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ABSTRACT

We investigate the dynamical behaviour of a holomorphic map on an f -invariant subset \mathcal{C} of U , where $f:U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$. We study two cases: when U is an open, connected and polynomially convex subset of \mathbb{C}^k and $\mathcal{C} \Subset U$, closed in U , and when ∂U has a p.s.h. barrier at each of its points and \mathcal{C} is not relatively compact in U . In the second part of the paper, we prove a Birkhoff's type theorem for holomorphic maps in several complex variables, i.e. given an injective holomorphic map f , defined in a neighborhood of \bar{U} , with U star-shaped and $f(U)$ a Runge domain, we prove the existence of a unique, forward invariant, maximal, compact and connected subset of \bar{U} which touches ∂U .

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1. Introduction

Let $f:U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$ be a holomorphic map. Here U is an open, connected and bounded (or hyperbolic) subset in \mathbb{C}^k . Since the semi-local holomorphic dynamics is not well understood yet, specially when $k > 2$ [1,4,8,12], we describe the dynamical behaviour of f on an f -invariant subset \mathcal{C} of U in two different cases:

- (a) when $\mathcal{C} \Subset U$, closed in U , and U is polynomially convex;
- (b) when \mathcal{C} is not relatively compact in U and every point in ∂U has a p.s.h. barrier.

When there is a recurrent component W in the interior of the polynomially convex hull of \mathcal{C} in case (a) or in the interior of $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ in case (b), we prove that the dynamical behaviour on W is of three types:

1. W is the basin of attraction of an attractive periodic orbit;
2. W is a Siegel domain;
3. if h is a limit of a subsequence of $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, then $0 < \text{rank}(h) < k$.

In particular when \mathcal{C} is a closed orbit or a countable union of closed orbits, we prove that \mathcal{C} cannot have a non-empty interior with a recurrent point. This has been proved by Fornæss and Stenstones in [6] when U has a Lipschitz boundary; here it is proved in a different situation, i.e. when U is polynomially convex or with a p.s.h. barrier at each boundary point, then U has not necessarily Lipschitz boundary.

In the second part of the paper, see Section 4, we give a version of Birkhoff's theorem which was originally stated for surface transformations f having a Lyapunov unstable fixed point p for f or for f^{-1} . Under these hypotheses Birkhoff has shown [3] the existence, in each neighborhood U of p , of a compact set K_+ (or K_-) which is positive (or negative) invariant

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by f and touching the boundary of U . In this general setting there is no forward and backward invariant compact set with this property.

In the same spirit, our Theorem 4.1 asserts that if $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$ is a holomorphic injective map of \mathbb{C}^k such that $f(0) = 0$, with U bounded and star-shaped and $f(U)$ a Runge domain, then there exists a unique, maximal, compact, connected set K such that:

1. $0 \in K \subset \bar{U}$;
2. $K \cap \partial U \neq \emptyset$;
3. $f(K) \subset K$.

In general, this compact set K is not totally invariant: we will give an example, see Example 5.1. So the several variables analogue of R. Perez-Marco's hedgehogs [15] does not hold: in the one variable case the compact is totally invariant and touches the boundary [15].

2. Preliminaries

We recall some definitions and fix our notations.

Let K be a compact set of \mathbb{C}^k , then the polynomially convex hull of K is defined as:

$$\hat{K}_{\mathcal{P}} = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{C}^k \mid |p(z)| \leq \sup_{\zeta \in K} |p(\zeta)| \quad \forall p \text{ polynomial} \right\}.$$

A compact set K is *polynomially convex* if $K = \hat{K}_{\mathcal{P}}$ [13].

Definition 2.1. An open set U in \mathbb{C}^k is *polynomially convex* if, for every compact K in U , $\hat{K}_{\mathcal{P}} \Subset U$.

For example, the geometrically convex open sets of \mathbb{C}^k are polynomially convex in \mathbb{C}^k . The property of being polynomially convex is not invariant by biholomorphisms, as Wermer showed, see Gunning's book [11, p. 46].

If K is polynomially convex, each holomorphic function on a neighborhood of K is the uniform limit on K of polynomials; in the same way if ρ is p.s.h. and continuous on U , polynomially convex open set, then it is the uniform limit on the compact sets of U of p.s.h. functions of \mathbb{C}^k .

A consequence, when U is polynomially convex, is that convexity with respect to p.s.h. functions in U is the same as polynomial convexity.

If K is polynomially convex and compact in U , there exists ρ_1 p.s.h. and continuous on \mathbb{C}^k , $K = \{\rho_1 \leq 0\}$ and $\rho_1 \geq 1$ on a neighborhood of $\mathbb{C}^k \setminus U$.

Definition 2.2. A domain U is *Runge* if each holomorphic function on U can be approximated by polynomials, uniformly on compact subsets of U .

In particular any polynomially convex open set is a Runge domain [11].

It is possible to construct Runge domains such that the interior of \bar{U} is not equal to U : for example $U = \{w \in \mathbb{C}^k : |w| < \exp(-\varphi)\}$ with φ subharmonic on the unit disc, $\varphi = 0$ on a dense set of Δ , $\varphi \geq 0$ and non-identically zero; in particular U does not have Lipschitz boundary.

3. Invariant sets

3.1. f -Invariant relatively compact subsets

Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$ be a holomorphic map with $U \Subset \mathbb{C}^k$ or U Kobayashi hyperbolic. We assume that U is an open, connected and polynomially convex set. We say that a closed set C is f -invariant if $f(C) \subset C$.

Proposition 3.1. Let $C \subset\subset U$ be a closed f -invariant set, then $\hat{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$ is f -invariant.

Proof. By hypothesis, $C \Subset U$. Choose $z_0 \in \hat{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$ and suppose $f(z_0) \notin \hat{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$. Then there is a p.s.h. smooth function ρ_0 in \mathbb{C}^k , such that $\rho_0 \leq 0$ on $\hat{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$ and $\rho_0(f(z_0)) > 1$.

The function $\rho_0 \circ f$ is p.s.h. on U , $\rho_0 \circ f \leq 0$ on C and $\rho_0 \circ f$ is also p.s.h. on the holomorphic hull of C with respect to U , which is the same as $\hat{C}_{\mathcal{P}}$. It follows, by Maximum Principle, that $\rho_0(f(z_0)) \leq 0$, which is a contradiction. \square

Definition 3.2. A connected component $\Omega \subset U$, of the set of points where $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is equicontinuous, is *recurrent* if there exists $p_0 \in \Omega$ such that $f^{n_i}(p_0)$ is relatively compact in Ω for some subsequence n_i , i.e. if Ω contains a recurrent point p_0 .

Proposition 3.3. *If $V = \text{Int}(\hat{\mathcal{C}}_{\mathcal{P}}) \neq \emptyset$ then the sequence $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ defined on V is a normal family and if V has a recurrent component W then there are three possibilities:*

- (i) f has an attractive periodic orbit,
- (ii) there is a Siegel domain, i.e. there is W , a component of V and a subsequence n_i , s.t. $f_{|W}^{n_i} \rightarrow \text{Id}$,
- (iii) if h is a limit of a subsequence of $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, then $0 < \text{rank}(h) < k$.

Proof. We assume that for some p_0 , $f^{n_i}(p_0) \rightarrow p \in W$, and f^{n_i} converges uniformly on compact sets. We now write $f^{n_{i+1}-n_i} \circ f^{n_i} = f^{n_{i+1}}$. Extracting a subsequence we get a limit h of $f^{n_{i+1}-n_i}$ such that $h(p) = p$ [7]. If h is of rank 0, we show that p is an attractive fixed point [7]. If h is of maximal rank, then we get a Siegel domain [7]. The theorem of Carathéodory–Cartan–Kaup–Wu, see [18, p. 438] and [14, p. 66], describes the permitted eigenvalues. Otherwise for all possible h , $0 < \text{rank}(h) < k$.

In [7], Fornæss and Sibony prove a more precise result when f is an endomorphism of \mathbb{P}^2 . Their stronger result is valid only in dimension two. \square

3.2. f -Invariant non-relatively compact subsets

Theorem 3.4. *Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$ be a holomorphic open map defined on U , a bounded (or hyperbolic) open and connected subset of \mathbb{C}^k . Assume that every point in ∂U has a p.s.h. barrier, i.e. if $q \in \partial U$, there exists a p.s.h. function ρ_q , $\rho_q < 0$ on U , continuous such that $\lim_{p \rightarrow q} \rho_q(p) = 0$. Suppose \mathcal{C} is an f -invariant set in U . Let V be the non-empty interior of $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$, where the adherence is with respect to U . We also assume that a connected component of V , W , contains a recurrent point p_0 . Then there are three possibilities for W :*

- (1) it is the basin of attraction of an attracting periodic orbit;
- (2) it is a Siegel domain;
- (3) if h is a limit of a subsequence of $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, on W , then $0 < \text{rank}(h) < k$.

Proof. We start proving that the sequence $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is well defined on V . Since $V \subset U$ is invariant, by continuity $f(V) \subset \bar{U}$: indeed if $p \in V$ there exists a sequence of points $p_n \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $p_n \rightarrow p$ and hence $f(p_n) \rightarrow f(p) = q \in \bar{U}$. We show now that $f(V) \subset U$. Suppose $q \in \partial U$. Consider the barrier ρ_q at q . The function $\rho_q \circ f$ is p.s.h. and continuous on V , and $\rho_q \circ f \leq 0$ on V . But $(\rho_q \circ f)(p) = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} (\rho_q \circ f)(p_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \rho_q(f(p_n)) = 0$. Hence, by Maximum Principle, $\rho_q \circ f \equiv 0$, i.e. $f(V) \subset (\rho_q = 0) \subset \partial U$. This is impossible because f is open. Hence $f(V) \subset U$ and $f^n(V) \subset U$, therefore the sequence $\{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is normal, since U is bounded.

Now suppose that there exists a recurrent point p_0 in W , a connected component of V . This means that there exists a sequence of $n_i \rightarrow +\infty$ s.t. $f^{n_i}(p_0) \rightarrow p_0 \in W$. We can always suppose that $n_{i+1} - n_i \rightarrow +\infty$. Taking a subsequence $\{i = i(j)\}$ we can suppose that the sequence $\{f^{n_{i+1}-n_i}\}_i$ converges uniformly on compact sets of W to a holomorphic map $h : W \rightarrow \bar{U}$ s.t. $h(p_0) = p_0$. Indeed let $p_i = f^{n_i}(p_0)$. Then $f^{n_{i+1}-n_i}(p_i) = f^{n_{i+1}}(p_0) = p_{i+1}$. Hence $f^{n_{i+1}-n_i}(p_0) = p_{i+1} + O(|p_i - p_0|)$ so converges to p_0 and therefore, necessarily, $h(p_0) = p_0$ [7].

Consider all maps h obtained in this way. If some h is of rank 0, then some iterate of f has p_0 as an attractive fixed point and f has p_0 as an attractive periodic point.

If some h is of maximal rank k , then W is a Siegel domain, otherwise all the limit maps have lower rank r , $0 < r < k$. In [7] the authors analyze the case of holomorphic endomorphisms of \mathbb{P}^2 and thanks to the restriction to the dimension 2 and to the endomorphism case, the result there is much more precise: for example in case (iii), $h(W)$ is always independent of h and attracts all orbits. \square

Remark 3.5. If f is not open it is enough to assume that $(\rho_q = 0)$ does not contain the image of f .

Corollary 3.6. *Under the hypotheses of Theorem 3.4, if $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ is an invariant closed set with a dense orbit in it or a countable union of closed invariant sets each one with a dense orbit, then the interior V of $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ does not contain recurrent points.*

Proof. Indeed in the possible dynamical behaviours described in Theorem 3.4, when $\bar{\mathcal{C}}$ is closed with a dense orbit cannot have interior; when we consider a countable union of closed sets with empty interior then, by Baire’s theorem, the union of them is still with empty interior. \square

4. Forward invariant compact sets

Theorem 4.1. *Let U be a bounded star-shaped domain with respect to 0 in \mathbb{C}^k and let U' be an open neighborhood of \bar{U} . Let $f : U' \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$, be a holomorphic map, $f(0) = 0$, f injective on U (i.e. $f : U \rightarrow f(U)$ is a biholomorphic map) and $f(U)$ is a Runge domain. Assume $f(z) = Az + O(z^2)$, with A a linear invertible map and with all the eigenvalues λ_j , for $1 \leq j \leq k$, of modulus 1. Then there exists a unique maximal connected compact set K , with $0 \in K \subset \bar{U}$ s.t. $(K \cap \partial U) \neq \emptyset$ and $f(K) \subset K$. Furthermore f is linearizable iff $0 \in \text{Int}(K)$.*

Proof. Define $f_{\mu_n}(z) = f(\mu_n \cdot z)$ with $\mu_n \in \mathbb{R}$, $0 < \mu_n < 1$ and $\mu_n \rightarrow 1$ for $n \rightarrow +\infty$. Then $f_{\mu_n} \rightarrow f$ uniformly on \bar{U} and $|Jac(f_{\mu_n})(0)| = |\mu_n| \cdot |Jac(A)| < 1$ because $|\mu_n| < 1$ and $|Jac(A)| = 1$; indeed $f_{\mu_n}(z) = \mu_n \cdot A \cdot z + O((\mu_n \cdot z)^2)$.

For simplicity, we call $\mu := \mu_n$.

Let $f_\mu : \frac{1}{\mu} \cdot U \rightarrow f(U)$ indeed $f_\mu(\frac{1}{\mu} \cdot U) \equiv f(U)$. Hence f_μ is a biholomorphism from a star-shaped domain $\frac{1}{\mu} \cdot U$ to a Runge domain $f(U) = f_\mu(\frac{1}{\mu} \cdot U)$. Now applying a result of Andersen and Lempert ([2, Theorem 2.1], [9,10]) to the biholomorphism $f_\mu : \frac{1}{\mu} \cdot U \rightarrow f(U)$, we find a sequence of automorphisms g_m of \mathbb{C}^k , such that $g_m \rightarrow f_\mu$ for $m \rightarrow +\infty$ uniformly on compact subsets of \bar{U} , i.e. the g_m 's converge to f_μ , uniformly on compact sets and $g_m(0) = 0$ for all m .

Since $|Jac(f_\mu)(0)| < 1$, then $|Jac(g_m)(0)| < 1$.

Hence $g_m \in Aut(\mathbb{C}^k)$ and $g_m : U \rightarrow g_m(U)$ with $0 \in U \cap g_m(U)$.

Let B be a domain which is a homothetic of U , i.e. $B = \epsilon U$, sufficiently small s.t. $g_m^{-1}(B) \subset U$ i.e. $0 \in B \subset (U \cap g_m(U))$. Since the basin of attraction of 0 for g_m (i.e. $\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} g_m^{-n}(B)$) is biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}^k [16] and in particular is unbounded, there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $g_m^{-n_0}(B) \subset U$ but $g_m^{-(n_0+1)}(B) \not\subset U$ ($n_0 \geq 1$).

We consider the one-parameter family $\{B_t\}_{t \geq 1}$ where $B_t = t \cdot B$ [15]. Then we consider the t 's for which:

$$g_m^{-n_0}(B_t) \subset U.$$

The set is not empty because for $t = 1$ the inclusion is true. By continuity, there exists \bar{t} s.t.

$$g_m^{-n_0}(B_{\bar{t}}) \subset U$$

and

$$g_m^{-n_0}(\bar{B}_{\bar{t}}) \cap (\partial U) \neq \emptyset.$$

We call $F_m := \overline{g_m^{-n_0}(B_{\bar{t}})}$.

Then $(F_m)_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of compact sets in \bar{U} s.t. $g_m(F_m) \subset F_m$ because $g_m^{-n_0+1}(B_{\bar{t}}) \subset g_m^{-n_0}(B_{\bar{t}})$: this follows from the description of the basin of attraction of 0.

Each F_m is a connected set because it is the closure of the pre-image by a biholomorphism of a connected set.

By compactness of the space $\mathcal{K}_c(\bar{U}) = \{\text{connected compact subsets of } \bar{U}\}$, there exists a subsequence $(m_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ t.c. $F_{m_k} \rightarrow K_\mu \in \mathcal{K}_c(\bar{U})$. Finally we prove that $f_\mu(K_\mu) \subset K_\mu$.

We use that:

- (i) $g_m \rightarrow f_\mu$ uniformly on compact subsets of \bar{U} ;
- (ii) $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} F_{m_k} = K_\mu$.

Let $x \in K_\mu$, then we want to prove that $f_\mu(x) \in K_\mu$.

Since $x \in K_\mu$, there exists a sequence $x_k \rightarrow x$ with $x_k \in F_{m_k}$ by (ii).

Then $g_{m_k}(x_k) \in F_{m_k}$ and we can assume $g_{m_k}(x_k) \rightarrow y \in K_\mu$, by (ii).

But $g_{m_k} \rightarrow f_\mu$ for $k \rightarrow +\infty$ by (i), so $f_\mu(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} g_{m_k}(x_k) = y \in K_\mu$.

Hence K_μ is f_μ -invariant.

Therefore for each μ we have found a forward invariant connected compact set for f_μ and K_μ intersects ∂U . Now, with an argument similar to the one already used for $\{g_m\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{F_{m_k}\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, we prove that, up to considering a subsequence, $K_{\mu_n} \rightarrow K$ in the Hausdorff metric. Since $f_{\mu_n} \rightarrow f$ uniformly on compact sets, we have that $f(K) \subset K$ and K touches ∂U . In order to have the unique, maximal, connected, invariant compact set, it is enough to take the closure of the union of all such compact sets K . Obviously, the closure of a union of f -invariant sets is still f -invariant and it is also connected because each compact set contains 0. Since K_{μ_n} intersects ∂U for all μ_n , also its limit K in the Hausdorff topology does. Suppose $0 \in \text{Int}(K)$, we show that f is linearizable. The family $(f^n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is locally equicontinuous on $\text{Int}(K)$ and $f(0) = 0$. Following a standard trick, we define

$$h(z) := \lim_{n_j \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{n_j} \sum_{j=0}^{n_j-1} A^{-j} f^j(z).$$

The limit exists in a neighborhood of zero. Indeed there is a $c > 1$ such that $f^n(\mathbb{B}(0, r)) \subset \mathbb{B}(0, cr) \subset K$ for all n . Then we can consider a limit map h for an appropriate subsequence n_j . We have $h(0) = 0$, $Jac(h)(0) = Id$ and we easily check that $h(f) = Ah$. \square

Remark 4.2. If we take a sequence $\mu_n > 1$, $\mu_n \rightarrow 1$, we can prove that there exists a maximal connected compact set invariant for f^{-1} . In general the forward and backward invariant compact subsets are different, as the case of Hénon maps shows, see Example 5.1 below.

Remark 4.3. We want to point out that K is not necessarily a proper subset of \bar{U} , indeed if f is an automorphism of the ball $\mathbb{B}^k \subset \mathbb{C}^k$ fixing 0, then $K = \mathbb{B}^k$.

Remark 4.4. Suppose that f, g are two commuting maps satisfying all the hypotheses of Theorem 4.1, then they share the same maximal, compact, connected, invariant set $K \ni 0$.

Indeed let K_f and K_g be the maximal, compact, connected invariant sets containing 0, for f and g respectively, which exist by Theorem 4.1. Then consider $f \circ g(K_f) = g \circ f(K_f) \subset g(K_f)$, hence $g(K_f) \subset K_f$ which implies that $K_f \subset K_g$. Analogously, considering $g \circ f(K_g) = f \circ g(K_g)$, we can prove that $K_g \subset K_f$.

5. Examples

In this section we are going to prove that our Theorem 4.1 is optimal, we mean that there exists a map $f : \mathbb{B} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^k$ which satisfies all the hypotheses of Theorem 4.1 such that it has a forward invariant compact and connected set containing 0 which touches the boundary of \mathbb{B} but it does not admit a totally invariant compact and connected set containing 0 which touches the boundary of \mathbb{B} .

Example 5.1. Let f be the following Hénon map:

$$f(z, w) = (z^2 + w, z).$$

Then $f(0, 0) = (0, 0)$ and

$$Jac(f) = \begin{pmatrix} 2z & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

So, at 0, $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1$, i.e. $|\lambda_j| = 1$ for $j = 1, 2$. Clearly $f \in Aut(\mathbb{C}^2)$. From the well-known study of the dynamics of f , there exist the following closed invariant subsets of \mathbb{C}^2 :

$$K_f^+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid f^n(z) \text{ is bounded}\},$$

$$K_f^- = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid f^{-n}(z) \text{ is bounded}\}$$

and the following compact set of \mathbb{C}^2 containing 0:

$$K = K_f^+ \cap K_f^-.$$

Consider a ball $\mathbb{B}(0, R) \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ with $R \gg 1$ such that $\mathbb{B}(0, R) \ni K$. If we consider the restriction $f : \mathbb{B}(0, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$, by Theorem 4.1 there exists a connected compact subset X of $\mathbb{B}(0, R)$ which touches the $\partial\mathbb{B}(0, R)$, which is f -invariant and which contains 0. For any such X , we have $X \subset K_f^+$ [17], because if $z \in X$, $f^n(z)$ is bounded since X is f -invariant and compact. Hence $X \subset (K_f^+ \cap \overline{\mathbb{B}(0, R)})$. It is well known from the study of the dynamics of Hénon maps that:

$$dist(f^n(X), K) \rightarrow 0$$

uniformly on compact sets. Hence there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $dist(f^{n_0}(X), K) < \frac{1}{2} \cdot dist(K, \partial\mathbb{B}(0, R))$. So X cannot be at the same time forward and backward invariant i.e. $f(X) \subset X$, but $f(X) \neq X$.

If $f^{n_0}(X)$ is distant from K less than $dist(\partial\mathbb{B}(0, R), K)$, then it means that $f^{n_0}(X) \subset X$ and they are different.

Hence, if we consider $g := f^{n_0}$, then $g(X) \not\subset X$.

Example 5.2. In some cases it is possible that the forward and the backward invariant compact sets coincide. For example, if in the previous example we consider a ball $\mathbb{B}(0, r)$ which contains $K = K_f^+ \cap K_f^-$ and such that $K \cap \partial\mathbb{B}(0, r) \neq \emptyset$, then the restriction of the Hénon map f to $\mathbb{B}(0, r)$ admits a forward and backward invariant compact set K which touches the boundary of $\mathbb{B}(0, r)$.

Remark 5.3. Let K be one of the f -invariant, connected and compact set of Theorem 4.1, and let $X = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f^n(K)$ [5]. The set X is connected because it is a decreasing intersection of connected sets, $X \ni 0$, X is compact and $f(X) = X$. For example if f is an Hénon map, $X = K_f^+ \cap K_f^-$.

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