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# Wandering continua for rational maps <sup>\*</sup>

Guizhen Cui <sup>†</sup> and Yan Gao

July 16, 2015

## Abstract

We prove that a Lattès map admits an always full wandering continuum if and only if it is flexible. The full wandering continuum is a line segment in a bi-infinite or one-side-infinite geodesic under the flat metric.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $f$  be a rational map of the Riemann sphere  $\widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  with  $\deg f \geq 2$ . Denote by  $J_f$  and  $F_f$  the Julia set and the Fatou set of  $f$  respectively. One may refer to [12] for their definitions and basic properties. By a **continuum** we mean a connected compact set consisting of more than one point. A continuum  $K \subset \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  is called a **wandering continuum** for  $f$  if  $K \subset J_f$  and  $f^n(K) \cap f^m(K) = \emptyset$  for any  $n > m \geq 0$ .

The existence of wandering continua for polynomials has been studied by many authors. It was proved that all wandering components of the Julia set of a polynomial with disconnected Julia set are points [1, 8, 15]. For polynomials with connected Julia sets, it was proved that a polynomial without irrational indifferent periodic cycles has no wandering continuum if and only if the Julia set is locally connected [2, 5, 6, 9, 16].

The situation for non-polynomial rational maps is different. There are hyperbolic rational maps which have non-degenerate wandering components of their Julia sets. The first example was given by McMullen, where the wandering Julia components are Jordan curves [11]. In fact, it was proved that for a geometrically finite rational map, a wandering component of its Julia set is either a Jordan curve or a single point [14].

In this work we study wandering continua for rational maps with connected Julia sets. A continuum  $K \subset \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  is called **full** if  $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus K$  is connected. A wandering continuum  $K$  for a rational map  $f$  is **always full** if  $f^n(K)$  is full for all  $n \geq 0$ . Refer to [3] for the the following theorem and the definition of Cantor multicurves.

**Theorem A.** *Let  $f$  be a post-critically finite rational map and  $K \subset J_f$  be a wandering continuum. Then either  $K$  is always full or there exists an integer  $N \geq 0$  such that  $f^n(K)$  is a Jordan curve for  $n \geq N$ . The latter case happens if and only if  $f$  has a Cantor multicurve.*

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**Problem:** Under what condition does a post-critically finite rational map  $f$  admit an always full wandering continuum?

In this paper, we solve this problem for Lattès maps (refer to §2 for its definition). Here is the main theorem:

**Theorem 1.1.** *A Lattès map  $f$  admits an always full wandering continuum if and only if it is flexible. In this case the wandering continuum is a line segment in an infinite geodesic under the flat metric.*

## 2 Lattès maps

This section is a review about Lattès maps. Refer to [10, 12, 13] for details. Let  $f : \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  be a rational map with  $\deg f \geq 2$ . Denote by  $\deg_z f$  the local degree of  $f$  at a point  $z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ ,

$$\Omega_f = \{z : \deg_z f > 1\}.$$

the critical set and

$$P_f = \overline{\bigcup_{n>0} f^n(\Omega_f)}$$

the post-critical set of  $f$ . The rational map  $f$  is called **post-critically finite** if  $\#P_f < \infty$ .

Let  $f$  be a post-critically finite rational map. Define  $\nu_f(z)$  for each point  $z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  to be the least common multiple of the local degrees  $\deg_y f^n$  for all  $n > 0$  and  $y \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$  with  $f^n(y) = z$ . By convention  $\nu_f(z) = \infty$  if the point  $z$  is contained in a super-attracting cycle. The **orbifold** of  $f$  is defined by  $\mathcal{O}_f = (\widehat{\mathbb{C}}, \nu_f)$ . Note that  $\nu_f(z) > 1$  if and only if  $z \in P_f$ . The **signature** of the orbifold  $\mathcal{O}_f$  is the list of the values of  $\nu_f$  restricted to  $P_f$ . The Euler Characteristic of  $\mathcal{O}_f$  is given by

$$\chi(\mathcal{O}_f) = 2 - \sum_{z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\nu_f(z)}\right).$$

It turns out in [10] that  $\chi(\mathcal{O}_f) \leq 0$ . The orbifold  $\mathcal{O}_f$  is **hyperbolic** if  $\chi(\mathcal{O}_f) < 0$ , and **parabolic** if  $\chi(\mathcal{O}_f) = 0$ . It is easy to check that the signature of a parabolic orbifold  $\mathcal{O}_f$  can only be  $(\infty, \infty)$ ,  $(2, 2, \infty)$ ,  $(2, 2, 2, 2)$ ,  $(3, 3, 3)$ ,  $(2, 4, 4)$  or  $(2, 3, 6)$ .

Suppose that the signature of  $\mathcal{O}_f$  is  $(\infty, \infty)$ . Then  $f$  is Möbius conjugate to a power map  $z \mapsto z^d$  with  $|d| \geq 2$ . Suppose that the signature of  $\mathcal{O}_f$  is  $(2, 2, \infty)$ . Then  $f$  is Möbius conjugate to  $\pm\Psi_d$ , where  $\Psi_d$  is the **Chebyshev polynomial** of degree  $d$  defined by the equation

$$\Psi_d\left(z + \frac{1}{z}\right) = z^d + \frac{1}{z^d}.$$

Note that the Julia set of the map  $\pm\Psi_d$  is the interval  $[-2, 2]$ . Thus in both cases, there exist no wandering continua for  $f$ .

A post-critically finite rational map  $f$  with parabolic orbifold is called a **Lattès map** if  $\nu_f(z) \neq \infty$  for any point  $z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}$ . Let  $\nu(\mathcal{O}_f) = \max\{\nu_f(z) : z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}}\}$ . Refer to [13, Theorem 3.1] for the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $f$  be a Lattès map. Then there exist a lattice  $\Lambda = \{n + m\omega, n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  ( $\text{Im } \omega > 0$ ), a finite holomorphic cover  $\Theta : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_f$ , a finite cyclic group  $G$  of order  $\nu(\mathcal{O}_f)$  generated by a conformal self-map  $\rho$  of  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  with fixed points, and an affine map  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ , such that*

$$\Theta(z_1) = \Theta(z_2) \Leftrightarrow z_1 = \rho^n(z_2) \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

and the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{C}/\Lambda & \xrightarrow{A} & \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \\ \Theta \downarrow & & \downarrow \Theta \\ \mathcal{O}_f & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathcal{O}_f. \end{array}$$

A Lattès map  $f$  is called **flexible** if  $\mathcal{O}_f$  has the signature  $(2, 2, 2, 2)$  and the affine map  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  defined in Theorem 2.1 has an integer derivative  $A' = a \in \mathbb{Z}$ . A Lattès map admits a non-trivial quasiconformal deformation if and only if it is flexible by the following discussion.

Let  $f$  be a Lattès map. If  $\#P_f = 3$  and  $f$  is topologically conjugate to another rational map  $g$ , then  $f$  and  $g$  are Möbius conjugate.

Now we assume that  $\#P_f = 4$ . Then the signature of  $\mathcal{O}_f$  is  $(2, 2, 2, 2)$  and  $\nu(\mathcal{O}_f) = 2$ . Let  $\tilde{\rho} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a lift of the generator  $\rho$  of  $G$  under the natural projection  $\pi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ . Let  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  be the unique fixed point of  $\tilde{\rho}$ . Then  $\tilde{\rho}(z) = 2z_0 - z$ . Denote by  $Q \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  the set of fixed points of  $\rho$ . Then  $\#Q = 4$  and  $\Theta(Q) = P_f$ . Therefore

$$\pi^{-1}(Q) = \{n/2 + m\omega/2 + z_0, n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}. \quad (1)$$

Let  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be the affine map defined in Theorem 2.1. Write  $\alpha(z) = az + b$ . Since  $f(P_f) \subset P_f$ , we have  $\alpha(\pi^{-1}(Q)) \subset \pi^{-1}(Q)$ . Equivalently, there exist integers  $(p, q, r, s)$  such that

$$a = p + q\omega, \text{ and } a\omega = r + s\omega. \quad (2)$$

It follows that

$$q\omega^2 + (p - s)\omega - r = 0. \quad (3)$$

If  $a$  is a real number, then  $q = r = 0$  and  $a = p = s$ . Thus the real number  $a$  must be an integer and equations (2) hold for any complex number  $\omega$ . This shows that one can make a quasiconformal deformation for the map  $f$  to get another rational map such that they are not Möbius conjugate.

If  $a$  is not real, then  $q \neq 0$  and thus the complex number  $\omega$  with  $\text{Im } \omega > 0$  is uniquely determined by the integers  $(p, q, r, s)$  from equation (3). This shows that if the map  $f$  is topologically conjugate to another rational map  $g$ , then  $f$  and  $g$  are Möbius conjugate.

**Remark.** A Lattès map is flexible if and only if it has a Cantor multicurve. Therefore a Lattès map admits a wandering Jordan curve if and only if it is flexible by Theorem A.

### 3 Wandering continua for torus coverings

Let  $\Lambda = \{n + m\omega : n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  ( $\text{Im } \omega > 0$ ) be a lattice. Then  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is a torus. A continuum  $E \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is **full** if there exists a simply connected domain  $U \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  such that  $E \subset U$

and  $U \setminus E$  is connected. Let  $\pi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be the natural projection. If  $E \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is a full continuum, then so is each component of  $\pi^{-1}(E)$ . In this section, we will prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be a covering of the torus with  $\deg A \geq 2$ . Then the map  $A$  admits an always full wandering continuum  $E$  if and only if its derivative  $a$  is an integer. In this case, the wandering continuum  $E$  is a line segment in an infinite geodesic under the flat metric of  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ .*

The proof of Theorem 3.1 is based on the following lemmas.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $E \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be a full continuum. For any line  $L \subset \mathbb{C}$  and any connected component  $B$  of  $\pi^{-1}(E)$ , if  $I$  is a bounded component of  $L \setminus B$ , then  $\pi$  is injective on  $I$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $I$  be a bounded component of  $L \setminus B$ . Then there are exactly two components  $U, V$  of  $\mathbb{C} \setminus (L \cup B)$  such that their boundaries contain the interval  $I$ . We claim that at least one of them, denoted it by  $U$ , is bounded. Otherwise one may find a Jordan curve  $\gamma$  in  $U \cup V \cup I$  such that  $\gamma$  separates the two endpoints  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  of  $I$ . Since  $\gamma$  is disjoint from  $B$ , and both  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  are contained in  $B$ , this contradicts the fact that  $B$  is connected.

Assume by contradiction that  $\pi$  is not injective on  $I$ , i.e. there exist two distinct points  $x, y \in I$  such that  $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$ . For each connected component  $G$  of  $B \cap \partial U$ , the set  $G \cap L$  is non-empty. Denote by  $H(G)$  the closed convex hull of  $G \cap L$ , i.e.  $H(G)$  is the minimal closed interval in  $L$  with  $H(G) \supset G \cap L$ . Then for any two components  $G_1, G_2$  of  $B \cap \partial U$ ,  $H(G_1)$  and  $H(G_2)$  are either disjoint or one contains another. In particular, there exists a component  $G_0$  of  $B \cap \partial U$  such that  $H(G_0) \supset H(G)$  for any component  $G$  of  $B \cap \partial U$ . Moreover,  $H(G_0) \supset I$ .

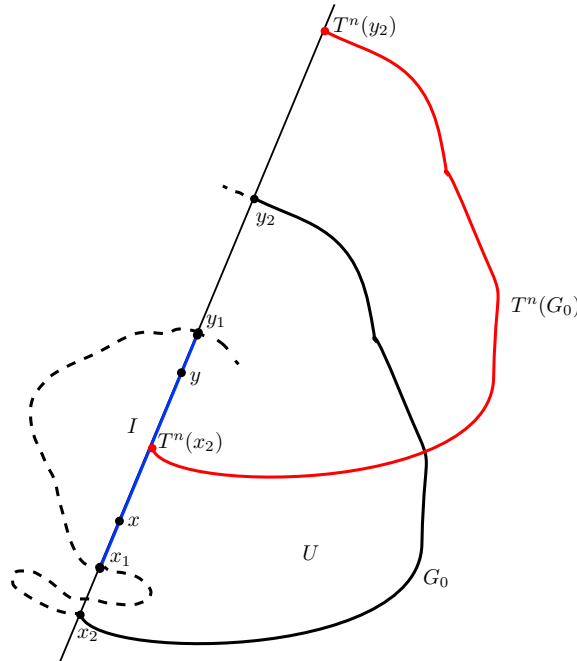


Figure 1. Lifting of a full continuum.

Set  $T(z) = z + (y - x)$ . Let  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  be the two endpoints of  $H(G_0)$ . Then there exists an integer  $n$  such that  $T^n(x_2) \in [x, y]$  and hence  $T^n(y_2) \notin I$ . Let  $\mathbb{H}$  be the component of

$\mathbb{C} \setminus L$  that contains  $U$ , then  $T^n(G_0)$  is a continuum in  $\mathbb{H} \cup L$  joining  $T^n(x_2)$  with  $T^n(y_2)$ , whereas  $G_0$  is a continuum in  $\mathbb{H} \cup L$  joining  $x_2$  with  $y_2$ . Thus  $G_0$  must intersect  $T^n(G_0)$ .

On the other hand, since  $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$ , we have  $(x - y) \in \Lambda$ . Thus  $T^n(z) = z \pmod{\Lambda}$  and  $T^n(B)$  is another component of  $\pi^{-1}(E)$  and hence is disjoint from  $B$ . This contradicts the facts that  $G_0 \subset B$  and  $G_0$  intersects  $T^n(G_0)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be a covering with  $\deg A \geq 2$  and  $E \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be an always full wandering continuum. Then  $E$  must be a line segment.*

*Proof.* Let  $B$  be a component of  $\pi^{-1}(E)$ . Assume by contradiction that  $B$  is not a line segment. We claim that there exists a line  $L \subset \mathbb{C}$  such that  $L \setminus B$  has a bounded component  $I$ . Otherwise, each line segment joining two points in  $B$  must be contained in  $B$ . Thus  $B$  is convex and hence has positive measure since it is not a line segment. This is impossible since  $A$  is expanding and  $E$  is wandering.

As in the proof of Lemma 3.2, there exists a bounded component  $U$  of  $\mathbb{C} \setminus (L \cup B)$  such that  $I \subset \partial U$ . Since  $\deg A \geq 2$ , we have  $a \neq 1$ . Thus the map  $\alpha(z) = az + b : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  has a unique fixed point  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ . Denote by  $\Gamma_0 = \{n + m\omega + z_0 : n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  and  $\Gamma_n = \alpha^{-n}(\Gamma_0)$ . Then there exists two distinct points  $x_n, y_n \in U \cap \Gamma_n$  for some integer  $n \geq 0$  such that for the line  $L_n$  that passes through the points  $x_n, y_n$ , the set  $L_n \cap U$  has a component  $I_n$  which contains both  $x_n$  and  $y_n$ , and the two endpoints of  $I_n$  are contained in  $B$ .

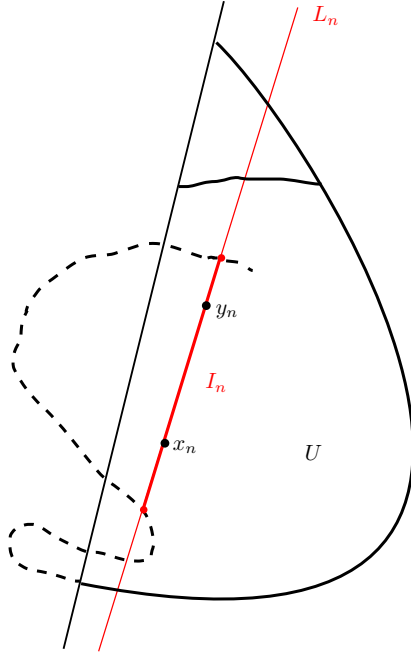


Figure 2. A wandering continuum is a line segment.

Now consider the full continuum  $\alpha^n(B)$  and the line  $\alpha^n(L_n)$ . The set  $\alpha^n(L_n) \setminus \alpha^n(B)$  has a component  $\alpha^n(I_n)$ , which contains  $x = \alpha^n(x_n)$  and  $y = \alpha^n(y_n)$ . Since  $x_n, y_n \in \Gamma_n$ , we have  $x, y \in \Gamma_0$  and hence  $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$ . This contradicts Lemma 3.2.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be a torus covering with  $\deg A \geq 2$ . If  $a$  is not real, then any line segment in  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is not wandering.*

*Proof.* Let  $E \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  be a line segment. We want to show that there exists an integer  $n > 0$  such that  $A^n(E)$  intersects  $A^{n+1}(E)$ .

Let  $R$  be the full parallelogram with vertices  $0, 1, \omega$  and  $1+\omega$ . Then  $R$  is a fundamental domain of the group  $\Lambda$ . Thus for any  $n \geq 0$ , the set  $\pi^{-1}(A^n(E))$  has a component  $B_n$  such that the midpoint  $m(B_n)$  of the line segment  $B_n$  is contained in the closure of  $R$ . Since the diameter of  $R$  is less than  $1 + |\omega|$ , for any  $n \geq 0$ , the Euclidean distance

$$|m(B_n) - m(B_{n+1})| \leq 1 + |\omega|. \quad (4)$$

Denote by  $a = |a| \exp(i\theta)$ . Then  $0 < |\theta| < \pi$  since  $a$  is not real. Let  $L_n$  be the line containing  $B_n$  for  $n \geq 0$ . Then  $L_n$  and  $L_{n+1}$  must intersect at a point  $O_n$  and the angle formed by these two lines is  $|\theta|$ . If  $B_n$  is disjoint from  $B_{n+1}$ , then  $O_n \notin B_n$  or  $O_n \notin B_{n+1}$ . In the former case, we have

$$|O_n - m(B_n)| \geq \frac{|B_n|}{2},$$

where  $|B_n|$  is the length of  $B_n$ . Therefore the Euclidean distance from  $m(B_n)$  to  $L_{n+1}$  satisfies

$$d(m(B_n), L_{n+1}) \geq \frac{|B_n|}{2} \sin |\theta|.$$

It follows that

$$1 + |\omega| \geq |m(B_n) - m(B_{n+1})| \geq d(m(B_n), L_{n+1}) \geq \frac{|B_n|}{2} \sin |\theta|.$$

So

$$|B_n| \leq \frac{2(1 + |\omega|)}{|\sin \theta|}. \quad (5)$$

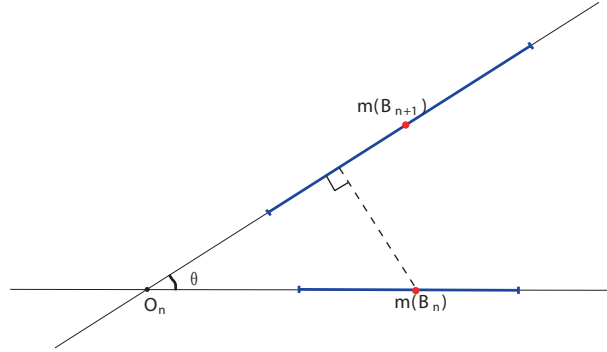


Figure 3. The upper bound of the length.

In the latter case, we have:

$$|B_{n+1}| \leq \frac{2(1 + |\omega|)}{|\sin \theta|}. \quad (6)$$

Noticing that  $\deg A = |a|^2 \geq 2$ , we have  $|B_n| = |a|^n |B_0| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus both cases are impossible.  $\square$

Now suppose that  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is a covering with  $\deg A \geq 2$  and  $a$  is an integer. Let  $L \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a line. Then either  $\pi(L)$  is a Jordan curve on  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  or  $\pi$  is injective on  $L$ . Write  $\alpha(z) = az + b$ . Then for any  $n, m \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha^n(L)$  and  $\alpha^m(L)$  either coincide or are parallel. Thus if  $\pi$  is injective on  $L$ , then  $\pi(L)$  is either eventually periodic or a **wandering line**, i.e.  $A^n(\pi(L)) \cap A^m(\pi(L)) = \emptyset$  for any  $n > m \geq 0$ .

**Lemma 3.5.** *Let  $L \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a line and  $B \subset L$  be a line segment.*

- (a) *If  $\pi(L)$  is a Jordan curve, then  $A^n(\pi(B))$  is not full when  $n$  is large enough.*
- (b) *If  $\pi(L)$  is a wandering line, then  $\pi(B)$  is a wandering continuum.*
- (c) *If  $\pi(L)$  is an eventually periodic line, then there exists a line segment  $B_0 \subset B$  such that  $\pi(B_0)$  is a wandering continuum.*

*Proof.* (a) Since  $\pi(L)$  is a Jordan curve, there exist two distinct points  $x, y \in L$  such that  $\pi(x) = \pi(y)$ . Since  $\deg A = |a|^2 \geq 2$ , there exists an integer  $n_0 > 0$  such that the Euclidean length  $|\alpha^n(B)| \geq |x - y|$  when  $n \geq n_0$ . Thus  $A^n(\pi(B)) = \pi(\alpha^n(B)) = \pi(L)$ , which is a Jordan curve, since  $a$  is real.

(b) This is obviously.

(c) Assume that  $\pi(L)$  is periodic with period  $p \geq 1$  for simplicity. Since  $\deg A \geq 2$ , there exists a unique point  $x_0 \in L$  such that  $A^p(\pi(x_0)) = \pi(x_0)$ . Pick a point  $y_0$  in the interior of  $B$  with  $y_0 \neq x_0$ . Then for any  $n \geq 1$ , there exists a unique point  $y_n \in L$  such that  $A^{np}(\pi(y_0)) = \pi(y_n)$ . Moreover,  $y_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Suppose that the integer  $a$  is positive. Then all points  $y_n$  are contained in the same component of  $L \setminus \{x_0\}$ . Since  $y_0$  is contained in the interior of  $B$ , there exists a closed line segment  $B_0 \subset B$  such that  $B_0 \subset (y_0, y_1)$ . Then  $\pi(B_0)$  is a wandering continuum.

Now suppose that the integer  $a$  is negative. Then the points  $y_{2k}$  are contained in the same component of  $L \setminus \{x_0\}$  for  $k \geq 0$ . Since  $y_0$  is contained in the interior of  $B$ , there exists a closed line segment  $B_0 \subset B$  such that  $B_0 \subset (y_0, y_2)$ . Then  $\pi(B_0)$  is a wandering continuum for  $A$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* The result follows directly from Lemmas 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.  $\square$

## 4 Proof of Theorem 1.1

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* Let  $f$  be a Lattès map. By Theorem 2.1, there exist a lattice  $\Lambda = \{n + m\omega, n, m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  with  $\text{Im } \omega > 0$ , a finite holomorphic cover  $\Theta : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_f$ , a finite cyclic group  $G$  of order  $\nu(\mathcal{O}_f)$  generated by a conformal self-map  $\rho$  of  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  with fixed points, and an affine map  $A(z) = az + b \pmod{\Lambda} : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ , such that

$$\Theta(z_1) = \Theta(z_2) \Leftrightarrow z_1 = \rho^n(z_2) \text{ for } n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

and the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{C}/\Lambda & \xrightarrow{A} & \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \\ \Theta \downarrow & & \downarrow \Theta \\ \mathcal{O}_f & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathcal{O}_f. \end{array}$$

Suppose that  $K$  is an always full wandering continuum of the map  $f$ . Then for each  $n \geq 0$ , every component of  $\Theta^{-1}(f^n(K))$  is a full continuum in  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  since  $f^n(K)$  is disjoint



from  $P_f$ . Let  $E$  be a component of  $\Theta^{-1}(K)$ . It is an always full wandering continuum for the map  $A$ . Therefore the derivative  $a$  is an integer and  $K$  is a line segment in an infinite geodesic under the flat metric on  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  by Theorem 3.1.

Let  $E_n$  be a component of  $\Theta^{-1}(f^n(K))$ . Then  $\rho(E_n)$  is also a component of  $\Theta^{-1}(f^n(K))$ , where  $\rho$  is the generator of the group  $G$ . Let  $R$  be the full parallelogram with vertices  $0, 1, \omega$  and  $1 + \omega$ . Then  $R$  is a fundamental domain of the group  $\Lambda$ . Thus there are components  $I_n$  and  $J_n$  of  $\pi^{-1}(E_n)$  and  $\pi^{-1}(\rho(E_n))$  respectively, such that the midpoints of  $I_n$  and  $J_n$  are contained in  $R$ .

Assume that  $\#P_f = 3$ . Let  $\tilde{\rho}$  be a lift of the map  $\rho$  under the projection  $\pi$ . Then  $\tilde{\rho}$  is a rotation around its fixed point with angle  $(2\pi)/\nu$ , where  $\nu = 3, 4$  or  $6$ . Thus the angle formed by the two lines containing  $I_n$  and  $J_n$  respectively, is  $(2\pi)/\nu$ . As in the proof of Lemma 3.4, we have:

$$|I_n| \leq \frac{2(1 + |\omega|)}{\sin(\pi/3)},$$

where  $|I_n|$  is the length of  $I_n$ . This leads to a contradiction since  $|I_n| = |a|^n |I_0| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Therefore  $\#P_f = 4$  and  $f$  is a flexible Lattès map.

Conversely, suppose that the map  $f$  is flexible. Denote by  $Q$  the set of fixed points of  $\rho$ . Then  $A(Q) \subset Q$  since  $f(P_f) \subset P_f$ .

Let  $L \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a line. If  $L$  passes through at least two points  $z_1, z_2 \in \pi^{-1}(Q)$ , then it passes through the point  $(z_2 + (z_2 - z_1))$ . Note that  $z_2 - z_1 \equiv 0 \pmod{\Lambda/2}$  by (1). So we have  $2(z_2 - z_1) \equiv 0 \pmod{\Lambda}$ , i.e.,  $\pi(z_2 + (z_2 - z_1)) = \pi(z_1)$ . So  $\pi(L)$  is a Jordan curve on  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ . If  $L$  passes through exactly one point  $z_0 \in \pi^{-1}(Q)$ , then  $\pi$  is injective on  $L$ ,  $\Theta(\pi(L))$  is a ray from a point in  $P_f$ , and  $\Theta : \pi(L) \rightarrow \Theta(\pi(L))$  is a folding with exactly one fold point at  $\pi(z_0) \in Q$ . If  $L$  is disjoint from  $\pi^{-1}(Q)$ , then  $\Theta \circ \pi$  is injective on  $L$ .

Suppose that  $\pi(L) \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is a wandering line. Then  $A^n(\pi(L))$  is disjoint from  $Q$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . Thus  $\Theta$  is injective on each line  $A^n(\pi(L))$ . On the other hand, if  $\Theta(A^n(\pi(L)))$  intersects  $\Theta(A^{n+p}(\pi(L)))$  for some integer  $p > 0$ , then they coincide since the map  $\rho$  in  $G$  preserves the slopes of the lines. Thus  $A^{n+2p}(\pi(L)) = \rho(A^{n+p}(\pi(L)))$ . Therefore

$$A^{n+2p}(\pi(L)) = \rho(A^{n+p}(\pi(L)))$$

since  $A \circ \rho = \rho \circ A$ . But  $\rho^2$  is the identity. So  $A^{n+2p}(\pi(L)) = A^n(\pi(L))$ . This is a contradiction. Therefore  $\Theta(A^n(\pi(L)))$  is pairwise disjoint. Thus for any line segment  $E \subset \pi(L)$ , the set  $\Theta(E)$  is an always full wandering continuum for  $f$ .

Now suppose that  $\pi(L) \subset \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$  is an eventually periodic line with period  $p \geq 1$ . Then  $\Theta(A^n(\pi(L)))$  are either bi-infinite or one-side-infinite geodesics depending on whether  $A^n(\pi(L))$  passes through a point in  $Q$ . Since  $\rho^2$  is the identity, either they are disjoint and have the same period, or two of them coincide and the period is  $p/2$ . Let  $E \subset \pi(L)$  be a wandering line segment. In the former case,  $\Theta(E)$  is an always full wandering continuum of  $f$ . In the latter case, there exists a line segment  $E_0 \subset E$  such that  $\Theta(E_0)$  is an always full wandering continuum for  $f$ .  $\square$

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