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in parameter spaces**

**Carsten Lunde Petersen and Gustav Ryd**

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**Abstract**

We give an elementary proof of the landing Theorem for rational external rays of the Mandelbrot set and related connectedness loci for the one-parameter families of polynomials  $\{P_c(z) = z^d + c\}_{c \in \mathbb{C}}$ ,  $d \geq 2$ .

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# Convergence of rational rays in parameter spaces

Carsten Lunde Petersen and Gustav Ryd

## Abstract

We give an elementary proof of the landing Theorem for rational external rays of the Mandelbrot set and related connectedness loci for the one-parameter families of polynomials  $\{P_c(z) = z^d + c\}_{c \in \mathbb{C}}$ ,  $d \geq 2$ .

Throughout this paper the integer  $d \geq 2$  will be arbitrary but fixed, and used without further notice. It will be the degree of our polynomials. Let  $P_c(z) = P_c = z^d + c$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , denote the family of monic degree  $d$  polynomials with a degree  $(d - 1)$  critical point at the origin. For each  $c$  let  $J_c$  denote the Julia set for  $P_c$  and define the domain of attraction to infinity

$$\Lambda_c = \Lambda_c(\infty) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid P_c^n(z) \rightarrow \infty, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty\}.$$

Let  $\phi_c : \tilde{\Lambda}_c \rightarrow (\mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}})_c$  be the maximal univalent 'radial' (on the image side) extension of the unique Bötcher coordinate tangent to the identity at infinity.

Define  $M_d = \{c \in \mathbb{C} \mid c \notin \Lambda_c\}$  and let  $\Phi_d : \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus M_d \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$  denote the unique Riemann map tangent to the identity at infinity, then  $\Phi_d(c) = \phi_c(c)$ . Given  $\theta \in \mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  and  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ : The dynamical (external) ray  $R_c(\theta)$  of  $J_c$  is the analytic arc  $\phi_c^{-1}(\{\exp(s + i2\pi\theta) \mid s > 0\} \cap (\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}})_c)$ . It starts at  $\infty$  and ends either at a precritical point  $z_0 \in \bigcup_{n \geq 0} P_c^{-n}(c)$  or on the Julia set  $J_c$ . The parameter (external) ray  $R_{M_d}(\theta)$  of  $M_d$  is the analytic arc  $\Phi_d^{-1}(\{\exp(s + i2\pi\theta) \mid s > 0\})$ . A ray is called a rational ray if  $\theta$  is rational, i.e.  $\theta \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ . A ray  $R$  is said to land or converge if  $\overline{R} \setminus R$  is a singleton subset of  $J$  (if it is a dynamical ray) or  $M_d$  (if it is a parameter ray).

On the boundary of  $M_d$  we distinguish two particular and different types of parameters, parabolic parameters and Misiurewicz parameters. A parameter  $c_0$  is called parabolic, if  $P_{c_0}$  has a parabolic cycle, i.e., there exists a positive integer  $n$  and a periodic point  $p$  such that  $P_{c_0}^n(p) = p$  and  $(P_{c_0}^n)'(p) = 1$ .

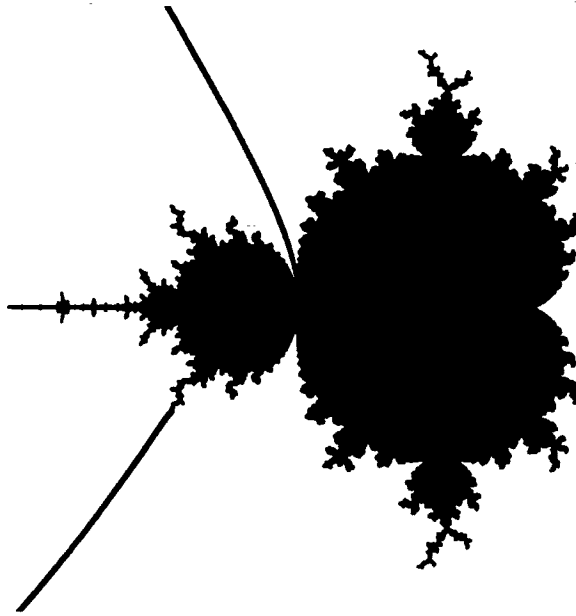


Figure 1: The Mandelbrot set with a periodic and a strictly preperiodic ray.

A parameter  $c_0$  is called a Misiurewicz parameter, if the orbit of  $c_0$  is finite and ends in a repelling periodic orbit.

In this paper we give an elementary proof of the landing Theorem for rational external rays of  $M_d$ , for any integer  $d \geq 2$ :

**Theorem 1** *Given  $\theta \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $d^l \theta \equiv d^{l+q} \theta \pmod{1}$ , for some minimal integers  $l \geq 0$  and  $q \geq 1$ . Then the parameter ray  $R_{M_d}(\theta)$  lands on a parameter  $c_0 \in \partial M_d$ . Furthermore,*

1. *if  $l = 0$  then  $c_0$  is a parabolic parameter, the (unique) parabolic orbit for  $P_{c_0}$  has one cycle of immediate attracted basins. This cycle contains both 0 and  $c$  and its exact period is  $q$ . Moreover the dynamic ray  $R_{c_0}(\theta)$  lands on the parabolic point to which  $c_0$  is attracted under iteration by  $P_{c_0}^q$ .*
2. *if  $l > 0$  then  $c_0$  is a Misiurewicz parameter,  $P_{c_0}^l(c_0) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(c_0)$  and the dynamic ray  $R_{c_0}(\theta)$  land on  $c_0$ .*

This Theorem is well-known, at least for  $d = 2$ , since [DH]. The original proof is however rather involved. There are other proofs, such as [HS], which

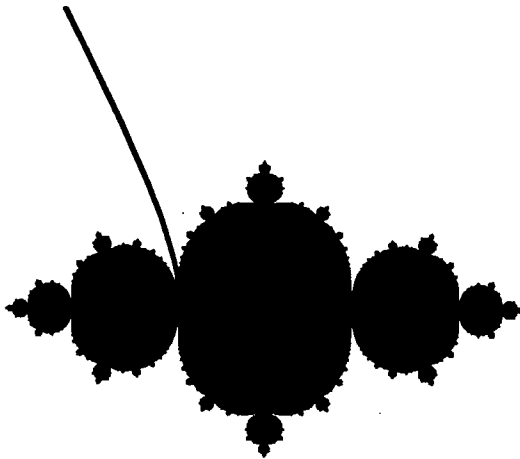


Figure 2: The Julia set for a quadratic polynomial with a period-2 ray landing at a parabolic fixed point.

uses iteration on Teichmüller spaces, and [Mil], [Sch], which both depend on global counting arguments and a priori analysis of the sets  $M_d$ . In [CG] this theorem is claimed, but there seems to be a part missing. This paper has evolved from [Pet] and [Ryd], which both were extending Theorem 1 to different settings but using similar techniques.

Our proof differs from the original proof in [DH] mainly in our direct approach to convergence and uses only elementary analytical means. Moreover it has easy generalizations to many other settings. We want to make our proof available to the public, because we believe that our elementary approach will be of use also to others.

We will frequently use  $g_c : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ , the Green's function for  $J_c$  with pole at  $\infty$ , which is the subharmonic function which is harmonic on  $\Lambda_c$ , coincides with  $\log |\phi_c(z)|$  on  $\tilde{\Lambda}_c$  and which is identically zero on  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda_c$ . Similarly, the Green's function for  $M_d$  with pole at  $\infty$ ,  $G_{M_d} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  is the subharmonic function, which is 0 on  $M_d$  and which coincides with  $\log |\Phi_{M_d}|$  on  $\mathbb{C} \setminus M_d$ . Note that an external ray is a gradient line for the appropriate Green's function.

We first prove that the end of the external ray gives rise to a sequence of

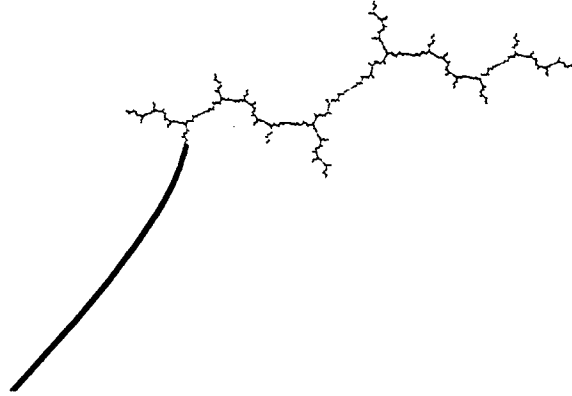


Figure 3: The Julia set for a quadratic polynomial with a preperiodic ray landing at a Misiurewicz point.

limit maps which relates the dynamics in the filled Julia set,  $K_{c_0}$ , with the dynamics in  $\Lambda_{c_0}$ .

Given  $c_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\phi \in \mathbb{T}$ , for  $0 < \epsilon$  and  $w \in R_c(\phi)$  we define a ‘rectangle’

$$V(w, \epsilon) = \{\exp(t + i2\pi\eta) | g_{c_0}(w) - \epsilon < t < d^q g_{c_0}(w) + \epsilon \text{ and } |\eta - \phi| < \epsilon\}.$$

**Proposition 1.1** *Given  $\theta \in \mathbb{T}$  with  $d^l \theta \equiv d^{l+q} \theta \pmod{1}$ , for some minimal  $l \geq 0$  and  $q \geq 1$ . Let  $c_0 \in \partial M_d$  be a limit point of the ray  $R_{M_d}(\theta)$ . Then there exists  $w \in R_{c_0}(d^l \theta)$ ,  $\epsilon > 0$  and a sequence of maps  $\{\psi_n : V \rightarrow K_{c_0}\}_{n \geq 0}$ ,  $V = V(w, \epsilon)$  such that*

1. For all  $0 \leq n$  :  $\psi_n(w) = P_{c_0}^n(c_0)$  and  $\psi_{n+1} = P_{c_0} \circ \psi_n$ .
2. For all  $l \leq n$  :  $\psi_n \circ P_{c_0}^q = P_{c_0}^q \circ \psi_n$ , wherever defined and in particular  $\psi_n(P_{c_0}^q(w)) = P_{c_0}^{n+q}(c_0) = \psi_{n+q}(w)$ .
3. One of the following mutually exclusive cases occur
  - (a) The  $\psi_n$  are univalent and for all  $0 \leq n \neq m$  with either  $n < l$  or  $|n - m| \neq q$  :  $\psi_n(V) \cap \psi_m(V) = \emptyset$ .

(b) All  $\psi_n$  are constants.

**Proof:** Let  $\phi = d^l \theta \pmod 1$  be the first periodic angle in the orbit of  $\theta$ . And let  $\{c_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subset R_{M_d}(\theta) \cap \{c | G_{M_d}(c) < d^{-l}\}$  be a sequence converging to  $c_0$ . For each  $j$  define  $N_j$  by  $P_{c_j}^{N_j}(c_j) := w_j \in R_{c_j}(\phi) \cap \{z | 1 \leq g_{c_j}(z) < d^q\}$ . Passing to a subsequence if necessary, we can suppose by relative compactness that  $P_{c_j}^{N_j}(c_j) \rightarrow w \in R_{c_0}(\phi)$  with  $1 \leq g_{c_0}(w) \leq d^q$ .

Fix  $0 < \epsilon < 1/2$  and define a simply connected domain  $V = V(w, \epsilon)$ . We can assume that  $w_j \in V$ . For each  $j$  and  $0 \leq n \leq N_j$  let  $\psi_{n,j} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be the unique branch of  $P_{c_j}^{-N_j+n}$  which maps  $w_j$  to  $P_{c_j}^n(c_j)$ . Then for each fixed

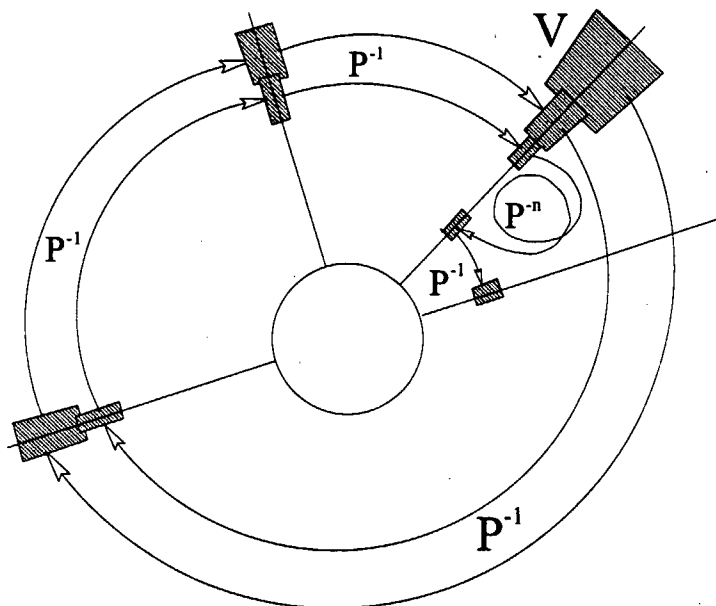


Figure 4: The domain  $V$  and the image domains  $\psi_{n,j}(V)$  viewed in the Böttcher coordinate at infinity.

$j$  the uniformly bounded univalent maps  $\psi_{n,j}$  satisfy

$$\forall 0 \leq n \leq N_j : \quad \psi_{n,j}(w_j) = P_{c_j}^n(c_j) \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_{n+1,j} = P_{c_j} \circ \psi_{n,j} \quad (1.1)$$

$$\forall l \leq n \leq N_j - q : \quad \psi_{n,j} \circ P_{c_j}^q = P_{c_j}^q \circ \psi_{n,j}. \quad (1.2)$$

$$\forall 0 \leq n \neq m \leq N_j \text{ with } n < l \text{ or } |n - m| \neq q : \quad \psi_{n,j}(V) \cap \psi_{m,j}(V) = \emptyset \quad (1.3)$$

Here the disjointness property (1.3) holds if  $\epsilon$  is small enough. Note that  $N_j \rightarrow \infty$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . As the univalent maps  $\psi_{n,j}$  are uniformly bounded on  $V$ , we can suppose, using the Cantor diagonal principle to extract a subsequence if necessary, that for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\psi_{n,j} \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow \infty} \psi_n$$

where  $\psi_n : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is some holomorphic map, which is either univalent or constant by Hurwitz Theorem. Note that  $g_{c_0} = 0$  on  $\psi_n(V)$  so  $\psi_n(V) \subset K_{c_0}$ . By uniform convergence the properties (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3) also holds for the  $\psi_n$  (with  $P_{c_0}$ ) so Properties 1. and 2. follows. By (1.1) if one  $\psi_n$  is constant they all are, so Property 3. follows. q.e.d.

**Proposition 1.2** *Let  $\theta$  and  $c_0$  be as in Proposition 1.1. If  $c_0 \in J_{c_0}$  then 3b. holds,  $P_{c_0}^l(c_0) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(c_0)$ ,  $l > 0$  and the dynamic ray  $R_{c_0}(\theta)$  lands on  $c_0$ .*

**Proof :** Let  $V$  and  $\psi_n$  be as in the conclusion of Proposition 1.1. The image  $\psi_n(V) \subset K_{c_0}$ . Thus if  $c_0 = \psi_0(w) \in J_{c_0} = \partial K_{c_0}$  then  $\psi_0$  cannot be open thus all  $\psi_n$  are constant. Combining Properties 1. and 2. we have  $P_{c_0}^l(c_0) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(c_0)$ . If  $l = 0$  then  $c_0$  is  $q$ -periodic, but then also the critical point 0 is  $q$ -periodic, because it is the only preimage of  $c_0$ . This contradicts however the fact that  $c_0 \in \partial M_d$ . Hence  $l > 0$  and  $c_0$  is a Misiurewicz parameter with  $P_{c_0}^l(c_0) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(c_0)$ .

To complete the proof we show that the ray  $R_{c_0}(\theta)$  lands on  $c_0$ . To this end let  $\{c_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \subset R_{M_d}(\theta)$  be a sequence converging to  $c_0$  as in the proof of Proposition 1.1. Define  $R_{c_j}^*(\theta) = ((R_{c_j}(\theta) \cap \{z | g_{c_j}(z) \geq g_{c_j}(c_j)\}) \cup \infty)$ . Then the sequence  $\{R_{c_j}^*\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence of compact sets in  $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$ . Thus passing to a subsequence, if necessary, we can suppose the sequence converges to some compact subset  $R \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}}$  containing  $c_0$  and  $\infty$ . Moreover  $R \cap \Lambda_{c_0} = R_{c_0}(\theta)$  by continuity with respect to the parameter of the Bötcher coordinates  $\phi_c$ . Let  $z \in R \cap J_{c_0}$  be arbitrary (note that  $J_{c_0} = \partial \Lambda_{c_0} = \mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda_{c_0}$ ) and let  $z_j \in R_{c_j}^*(\theta)$  be a sequence with  $z_j \rightarrow z$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Arguing as in the proof of Proposition 1.1 we find a point  $\hat{w} \in R_{c_0}(d^l \theta)$ , an open set  $\hat{V}$  and a sequence of holomorphic maps  $\hat{\psi}_n : \hat{V} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfying the properties 1., 2. and 3. of Proposition 1.1, except that  $c_0$  is replaced by  $z$ . As above case 3b. in 3. holds, because  $z \in J_{c_0}$ . But then  $P_{c_0}^l(z) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(z)$ . The set  $\{z | P_{c_0}^l(z) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(z)\}$  is however finite and hence  $R \cap J_{c_0}$  is a singleton containing  $c_0$ . q.e.d.



**Proposition 1.3** Let  $\theta$  and  $c_0$  be as in Proposition 1.1. If  $c_0$  belongs to a Fatou component  $U$  for  $P_{c_0}$ , then 3a. holds. Furthermore, there exists a sequence of Jordan arcs  $\gamma_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow P_{c_0}^n(U)$  satisfying

1'. For all  $0 \leq n$  :  $\gamma_n(0) = P_{c_0}^n(c_0)$  and  $\gamma_{n+1} = P_{c_0} \circ \gamma_n$ .

2'. For all  $l \leq n$  :  $\gamma_n \cap \gamma_{n+q} = \gamma_n(1) = \gamma_{n+q}(0) = P_{c_0}^{n+q}(0)$ .

3'. For all  $0 \leq n \neq m$  with either  $n < l$  or  $|n - m| \neq q$  :  $\gamma_n \cap \gamma_m = \emptyset$ .

**Proof :** Let  $V$  and  $\psi_n$  be as in the conclusion of Proposition 1.1. If the  $\psi_n$  were constants then by combining Property 1. and Property 2.,  $P_{c_0}^l(c_0) = P_{c_0}^{l+q}(c_0)$ . Hence the unique critical point is preperiodic, but then it either belongs to the Julia set or is superattracting. The first possibility is excluded by hypothesis and in the second case  $c_0$  belongs to the interior of  $M_d$ , which is impossible. Thus  $\psi_l$  is not constant so Property 3a. holds.

Let  $w$  be as in the proof of Proposition 1.1 and define an arc  $\Gamma \subset V$  by

$$\Gamma = R_{c_0}(\phi) \cap \{z | g_{c_0}(w) \leq g_{c_0}(z) \leq d^q g_{c_0}(w)\}.$$

The arc  $\Gamma$  is naturally parametrised linearly in the potential by the interval  $[0, 1]$ . Define arcs  $\gamma_n = \psi_n \circ \Gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow P_{c_0}^n(U)$ .

Properties 1'. and 3'. follows immediately from Properties 1. and 3a. To see also Property 2'. define

$$\widehat{V} = \{\exp(t + i2\pi\eta) | g_{c_0}(w) - \epsilon < t < d^{2q} g_{c_0}(w) + \epsilon \text{ and } |\eta - \phi| < \epsilon\},$$

$$\widehat{\Gamma} = R_{c_0}(\phi) \cap \{z | g_{c_0}(w) \leq g_{c_0}(z) \leq d^{2q} g_{c_0}(w)\}.$$

and note that the  $\psi_n$  have univalent extensions  $\widehat{\psi}_n$  to  $\widehat{V}$ . Moreover for  $n \geq l$  :  $\widehat{\psi}_n(\widehat{\Gamma}) = \gamma_n \cup \gamma_{n+q}$  is an arc. Thus also the interior disjointness  $\gamma_n \cap \gamma_{n+q} = P_{c_0}^{n+q}(c_0)$  follows. **q.e.d.**

**Proposition 1.4** Let  $\theta$ ,  $c_0$  and  $U$  be as in Proposition 1.3. Then  $U$  is an immediate parabolic basin of exact period  $q$  and the preperiod  $l = 0$ .

**Proof :** Let  $U_l = P_{c_0}^l(U)$ . Then  $\gamma_l \in U_l$  and  $U_l$  is  $q$ -periodic, because both  $P_{c_0}^l(c_0) = \gamma_l(0)$  and  $P_{c_0}^{l+q}(c_0) = \gamma_l(1) \in U_l$ . But then it is either a hyperbolic, a parabolic or a rotation domain, however the first implies  $c_0$  is in the interior of  $M_d$  and the last requires at least one critical point in the Julia set and

are hence excluded. Thus  $U_l$  is an immediate parabolic basin and so is  $\bar{U}$ , because the cycle of such immediate basins should contain a critical point and value. Thus  $U$  is  $q$ -periodic. Let the (exact) period of  $U$  be  $p$ . Then  $\gamma_p \in U$ . Let  $\Phi : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a Fatou coordinate for  $P_{c_0}^p$  on  $U$  normalized by  $\Phi(c_0) = 0$  and  $\Phi(P_{c_0}^p(c_0)) = 1$ . The map  $\Phi$  has a univalent inverse branch

$$\Psi : \{z = x + iy | y > -1\} \rightarrow \Omega$$

with  $\Psi(0) = c_0$ . By compactness there exists  $n \geq 0$  such that  $\gamma_{pn}$  and  $\gamma_{p(n+1)}$  are contained in  $\Omega$ . Let  $\gamma'_{pn}$  and  $\gamma'_{p(n+1)}$  denote the corresponding images under  $\Phi$ . The map  $z \rightarrow \exp(2\pi ip/q)$  maps these two arcs onto two simple closed curves which are rotations (around the origin) of each other. Thus they intersect and so do  $\gamma'_{pn}$  and  $\gamma'_{p(n+1)}$ . Since  $\gamma_{pn}$  and  $\gamma_{p(n+1)}$  are contained in  $\Omega$  they also intersect. But then  $p = q$  by Property 3'.

We prove that  $l = 0$ . Choose  $n$  such that  $\gamma_{nq} \subset \Omega$  so that  $\gamma_{(n+m)q} \subset \Omega$  for all  $m \geq 0$ . Then  $\Phi(\gamma_{nq})$  satisfies the hypothesis of the isotopy Lemma 1.5 below, because of Properties 2' and 3'. Let  $\tilde{\Gamma}$  be the corresponding isotopy of Lemma 1.5. Increasing  $n$ , if necessary, we can assume  $\tilde{\Gamma}([0, 1] \times [0, 1]) \subset \Phi(\Omega)$ , because of Property 1'. Define  $\Gamma_n : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \Omega$  as the isotopy  $\Gamma_n = \Psi \circ \tilde{\Gamma}$ . Define isotopies  $\Gamma_k : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow U$ ,  $n \geq k \geq 0$  recursively by  $\Gamma_{k-1}$  is the lift of  $\Gamma_k$  to  $P_{c_0}^q$  with  $\Gamma_{k-1}(1, [0, 1]) = \Gamma_k(0, [0, 1])$ . An easy induction proof shows that for each  $n \geq k \geq 0$  and each  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ :  $\Gamma_k(t, 0) = \Psi(k + t)$ . In particular  $\Gamma_k(0, [0, 1]) = P_{c_0}^{kq}(c_0)$ . But then  $\gamma_0 \cap \gamma_q = P_{c_0}^q(c_0)$ , which contradicts Property 3', when  $l > 0$ . q.e.d.

The proof of the following isotopy Lemma is left to the reader.

**Lemma 1.5** *Suppose  $\gamma_1 : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is an arc with  $\gamma_1(0) = 0$ ,  $\gamma_1(1) = 1$  and with  $\gamma_1 \cap (\gamma_1 + n) = \emptyset$  for  $|n| > 1$  and with  $\gamma_1 \cap (\gamma_1 + 1) = 1$ ,  $\gamma_1 \cap (\gamma_1 - 1) = 0$ . Then there exists an isotopy of arcs  $\Gamma : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  with  $\Gamma(t, 1) = \gamma_1(t)$ ,  $\Gamma(t, 0) = t := \gamma_0(t)$ ,  $\Gamma(0, [0, 1]) = 0$ ,  $\Gamma(1, [0, 1]) = 1$  and  $\Gamma([0, 1], [0, 1]) \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ .*

**Proposition 1.6** *Let  $\theta$ ,  $c_0$  and  $U$  be as in Proposition 1.3. Then the dynamic ray  $R_{c_0}(\theta)$  lands on the parabolic point on the boundary of  $U$ .*

**Proof :** Let  $R$  be as in the second part of the proof of Proposition 1.2. Let  $\alpha$  denote the parabolic point to which  $c_0$  is iterated by  $P_{c_0}^q$ . Then  $\alpha \in R$  by closedness and forward invariance of  $R$ . We claim that  $R \cap J_{c_0} = \alpha$ . To prove this let  $\Omega$  be any bounded Fatou component with  $R \cap \Omega \neq \emptyset$ . We shall

prove that  $R \cap \partial\Omega$  is a single  $q$ -periodic parabolic point, because  $\Omega$  contains at most one critical point for  $P_{c_0}^q$ . If the degree is 2, (the critical point is simple) there is nothing to prove, because a degree two basin with locally connected boundary contains precisely one periodic orbit with period dividing that of the basin. If the degree is higher, or one does not want to rely on local connectivity, one may proceed as follows: Let  $z_0 \in R \cap K_{c_0}$  be arbitrary. Redoing the proof of Proposition 1.1 but with  $c_0$  replaced by  $z_0$  we find  $w' \in R_{c_0}(\theta)$ ,  $V' = V'(w', \epsilon)$  and holomorphic maps  $\{\psi_{z_0, n} : V' \rightarrow K_{c_0}\}_{n \geq 0}$  satisfying the conclusions 1.-3. of that Proposition (with  $c_0$  replaced by  $z_0$ ). If  $z_0 \in R \cap J_{c_0}$  then case 3.3b. occurs and  $z_0$  is  $q$ -periodic. If  $z_0$  belongs to the Fatou set then case 3.3a. occurs and in particular  $\psi_{z_0, 0} : V' \rightarrow U$  is univalent with  $\psi_{z_0, 0}(w') = z_0$ ,  $\psi_{z_0, 0}(P_{c_0}^q(w')) = P_{c_0}^q(z_0)$  and

$$\psi_{z_0, 0}(\{z \in R_{c_0}(\theta) | g_{c_0}(z) \geq g_{c_0}(w')\}) \subseteq R \cap U \subseteq \psi_{z_0, 0}(R_{c_0}(\theta) \cap V').$$

Suppose there exists a bounded Fatou component  $\Omega$  for which  $L = R \cap \Omega$  connects two distinct  $q$ -periodic points  $\alpha', \beta$  on the boundary of  $\Omega$ . By the above any point  $z \in L$  is connected to  $P_{c_0}^q(z)$  in  $L$  through an analytic arc contained in  $L$ . Hence we can assume that  $\alpha'$  is parabolic. Let  $\phi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  be a Riemann map say mapping  $\alpha'$  to 1. Let  $\hat{L} = \phi(L)$  and define  $\hat{P}$  as the conjugate Blaschke product  $\hat{P} = \phi \circ P_{c_0}^q \circ \phi^{-1}$ . Then  $\hat{L}$  connects the parabolic point 1 for  $\hat{P}$  with a repelling fixed point  $\hat{\beta} \neq 1$ . In fact  $\hat{L}$  is easily seen to contain an analytic arc  $\hat{\gamma}$ , which connects  $\hat{\beta}$  to 1, and which is parametrized by an analytic diffeomorphism  $\eta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \hat{\gamma}$  with  $\eta(t+1) = \hat{P}(\eta(t))$ .

Let  $U_1, U_2 \subset \mathbb{D}$  be the two complementary components of  $\mathbb{D} \setminus \eta$ . Consider say  $U_1$ . It contains a unique connected component  $U'_1$  of  $P^{-1}(U_1)$ , because the dynamics of  $P$  on  $\eta$  is diffeomorphically conjugate to translation by 1. The degree of the restriction  $p : U'_1 \rightarrow U_1$  is at least 2 because  $\overline{U_1} \cap \mathbb{S}^1$  is covered at least twice by  $\overline{U'_1} \cap \mathbb{S}^1$ . Thus  $U_1$  contains a critical point. And similarly so do  $U_2$ . This contradicts that  $P$  has only one critical point. It follows that  $R$  contains precisely one  $q$ -periodic point. The parabolic one to which  $c_0$  is iterated under  $P_{c_0}^q$ . q.e.d.

**Remark 1.7** Consider the family  $Q_c(z) = z^4 - 2z^3 + z^2 + z + c$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  of quartic polynomials. For the polynomial  $Q_0$  the real axis contains one critical point  $\omega \in ]-\frac{1}{3}, 0[$ , whose critical value  $v_0$  is contained in the same interval and is attracted to the parabolic fixed point 0. The two other critical points are

complex conjugate and attracted to the parabolic fixed point 1. Moreover the external ray of argument 0 equals  $[1, \infty]$ . For any sequence  $\{c_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset ]0, \infty$  converging to 0 the Hausdorff limit  $R$  of the segments of external rays  $[v_n, \infty]$  equals  $[v_0, \infty]$ . In this case the segment  $]0, 1[$  is like the arc  $L$  in the proof of the above theorem.

**Proof of Theorem 1:** The cluster set  $Cl_{M_d}(\theta) = \overline{R_{M_d}(\theta)} \setminus R_{M_d}(\theta) \subseteq \partial M_d$  is a continuum and in particular connected. Let  $c \in Cl_{M_d}(\theta)$ . By Propositions 1.2 and 1.4,  $c$  has either parabolic or Misiurewicz dynamics. Since the period  $q$  is fixed, this implies that  $c$  varies in a finite set and is thus unique, which proves convergence. The dichotomy follows from Proposition 1.2 and Proposition 1.4. The rest of the statements 1. and 2. follow by combining Proposition 1.2, Proposition 1.4 and Proposition 1.6. q.e.d.

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