also 5 prepoles given by $p^{\lambda} = (-\lambda)^{1/5}$.

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- When |z| is large, $|F_{\lambda}(z)| > |z|$ and so the point at ∞ is an attracting fixed point in the Riemann sphere. We denote the immediate basin of attraction of ∞ by B_{λ} .

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- There are also 5 prepoles given by $p^{\lambda}=(-\lambda)^{1/5}.$
- When |z| is large, $|F_{\lambda}(z)| > |z|$ and so the point at ∞ is an attracting fixed point in the Riemann sphere. We denote the immediate basin of attraction of ∞ by B_{λ} .
- There is a pole at the origin, so there is a neighborhood of the origin that is mapped into B_λ. If the preimage of B_λ surrounding the origin is disjoint from B_λ, we call this region the trap door and denote it by T_λ.

The Julia set of F_λ, denoted J(F_λ), has several equivalent definitions. J(F_λ) is the set of all points at which the family of iterates of F_λ fails to be a normal family in the sense of Montel. Equivalently, J(F_λ) is the closure of the set of repelling periodic points of F_λ, and it is also the boundary of the set of points whose orbits tend to ∞ under iteration of F_λ.

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- $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ is where the dynamical behavior is interesting.
- The Fatou Set, or $\mathcal{F}(F_{\lambda})$, is the complement of $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ in the Riemann sphere.
- For us, it's not that interesting.
- So we want to look at the behavior of the critical values of F_{λ} for different λ . The dynamical plane is symmetric under rotation, so it is enough to look at any one critical value to see the behavior of all of them.

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Cantor set locus



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Cantor set locus



• v^{λ} lies in B_{λ} . In this case it is known that $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ is a Cantor set.



- v^{λ} lies in B_{λ} . In this case it is known that $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ is a Cantor set.
- The corresponding set of $\lambda\text{-values}$ in the parameter plane is called the Cantor set locus.

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Sierpinski holes



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• v^{λ} enters T_{λ} at iteration 2 or higher. In this case it is known that $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ is a Sierpinski curve, i.e. a set that is homeomorphic to the Sierpinski carpet fractal.

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- v^{λ} enters T_{λ} at iteration 2 or higher. In this case it is known that $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ is a Sierpinski curve, i.e. a set that is homeomorphic to the Sierpinski carpet fractal.
- The corresponding set of λ-values in the parameter plane are regions that we call Sierpinski holes.

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The connectedness locus



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The connectedness locus



• v^{λ} does not escape to ∞ .

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The connectedness locus



- v^{λ} does not escape to ∞ .
- The corresponding set of λ -values in the parameter plane includes the Mandelbrot sets. Together with the Sierpinski holes, this region is called the connectedness locus, as $\mathcal{J}(F_{\lambda})$ is a connected set for all λ in the locus.

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• For a λ in the next Sierpinski hole to the left:



- For a λ in the next Sierpinski hole to the left:
- v^{λ} enters T_{λ} at iteration 3.



- For a λ in the next Sierpinski hole to the left:
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- The next Sierpinski hole along the negative real axis probably has escape time 4.



- For a λ in the next Sierpinski hole to the left:
- v^{λ} enters T_{λ} at iteration 3.
- The next Sierpinski hole along the negative real axis probably has escape time 4.
- This idea of increasingly higher escape time Sierpinski holes might be interesting... let's look around some more.



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• There is the clearly visible principal Mandelbrot set.



- There is the clearly visible principal Mandelbrot set.
- Also two baby Mandelbrot sets.



- There is the clearly visible principal Mandelbrot set.
- Also two baby Mandelbrot sets.
- Six more baby Mandelbrot sets. Are there others?

Zooming In



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Zooming In



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Zooming In



• There is one between the two Sierpinski holes.

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Further along the negative real axis



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Further along the negative real axis



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Further along the negative real axis



• Looks like another one between the next pair of Sierpinski holes. Is there a pattern?

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• There are infinitely many Sierpinski holes along the negative real axis of the parameter plane.

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 Between each pair of Sierpinski holes is a Mandelbrot set, though it might be hard to see.

If it works the first 3 times, it works all the time



If it works the first 3 times, it works all the time



 We can't keep zooming in for each of the (infinite number of) Mandelbrot sets.

If it works the first 3 times, it works all the time



• Is there a way to prove the existence of this alternating arc of infinite Sierpinski holes and Mandelbrot sets using the dynamical plane?

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- To construct the objects in the Sierpinski Mandelbrot arc we will need to consider some closed sets in the dynamical plane.

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- This is the dynamical plane for n = 2, d = 3.
- To construct the objects in the Sierpinski Mandelbrot arc we will need to consider some closed sets in the dynamical plane.
- We will also restrict attention to an annular region in the parameter plane. The details aren't that important for this talk.

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 Let L^λ be the closed portion of the wedge with inner boundary in the trapdoor, outer boundary in the basin, and straight line boundaries that are part of the two adjacent prepole rays as shown.

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• Let L^{λ} be the closed portion of the wedge with inner boundary in the trapdoor, outer boundary in the basin, and straight line boundaries that are part of the two adjacent prepole rays as shown.

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• There is one critical point is in the interior of L^{λ} .



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Image: A math a math



- Let R^λ be the symmetric right wedge. The straight line boundaries are part of two adjacent critical point rays.
- There is one prepole in the interior of R^{λ} .



- Let R^λ be the symmetric right wedge. The straight line boundaries are part of two adjacent critical point rays.
- There is one prepole in the interior of R^{λ} .
- The critical value corresponding to the critical point in the interior of L^{λ} is in R^{λ} .

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The subset of the trapdoor



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The subset of the trapdoor



- Let T^{λ} be a closed subset of the trapdoor containing 0 such that $L^{\lambda} \cup T^{\lambda} \cup R^{\lambda}$ are connected, and they only intersect along boundaries.
- This union will be referred to informally as the bowtie.

• There are more parts to the proposition for the paper in the works, but the part we care about for now is:

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Proposition

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```
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```

- 2. Wait for the paper.
- 3. See part 2.



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• The critical point rays map to the prepole rays.



The critical point rays map to the prepole rays. The boundary of R^λ in B^λ maps to the outer arc on the right.



The critical point rays map to the prepole rays. The boundary of R^λ in B^λ maps to the outer arc on the right. The boundary of R^λ in T^λ maps to the outer arc on the left.

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- The critical point rays map to the prepole rays. The boundary of R^λ in B^λ maps to the outer arc on the right. The boundary of R^λ in T^λ maps to the outer arc on the left.
- Then the image of R^{λ} properly contains the interiors of both R^{λ} and L^{λ} .



- The critical point rays map to the prepole rays. The boundary of R^λ in B^λ maps to the outer arc on the right. The boundary of R^λ in T^λ maps to the outer arc on the left.
- Then the image of R^{λ} properly contains the interiors of both R^{λ} and L^{λ} .
- In other words, inside R^{λ} is a bowtie which consists of a preimage of L^{λ} , a preimage of T^{λ} , and a preimage of R^{λ} .

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Drawing a picture



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Drawing a picture



• Let's dress that dynamical plane up with a bowtie.

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Bowties in bowties



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• It turns out each preimage of L^{λ} and each preimage of T^{λ} corresponds to a Mandelbrot set and a Sierpinski hole, respectively, in the parameter plane.

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- Justification for this claim is at the end of the talk.
- So if you believe me, we have proven the existence of a set of infinitely many alternating Sierpinski holes and Mandelbrot sets in the parameter plane by finding a set of infinitely many alternating preimages of L^λ and T^λ!

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- There's definitely more going on for this function, but I want to talk about the case where n = 4, d = 3.

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The parameter plane for n = 4, d = 3



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The parameter plane for n = 4, d = 3



• Looks like we still have a set of infinitely many alternating Sierpinski holes and Mandelbrot sets along the negative real axis.

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The parameter plane for n = 4, d = 3



• Looks like we still have a set of infinitely many alternating Sierpinski holes and Mandelbrot sets along the negative real axis.

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• We should be able to prove that by a similar argument to n = 2, d = 3.

By analogy

• There are now 7 critical points, critical values, and prepoles.
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- Since there seems to be no reason we can't, let's construct L^{λ} , T^{λ} , and R^{λ} as before.

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 In fact, we can make another right wedge above the existing one. Let's refer to the wedge symmetric to L^λ as R₀^λ, and to the new one as R₁^λ. Looks like our bowtie is now lopsided.

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- There are now 7 critical points, critical values, and prepoles.
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- In fact, we can make another right wedge above the existing one. Let's refer to the wedge symmetric to L^λ as R₀^λ, and to the new one as R₁^λ. Looks like our bowtie is now lopsided.
- The existence of Mandelbrot sets and Sierpinski holes based on sets in the dynamical plane depends on being able to vary $Arg(\lambda)$ by a certain amount, and adding more right wedges in the n = 2, d = 3 case would have violated that.

• It's reasonable to assume that R_0^λ contains a (now lopsided) bowtie as before.

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- Let's go back to calling them bowties lopsided bowtie takes too long to type.

• It's reasonable to assume that R_0^λ contains a (now lopsided) bowtie as before.



- The mapping seems to bear that out.
- Let's go back to calling them bowties lopsided bowtie takes too long to type.
- What about R_1^{λ} ?



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• So inside R_0^{λ} is a bowtie which consists of a preimage of L^{λ} , a preimage of T^{λ} , a preimage of R_0^{λ} , and a preimage of R_1^{λ} .



- So inside R_0^{λ} is a bowtie which consists of a preimage of L^{λ} , a preimage of T^{λ} , a preimage of R_0^{λ} , and a preimage of R_1^{λ} .
- Inside R_1^{λ} is a bowtie which consists of a preimage of L^{λ} , a preimage of T^{λ} , a preimage of R_0^{λ} , and a preimage of R_1^{λ} , but "rotated" π radians before being placed in R_1^{λ} . Note the orientation is preserved.



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• At this point it would be useful to be able to name the preimages of L^{λ} and T^{λ} .

- At this point it would be useful to be able to name the preimages of L^{λ} and T^{λ} .
- We will use sequences of 0's and 1's, ending with L or T to represent preimages. 0 represents a choice of the R_0^{λ} preimage, and 1 the R_1^{λ} preimage. If the region is a preimage of L^{λ} or T^{λ} , the sequence will end with L or T respectively.

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What a mess

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- The *L* and *T* for the same sequence go together. We can simply label the *L* preimage and drop the *L* from the sequence without losing information.
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- One can verify that for λ inside a Sierpinski hole corresponding to a sequence ending in T, the critical value has that itinerary before escaping through the trapdoor.
- A more stylized depiction of the two wedges would then look like:

Stylized depiction of the right wedges



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Stylized depiction of R_0^{λ}



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Stylized depiction of R_0^{λ} with labeled L preimages



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• We can guess that every sequence ending in a 0 corresponds to an arc of infinitely many alternating Sierpinski holes and Mandelbrot sets in the parameter plane.

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- We still have the 0,00,000,0000,... arc analogous to the original arc from the *n* = 2, *d* = 3 case.

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- You get the idea.

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More than one spiral

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• This suggests that each element in the set {1, 10, 100, 1000, ...} has a unique spiral in the dynamical plane that corresponds to a spiral in the parameter plane consisting of infinitely many arcs of infinitely many alternating S-holes and M-sets that accumulate in infinitely many S-holes along the spiral.

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- Since each element in that set has a preimage in R_0^{λ} , there are that many corresponding spirals in R_0^{λ} as well!

Back to the parameter plane

• The 0 arc is still along the negative real axis in the parameter plane. Where are the other ones?

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- For that matter, where are the spirals?
- That's a good question...

Speculation



E. Chang (Boston University)

Mandelbrot and Sierpinski arcs and spirals

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Outline

Introduction and Exploration

- 2 Classification of the parameter plane
- 3 Exploration
- 4 The setup
- 5 The payoff
- **6** n = 4, d = 3
- Payoff part 2



< 3 >

What's next?

• Finding the current structures in the parameter plane.

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- Are there other structures?

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- Finding the current structures in the parameter plane.
- Are there other structures?
- What happens when we increase to n = 6? d = 5? Can we generalize?

Thanks!

I had a great time here! Happy turkey day!

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Thanks!

I had a great time here! Happy turkey day! Long Live Catalonia!



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Justification for a Sierpinski hole

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Justification for a Sierpinski hole

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