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WHEN DO TWO RATIONAL FUNCTIONS HAVE LOCALLY BIHOLOMORPHIC JULIA SETS?

ROMAIN DUJARDIN, CHARLES FAVRE, AND THOMAS GAUTHIER

ABSTRACT. In this note we address the following question, whose interest was recently renewed by problems arising in arithmetic dynamics: under which conditions does there exist a local biholomorphism between the Julia sets of two given one-dimensional rational maps? In particular we find criteria ensuring that such a local isomorphism is induced by an algebraic correspondence. This extends and unifies classical results due to Baker, Beardon, Eremenko, Levin, Przytycki and others. The proof involves entire curves and positive currents.

1. INTRODUCTION

The problem of determining when two rational maps have the same Julia set has been considered by many authors in the holomorphic dynamics literature [1, 3, 9, 14, 21, 22, 37], in relation with some classical functional equations. In certain situations (e.g., if the Julia set is the whole sphere), it is preferable to ask when two rational maps have the same measure of maximal entropy. The conclusion is that these rational maps satisfy an algebraic relation whose analysis is quite delicate (this was explored in [30, 41]). Such rigidity issues have recently played an important role in arithmetic dynamics (see e.g., [2, 17, 19], and also Remark 1.1 below).

In this article we consider the following problem: is any local biholomorphism preserving the Julia set (or the measure of maximal entropy) induced by an algebraic correspondence? The case of polynomials of the same degree with connected and locally connected Julia sets was recently addressed by Luo [24]. Here we deal with general rational maps, possibly of different degrees, and obtain a rather satisfactory answer when the maximal entropy measure is (quasi-)preserved (Theorem A). We are also able to completely solve the problem for polynomials satisfying some mild expansion properties on their Julia sets (Theorem B; see also Remark 4.3 for a discussion of the relationship between our results and those of [24]). Related results were obtained in [6, 20, 23], under the stronger assumption of the existence of a partial analytic conjugacy.

To be more specific, for a complex rational map f of degree $d \geq 2$, we denote by $J_f \subset \mathbb{P}^1$ its Julia set and by μ_f its measure of maximal entropy. It is the unique atomless probability measure such that $f^*\mu_f = d\mu_f$. Following the terminology of [17], we say that f is *integrable* if it is either a Chebychev, monomial, or Lattès map. Likewise, we say that J_f is *smooth* if it is equal to \mathbb{P}^1 , a circle, or a segment. Any integrable rational map has a smooth Julia set, but there are many more examples (see e.g. [15]).

Given two positive measures μ_1 and μ_2 , we write $\mu_1 \asymp \mu_2$ if $c^{-1}\mu_2 \leq \mu_1 \leq c\mu_2$ for some positive constant c . In other words, μ_1 is absolutely continuous with respect to μ_2

and $c^{-1} \leq \frac{d\mu_1}{d\mu_2} \leq c$. We use the more precise notation $\mu_1 \asymp_c \mu_2$ if there is a need to specify the constant c . We also write $\mu_1 \propto \mu_2$ if μ_1 is proportional to μ_2 , that is, if there exists $\alpha > 0$ such that $\mu_1 = \alpha\mu_2$.

Here is our first main result:

Theorem A. *Let f_1 and f_2 be non-integrable rational maps of degree larger than 1, and U be any open subset of \mathbb{P}^1 intersecting J_{f_1} . Let $\sigma: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be any non-constant holomorphic map satisfying $\sigma^*\mu_{f_2} \asymp \mu_{f_1}$ on U . When J_{f_1} is smooth we further require that $\sigma^*\mu_{f_2} \propto \mu_{f_1}$.*

Suppose in addition that there exists a repelling periodic point p_1 for f_1 such that $\sigma(p_1)$ is preperiodic under f_2 .

Then there exist positive integers $a, b \in \mathbb{N}^$ and an irreducible algebraic curve $Z \subset \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ which is preperiodic under (f_1^a, f_2^b) and contains the graph of σ .*

In particular we have that $d_1^a = d_2^b$, and $\sigma^\mu_{f_2} \propto \mu_{f_1}$ in all cases.*

In plain words, the local measure class preserving morphism σ between J_{f_1} and J_{f_2} is induced by an algebraic correspondence between f_1 and f_2 . It is easy to see that such a result cannot be true in the integrable case (see Remark 2.13).

Preperiodic algebraic curves under (f_1, f_2) in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ were classified by Pakovich [29]: the upshot is that for any such curve there exists rational functions X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 such that the curve is a component of $Y_1(x) - Y_2(y) = 0$, $Y_1 \circ X_1 = Y_2 \circ X_2$, $X_1 \circ Y_1 = f_1^n$ and $X_2 \circ Y_2 = f_2^n$. If $f = f_1 = f_2$ is a generic map of degree $d \geq 3$, this curve must be a component of $\{f^k(x) = f^\ell(y)\}$ (see [31, 41]). We conclude that in this case any algebraic correspondence is induced by a branch of $f^{-\ell} \circ f^k$. In the polynomial case, more precise results were obtained in [26].

The proof of Theorem A is given in Section 2. A natural strategy to establish such a result is to use the expansion induced by the repelling point p_1 to propagate the local morphism σ to the whole of \mathbb{P}^1 . The difficulty is that the limiting objects will be transcendental and highly multivalued. Our approach is geometric and based on entire curves and positive currents: notable ingredients include the Ahlfors Five Islands Theorem (in its strong, quantitative form) and Siu's decomposition theorem for positive closed currents.

Another key tool in the proof is a deep rigidity theorem due to Levin [21], which asserts that, for a given rational map f , there are in a sense only finitely many nontrivial local symmetries of J_f defined in a fixed open set U intersecting J_f (see §2.2 for details). A posteriori, Theorem A may be viewed as a refinement of Levin's theorem: these symmetries are local branches of some global algebraic symmetry of f .

Note that the notion of local symmetry in Levin's theorem is less restrictive than ours: for a non-smooth Julia set it is just a local holomorphic map such that $\sigma^{-1}(J_f) \cap U = J_f \cap U$. In view of this, it is natural to expect that, for non-smooth Julia sets, the assumption that σ preserves the measure class of the maximal entropy measure is superfluous in Theorem A (see Remark 3.4 for a related discussion). More ambitiously, we may ask the following:

Problem. *Let f_1 and f_2 be non-integrable rational maps, and σ be a holomorphic map defined in some open set U intersecting J_{f_1} , such that the equality $\sigma^{-1}(J_{f_2}) \cap U = J_{f_1} \cap U$ holds if J_{f_1} is not smooth, and $\sigma^* \mu_{f_2} \asymp \mu_{f_1}$ when J_{f_1} is smooth.*

Then is σ induced by an algebraic correspondence between f_1 and f_2 ?

In Sections 3, 4, and 5 we take some further steps towards the resolution of this problem. We first prove that the assumption that σ maps a repelling point to a preperiodic point can be dropped under suitable expansion properties for f_1 and f_2 . Indeed, in this case the geometry of the Julia set (resp. of μ_f) alone is enough to detect preperiodic points (see Section 3, and in particular Corollary 3.2, for details).

For polynomials, by using the fact that the maximal entropy measure coincides with the harmonic measure of the Julia set (viewed from infinity), we are able to show that, under reasonable assumptions, the measure class preservation $\sigma^* \mu_{f_2} \asymp \mu_{f_1}$ is automatically implied by the geometric condition $\sigma^{-1}(J_{f_2}) \cap U = J_{f_1} \cap U$. Some non-trivial potential-theoretic arguments are developed in Section 4 to deal with the delicate interplay between the local and global properties of the harmonic measure.

In Section 5, we deal with one specific issue concerning polynomial Julia sets that are Jordan curves: how to make *locally* the distinction between the inside and the outside of J_f ? As a matter of fact, in Proposition 5.1 we prove that if f_1 and f_2 are polynomials whose Julia sets are non-smooth Jordan curves, there does not exist a local biholomorphism mapping J_1 to J_2 and mapping the bounded component of $\mathbb{C} \setminus J_1$ to the bounded component of $\mathbb{C} \setminus J_2$. This is particularly delicate for quasicircles, which have no preferred side from the conformal point of view. J_1 to J_2 and mapping the bounded component of $\mathbb{C} \setminus J_1$ to the unbounded component of $\mathbb{C} \setminus J_2$

Combining this to the results of Section 3 yields the following streamlined version of Theorem A, which solves the above problem for polynomials satisfying the so-called Topological Collet-Eckmann (TCE) condition (see Section 3 for this notion; Theorem B is proven in Section 4).

Theorem B. *Let f_1 and f_2 be polynomials, such that either of f_1 or f_2 is non-integrable and satisfies the Topological Collet-Eckmann property. Let σ be a holomorphic map defined in some open set U intersecting J_{f_1} , such that the equality $\sigma^{-1}(J_{f_2}) \cap U = J_{f_1} \cap U$ holds. Then σ is induced by an algebraic correspondence between f_1 and f_2 .*

Remark 1.1. Our investigations were partially motivated by a question that arose in the work of the first two authors on the dynamical Manin-Mumford problem for plane polynomial automorphisms [12]. The context is as follows:

Suppose f is a complex plane polynomial automorphisms of positive entropy, and let p be any hyperbolic fixed point. Suppose moreover that there exists a local biholomorphism σ from the stable manifold of p to its unstable manifold that maps the backward invariant current to the forward invariant current (these objects are higher dimensional analogs of the maximal entropy measure). Showing that σ extends as a global algebraic involution of \mathbb{C}^2 would imply [12, Conjecture 1]; see Remark 4.4 of op.cit. \square

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2. PROOF OF THEOREM A

2.1. Notation and conventions. Any positive measure μ on \mathbb{P}^1 can be locally defined by $\mu = dd^c u$ for some subharmonic function u . We say that μ has continuous potentials when u is continuous. Let $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be any holomorphic map defined on a connected open subset of the Riemann sphere. For any positive measure $\mu = dd^c u$ as before, we locally define $f^* \mu$ by $f^* \mu = dd^c(u \circ f)$. Alternatively, if μ gives no mass to points, we may set

$$f^* \mu|_A = \left(f|_{f^{-1}(A)} \right)_* \mu$$

on any Borel set A on which f is injective.

When two rational maps f_1 and f_2 are given, to ease notation we often write μ_i for μ_{f_i} , and likewise J_i for the Julia sets, etc.

We use the notation $D(z, r)$ for the open disk of center $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and radius r in \mathbb{C} , write $\mathbb{D} = D(0, 1)$ and identify $\partial\mathbb{D}$ with $\mathbb{S}^1 = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$. Likewise, $B(z, r)$ refers to the spherical disk of center z and radius r in \mathbb{P}^1 . We often denote by C a “constant” which may change from line to line, independently of some asymptotic quantity which should be clear from the context, and write $a \lesssim b$ for $a \leq Cb$ and $a \asymp b$ for $C^{-1}b \leq a \leq Cb$.

2.2. Levin’s theorem. By definition the Julia set of a rational map f is said to be smooth if it contains an open set or if on some open subset it coincides with a smooth arc. In this case it was proved by Fatou that J_f is respectively equal to \mathbb{P}^1 , or it is a circle or a segment (see [16, §56 p. 250]).

Theorem 2.1 (Levin [21]). *Let f be a rational map of degree greater than 1. Suppose there exists a connected open set $U \subset \mathbb{P}^1$ intersecting J_f and an infinite family of holomorphic maps $\sigma_n: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $\sigma_n^{-1}(J_f) \cap U = J_f \cap U$. If in addition J_f is smooth we require that $\sigma_n^* \mu_f \propto \mu_f$.*

If the family (σ_n) is normal and all its limit functions are non-constant, then f is integrable.

In the following, we will refer to a local map σ satisfying these assumptions simply as a *local symmetry* of J_f . Let us also pinpoint an intermediate step in the proof of Theorem 2.1 which will also be useful.

Lemma 2.2 (see [21, Proposition 1]). *Let p be a repelling fixed point of the rational map f . Assume that $\sigma: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is a holomorphic map fixing p such that $\sigma'(p) \neq 0$ and $\sigma^{-1}(J_f) \cap U = J_f \cap U$; if in addition J_f is smooth we further require that $\sigma^* \mu_f \propto \mu_f$. Then σ and f commute.*

2.3. A normal families lemma. The normality assumption in Levin’s theorem will be deduced from a uniform bound on the Radon-Nikodym derivative $\frac{d\sigma_n^* \mu_f}{d\mu_f}$, thanks to the following normal families criterion.

Lemma 2.3. *Let $U \subset \mathbb{P}^1$ be a connected open set, ν_1 a non-zero positive measure on U and ν_2 a positive measure on \mathbb{P}^1 with continuous local potentials. If σ_n is a sequence of holomorphic mappings $U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $(\sigma_n)^*\nu_2 \asymp_c \nu_1$ for some uniform $c > 0$, then (σ_n) is a normal family and all its limiting maps are non-constant.*

From Lemma 2.3 and Levin's theorem we get:

Corollary 2.4. *Let f be a non-integrable rational map of degree greater than 1, and (σ_n) be a sequence of local symmetries of J_f as in Theorem 2.1. If in addition $(\sigma_n)^*\mu \asymp_c \mu$ for some uniform $c > 0$, then the family (σ_n) is finite.*

Proof of Lemma 2.3. We may assume that U is a disk. Note that our assumption implies that ν_2 gives no mass to points, so neither does ν_1 on U .

For the first assertion, assume by contradiction that (σ_n) is not normal in U . Then by the Zalcman reparameterization lemma there exists a sequence (a_n) converging to some $a^* \in U$, a sequence $r_n \rightarrow 0$ and an extraction n_j such that the sequence of meromorphic functions $(\zeta \mapsto \sigma_{n_j}(a_{n_j} + r_{n_j}\zeta))$ converges uniformly on compact subsets to a non-constant entire mapping $\sigma_\infty : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. Since ν_2 gives no mass to points there is a regular value of σ_∞ in $\text{Supp}(\nu_2)$. In particular there is a disk D' on which σ_∞ is univalent, together with a smaller disk $D \Subset D'$ such that $\nu_2(\sigma_\infty(D)) > 0$. Now σ_{n_j} is univalent on $a_{n_j} + r_{n_j}D$ for large j , and $\sigma_{n_j}(a_{n_j} + r_{n_j}D)$ converges to $\sigma_\infty(D)$. Therefore if D was further chosen so that $\nu_2(\partial(\sigma_\infty(D))) = 0$ we infer that

$$\nu_1(\{a^*\}) = \lim_n \nu_1(a_{n_j} + r_{n_j}D) \geq c\nu_2(\sigma_\infty(D)) > 0$$

which is the desired contradiction.

For the second assertion we again argue by contradiction and assume that some subsequence (σ_{n_j}) converges to a constant a on U . Let φ be a non-negative test function in U such that $\int \varphi d\nu_1 > 0$. Let g_1 be a subharmonic potential for ν_1 in U and g_2 be a subharmonic potential for ν_2 defined in a neighborhood of a . By assumption, we have $dd^c(g_2 \circ \sigma_n) \geq c dd^c g_1$. Subtracting a constant we may assume that $g_2(a) = 0$. Then we have

$$0 < c \int_U \varphi dd^c g_1 = \int_U \varphi dd^c (g_2 \circ \sigma_n) = \int_U (g_2 \circ \sigma_n) dd^c \varphi$$

and

$$\left| \int_U (g_2 \circ \sigma_n) dd^c \varphi \right| \leq \|\varphi\|_{C^2(U)} \|g_2 \circ \sigma_n\|_{L^\infty(\text{Supp}(\varphi))}$$

which tends to zero since $\sigma_n(\text{Supp}(\varphi))$ converges to $\{a\}$ and g_2 is continuous. This contradiction finishes the proof. \square

Remark 2.5. The continuity of the potential of g_2 is essential in the second part of the proof, in particular assuming that ν_2 gives no mass to points is not enough to conclude. Indeed the measure $\nu = dd^c(-\log|\log|z||)$ gives no mass to points and satisfies $(\sigma_n)^*\nu = \nu$ for $\sigma_n(z) = z^n$, while z^n converges uniformly to 0 in a neighborhood of the origin.

2.4. Algebraization. The core of the proof of Theorem A is the following algebraization result, which will later be applied to (generalized) Poincaré-Koenigs linearization mappings. At this stage we do not claim any invariance for the implied algebraic curve.

Proposition 2.6. *Let f_1 and f_2 be two non-integrable rational maps on \mathbb{P}^1 . Assume that ψ_1 and ψ_2 are entire maps $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $(\psi_2)^*\mu_{f_2} \asymp (\psi_1)^*\mu_{f_1}$; if either J_{f_1} or J_{f_2} is smooth then we further require that $(\psi_2)^*\mu_{f_2} \propto (\psi_1)^*\mu_{f_1}$. Define the entire map $\Psi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ by $\Psi = (\psi_1, \psi_2)$. Then $\overline{\Psi(\mathbb{C})}$ is an irreducible algebraic curve which is neither a vertical nor a horizontal line.*

Notice that under our assumptions, J_{f_1} is smooth if and only if J_{f_2} is also smooth.

Proof. As a preliminary step, let us observe that if ψ_1 and ψ_2 are rational, then $\Psi(\mathbb{C})$ is an algebraic curve since the transcendence degree of $\mathbb{C}(T)$ over \mathbb{C} is 1. Another argument goes by using Remmert's Proper Mapping Theorem and the GAGA principle. So without loss of generality we may assume that Ψ is transcendental.

Step 1: construction of inverse branches and geometry of the Ahlfors currents.

Let $\omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}$ be a Fubini-Study form on \mathbb{P}^1 , normalized by $\int_{\mathbb{P}^1} \omega_{\mathbb{P}^1} = 1$ and set $\omega = \pi_1^*\omega_{\mathbb{P}^1} + \pi_2^*\omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}$. For any $R > 0$, set

$$\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R))) := \int_{D(0, R)} \Psi^*\omega, \text{ and } \text{Length}(\partial\Psi(D(0, R))) := \int_{\partial D} |\Psi'(Re^{i\theta})|_{\omega} R d\theta.$$

Since Ψ is transcendental, $\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R))) \rightarrow \infty$ when $R \rightarrow \infty$. By the Ahlfors isoperimetric inequality (see [40, §VI.5] or [5]) there exists a sequence $R_j \rightarrow \infty$ such that

$$\text{Length}(\partial\Psi(D(0, R_j))) = o(\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))).$$

Any cluster value of the sequence of positive currents

$$T_j := \frac{1}{\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))} [\Psi(D(0, R_j))]$$

is by definition an Ahlfors current associated to Ψ . Fix such an Ahlfors current T . Then T is a positive closed $(1, 1)$ current in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ satisfying $\int T \wedge \omega = 1$ so there exists $i \in \{1, 2\}$ such that $(\pi_i)_*T \neq 0$, or equivalently $\langle [T], [\pi_i^*\omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}] \rangle \neq 0$, where $[\cdot]$ denotes the class in $H^{1,1}(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1)$ and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the intersection pairing. Without loss of generality we may assume $i = 1$.

We now apply Ahlfors' theory of covering surfaces, in the spirit of [4, §7], with an additional twist inspired from [11]. Fix any integer $q \geq 5$ and consider q disks D_i with disjoint closures, intersecting J_1 . For every $1 \leq i \leq q$, let $N_j(D_i)$ be the number of univalent inverse branches ("good islands") of ψ_1 over D_i contained in $D(0, R_j)$. We label the corresponding components of $\psi_1^{-1}(D_i)$ as $(\Omega_{i,n})_{n \geq 1}$ in such a way that for $1 \leq n \leq N_j(D_i)$, $\Omega_{i,n} \subset D(0, R_j)$. Note that at most one of the $\Omega_{i,n}$ contains the origin so we may assume that $0 \notin \Omega_{i,n}$. Then by Ahlfors' theorem,

$$\sum_{i=1}^q N_j(D_i) \geq (q-4)\text{Area}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j))) - h \text{Length}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j))),$$

where the area and length are computed with respect to $\omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}$, and h is a geometric constant depending only on the disks D_i (see [40, Theorem VI.4]).

Since

$$0 < \int (\pi_1)_* T \wedge \omega_{\mathbb{P}^1} = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{Area}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j)))}{\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))}$$

there exists a constant C_1 such that for every j ,

$$\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j))) \leq C_1 \text{Area}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j)));$$

in particular ψ_1 is transcendental. The number of good islands contained in $D(0, R_j)$ whose volume (relative to ω) is at least $1/2$ is bounded from above by $2 \text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))$, which is itself bounded by $2C_1 \text{Area}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j)))$. Let us discard these components and denote by $N'_j(D_i)$ the number of remaining ones. Since these components have volume bounded by $1/2$, by Bishop's compactness theorem (see, e.g., [11, Lemma 3.5]) they form a normal family. If q was chosen so that $q > 4 + 2C_1$ we infer that

$$\sum_{i=1}^q N'_j(D_i) \geq (q - 4 - 2C_1) \text{Area}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j))) - h \text{Length}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j))).$$

Extract a further subsequence of (R_j) (still denoted by (R_j)) so that for a fixed $i \in \{1, \dots, q\}$

$$(1) \quad N'_j(D_i) \geq \frac{q - 4 - 2C_1}{q} \text{Area}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j))) - \frac{h}{q} \text{Length}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j))),$$

and put $D = D_i$ and $\Omega_n = \Omega_{i,n}$. Let

$$S_j = \frac{1}{\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))} \sum_{n=0}^{N'_j(D)} [\Psi(\Omega_n)]$$

which is a sum of integration currents of graphs over D . By (1), we have that $S_j \leq T_j$ and we may estimate the mass $\mathbf{M}(S_j) := \int S_j \wedge \omega$ as follows:

$$\mathbf{M}(S_j) \geq \int S_j \wedge \pi_1^* \omega \geq \frac{q - 4 - 2C_1}{q} \cdot \frac{\text{Area}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j)))}{\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))} - \frac{h}{q} \cdot \frac{\text{Length}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(\psi_1(D(0, R_j)))}{\text{Area}(\Psi(D(0, R_j)))}$$

hence $\liminf_j \mathbf{M}(S_j) \geq \frac{q-4-2C_1}{q} \mathbf{M}((\pi_1)_* T) > 0$ and any cluster value S of the sequence (S_j) satisfies $0 < S \leq T$.

Step 2: using the local symmetries to conclude.

To simplify notation, write $\mu_1 = \mu_{f_1}$ and $\mu_2 = \mu_{f_2}$. For every n , define

$$\psi_{1,n}^{-1} := (\psi_1|_{\Omega_n})^{-1} : D \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega_n$$

and let $\sigma_n := \psi_2 \circ \psi_{1,n}^{-1}$. By construction σ_n is defined in D with values in \mathbb{P}^1 . Writing $\psi_2^* \mu_2 = h \psi_1^* \mu_1$, with $c^{-1} \leq h \leq c$ for some $c > 0$, we infer that

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_n^* \mu_2 &= (\psi_{1,n})_* (\psi_2^* \mu_2) = (\psi_{1,n})_* (h \psi_1^* \mu_1) \\ &= \left(h \circ \psi_{1,n}^{-1} \right) (\psi_{1,n})_* \psi_1^* \mu_1 = \left(h \circ \psi_{1,n}^{-1} \right) \mu_1 \asymp_c \mu_1, \end{aligned}$$

so by Lemma 2.3, (σ_n) is a normal family and its limiting maps are non-constant.

Remark 2.7. Note that the normality of the family (σ_n) was already obtained in Step 1, so the quasi-preservation of the measure is only used to guarantee that its normal limit are non-constant.

Now observe that the maps σ_n give rise to local symmetries of J_2 : indeed we can pick a subdisk D' intersecting J_1 on which σ_1 is univalent, and define a sequence of local symmetries of J_2 by putting $\tau_n = \sigma_n \circ (\sigma_1|_{D'})^{-1}$. These are holomorphic map from $\sigma_1(D')$ to \mathbb{P}^1 satisfying the relation $\tau_n^* \mu_2 \asymp_{c^2} \mu_2$, where c is as in (2). If in addition J_{f_1} and J_{f_2} are smooth, arguing as in (2) we further deduce that $\tau_n^* \mu_2 \propto \mu_2$. Thus it follows from Corollary 2.4 that the family (τ_n) is finite, hence so does the family (σ_n) . From this we infer that the graphs $\Psi(\Omega_n)$ are contained in finitely many graphs over D , therefore S_j is an integration current over a fixed finite union of graphs (Δ_ℓ) over D , independent of j , namely $S_j = \sum_\ell s_{\ell,j}[\Delta_\ell]$. Extracting a converging subsequence, we get a current $S = \sum s_\ell[\Delta_\ell]$ supported on the same family of graphs and from Step 1 we know that $0 < S \leq T$. Note that none of these graphs is horizontal because $\psi_2^* \mu_2 \asymp \psi_1^* \mu_1$.

With the above notation, fix ℓ such that $s_\ell > 0$. Then $T \geq s_\ell[\Delta_\ell]$. By Siu's decomposition theorem (see [7, (2.18)]) there exists an analytic, hence algebraic, subvariety Γ of $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$, extending Δ_ℓ , such that $T \geq s_\ell[\Gamma]$. Since $\Delta_\ell \subset \Psi(\mathbb{C})$ by construction and $\overline{\Delta_\ell} \subset \Gamma$, by analytic continuation $\overline{\Psi(\mathbb{C})}$ is contained in Γ . Therefore we conclude that $\overline{\Psi(\mathbb{C})}$ is an algebraic curve, which is obviously irreducible, and which cannot be neither a vertical line because it contains a graph over the first coordinate, nor a horizontal line because this graph was shown to be non-horizontal. The proof is complete. \square

Remark 2.8. Note that if ψ_1 is transcendental, then so does ψ_2 . Indeed by Proposition 2.6 there exists a polynomial $P \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ such that $P(\psi_1, \psi_2) = 0$. If ψ_2 is algebraic, it follows that $\psi_1^{-1}(z_1)$ is finite for any $z_1 \in \mathbb{C}$ which is contradictory.

2.5. Local isomorphisms and Poincaré-Koenigs functions. Let f be a rational map of degree $d \geq 2$, and p be a repelling fixed point. Denote by $\lambda = f'(p)$ its multiplier. Then f is linearizable in a neighborhood of p , consequently there exists a unique holomorphic map $\psi_{(f,p)}: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $\psi_{(f,p)}(0) = p$, $\psi'_{(f,p)}(0) = 1$ and for every $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$(3) \quad f \circ \psi_{(f,p)}(\zeta) = \psi_{(f,p)}(\lambda\zeta).$$

This map is called the Poincaré-Koenigs linearizing map of f .

Lemma 2.9. *Let $\chi: (\mathbb{C}, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{P}^1, p)$ be a germ of non-constant holomorphic map satisfying the functional equation*

$$(4) \quad f \circ \chi(\zeta) = \chi(\kappa\zeta) \text{ for all } \zeta \in \mathbb{C} \text{ and some } \kappa \in \mathbb{C}.$$

If we have $\chi(\zeta) = \beta\zeta^l + O(\zeta^{l+1})$ with $l \geq 1$ and $\beta \neq 0$, then $\kappa^l = \lambda$ and $\chi(\zeta) = \psi_{(f,p)}(\beta\zeta^l)$.

Any function χ satisfying (4) will be referred to as a *generalized Poincaré-Koenigs map*.

Proof. The expansion of $f \circ \chi(\zeta)$ at the origin together with (4) force $\lambda = \kappa^l$. Locally at 0, $\psi_{(f,p)}$ is invertible, so that we may consider the holomorphic germ $\tilde{\chi} := \psi_{(f,p)}^{-1} \circ \chi$.

Observe that

$$\tilde{\chi}(\kappa\zeta) = \psi_{(f,p)}^{-1} \circ f \circ \chi(\zeta) = \lambda\tilde{\chi}(\zeta).$$

Expanding $\tilde{\chi}$ in power series at 0 yields $\tilde{\chi}(\zeta) = \beta\zeta^\ell$. The proof is complete. \square

Recall that for two rational maps f_i , $i = 1, 2$ we write $\mu_i = \mu_{f_i}$, $J_i = J_{f_i}$, etc.

Proposition 2.10. *Let f_1 and f_2 be two non-integrable rational maps of respective degrees $d_1, d_2 \geq 2$, and U be any connected open set intersecting J_1 . Suppose $\sigma: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is a non-constant holomorphic map sending a repelling fixed point p_1 for f_1 to a fixed point p_2 for f_2 . Let λ_1 and λ_2 be the respective multipliers of p_1 and p_2 , and set $\ell = \deg_{p_1}(\sigma) \geq 1$.*

Suppose that:

- (1) either J_2 is not smooth;
- (2) or J_2 is smooth and $\sigma^*(\mu_2) \propto \mu_1$.

Then the point p_2 is repelling, and there exist $a, b \in \mathbb{N}^$ such that $\lambda_1^{a\ell} = \lambda_2^b$ and $f_2^b \circ \sigma = \sigma \circ f_1^a$. Moreover, for $\chi_1 = \psi_{(f_1, p_1)}$, $\chi_2 := \sigma \circ \chi_1$ extends to a generalized Poincaré-Koenigs map for f_2 satisfying $\chi_1^{-1}(J_1) = \chi_2^{-1}(J_2)$.*

If in Case (1) we further assume:

- (1') J_2 is not smooth and $\sigma^*\mu_2 \asymp \mu_1$

then we have the identities $d_1^a = d_2^b$ and $\chi_1^\mu_1 \asymp \chi_2^*\mu_2$ (resp. $\chi_1^*\mu_1 \propto \chi_2^*\mu_2$ in Case (2)).*

Remark 2.11. If p_1 and p_2 are periodic of respective periods m_1 and m_2 , applying this result to $f_1^{m_1}$ and $f_2^{m_2}$ we get a similar conclusion, where the relations become $\lambda_1^{a\ell} = \lambda_2^b$, $f_2^{m_2 b} \circ \sigma = \sigma \circ f_1^{m_1 a}$, and $d_1^{m_1 a} = d_2^{m_2 b}$.

Proof. Choose local coordinates such that $p_1 = p_2 = 0$ and $\sigma(z) = z^\ell$ for some $\ell \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Fix any ℓ -th root κ_2 of λ_2 . Then we can write

$$f_2 \circ \sigma(z) = \lambda_2 z^\ell + \text{h.o.t.} = \left(\kappa_2 z + \sum_{j \geq 2} a_j z^j \right)^\ell$$

and we set $g_1(z) := \kappa_2 z + \sum_{j \geq 2} a_j z^j$ so that $f_2 \circ \sigma = \sigma \circ g_1$. Note that g_1 is a local isomorphism at p_1 which locally satisfies $g_1^{-1}(J_1) = J_1$ in Case (1) and $g_1^*\mu_1 \propto \mu_1$ in Case (2).

Lemma 2.2 implies that f_1 and g_1 commute. In the linearizing coordinate of f_1 , the map \tilde{g}_1 corresponding to g_1 is a local biholomorphism satisfying $\tilde{g}_1(\lambda_1\zeta) = \lambda_1\tilde{g}_1(\zeta)$. Expanding g_1 in power series, and since λ_1 is not a root of unity, we obtain that \tilde{g}_1 is linear: $\tilde{g}_1(\zeta) = \kappa_2\zeta$. The subgroup generated by λ_1 and κ_2 in \mathbb{C}^* must be discrete otherwise by taking sequences (k_j) and (ℓ_j) such that $\lambda_1^{k_j} \kappa_2^{\ell_j} \rightarrow 1$ we would create an infinite normal family of local symmetries of J_1 contradicting the fact that f_1 is not integrable. It follows that there is a relation of the form $\lambda_1^a = \kappa_2^b$ for some $a \in \mathbb{N}$ and $b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$. Since $p_2 \in J_2$, $|\lambda_2| \geq 1$ so $|\kappa_2| \geq 1$. Since \tilde{g}_1 has infinite order, κ_2 is not a root of unity so a is positive. This implies that b is positive as well, hence $|\lambda_2| > 1$, i.e. p_2 is repelling. Thus we have shown that there is a relation of the form $\lambda_1^{a\ell} = \lambda_2^b$, with

$a, b > 0$, as asserted. Back to the initial coordinates, this means that $f_1^a = g_1^b$ so that $\sigma \circ f_1^a = \sigma \circ g_1^b = f_2^b \circ \sigma$.

Now observe that with $\chi_1 = \psi_{(f_1, p_1)}$ we have

$$\sigma \circ \chi_1(\lambda_1^a \zeta) = \sigma \circ f_1^a(\chi_1(\zeta)) = \sigma \circ g_1^b(\chi_1(\zeta)) = f_2^b \circ \sigma \circ \chi_1(\zeta),$$

hence by Lemma 2.9 locally we have $\sigma \circ \chi_1(\zeta) = \psi_{(f_2, p_2)}(\zeta^\ell)$. Set $\chi_2(\zeta) := \psi_{(f_2, p_2)}(\zeta^\ell)$, which by definition is a generalized Poincaré-Koenigs map. Locally near the origin we have $\sigma \circ \chi_1 = \chi_2$, hence

$$(5) \quad \chi_2^{-1}(J_2) = (\sigma \circ \chi_1)^{-1}(J_2) = \chi_1^{-1}(\sigma^{-1}(J_2)) = \chi_1^{-1}(J_1).$$

Since $\chi_2(\lambda_1^a \zeta) = f_2^b \circ \chi_2(\zeta)$, $\chi_2^{-1}(J_2)$ is invariant under multiplication by λ_1^a . The same holds evidently for $\chi_1^{-1}(J_1)$, so (5) propagates from a neighborhood of 0 to the whole complex plane.

Now assume that we are in Case (1') so that $\sigma^* \mu_2 \asymp_c \mu_1$. From the relation $f_2^n \circ \sigma = \sigma \circ g_1^n$, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we obtain

$$d_2^{bn} \mu_1 \asymp_{c^2} (g_1^{bn})^* \mu_1,$$

so that

$$d_1^{an} \mu_1 = (f_1^{an})^* \mu_1 = (g_1^{bn})^* \mu_1 \asymp_{c^2} d_2^{bn} \mu_1$$

which implies that $d_1^a = d_2^b$.

Locally near the origin we have that

$$(6) \quad \chi_2^* \mu_2 = \chi_1^*(\sigma^* \mu_2) \asymp_c \chi_1^* \mu_1.$$

It remains to explain why the relation (6) propagates to \mathbb{C} . Write $M_\kappa(\zeta) := \kappa \zeta$, and define positive measures on \mathbb{C} by $\tilde{\mu}_1 := \chi_1^* \mu_1$ and $\tilde{\mu}_2 := \chi_2^* \mu_2$. We have

$$M_{\lambda_1^a}^* \tilde{\mu}_1 = (\chi_1 \circ M_{\lambda_1^a})^* \mu_1 = \chi_1^*(f_1^* \mu_1) = d_1^a \tilde{\mu}_1,$$

and likewise, since $\chi_2 \circ M_{\lambda_1^a} = f_2^b \circ \chi_2$ we get

$$M_{\lambda_1^a}^* \tilde{\mu}_2 = M_{\lambda_1^a}^* \chi_2^* \mu_2 = \chi_2^*(f_2^b)^* \mu_2 = d_2^b \tilde{\mu}_2 = d_1^a \tilde{\mu}_2.$$

Therefore $\tilde{\mu}_1$ and $\tilde{\mu}_2$ are positive measures on \mathbb{C} satisfying the same relation $M_\Lambda^* \tilde{\mu}_i = D \tilde{\mu}_i$ (for $\Lambda = \lambda_1^a$ and $D = d_1^a$) and such that $\tilde{\mu}_1 \asymp_c \tilde{\mu}_2$ in some small disk $D(0, r)$. Since M_Λ is invertible on \mathbb{C} , it follows that $\tilde{\mu}_1 \asymp_c \tilde{\mu}_2$ globally. Indeed, let A be any Borel set and let n be so large that $M_\Lambda^{-n}(A) \subset D(0, r)$. Then

$$\tilde{\mu}_2(A) = D^n \tilde{\mu}_2(M_\Lambda^{-n}(A)) \leq c D^n \tilde{\mu}_1(M_\Lambda^{-n}(A)) = c \tilde{\mu}_1(A)$$

and similarly for the reverse inequality, so we are done.

In Case (2), repeating the same argument with $\sigma^* \mu_2 \propto \mu_1$ we arrive at $\tilde{\mu}_1 \propto \tilde{\mu}_2$, and the proof is complete. \square

Remark 2.12. This argument is reminiscent from the work of Ghioca, Nguyen and Ye [19].

2.6. Conclusion of the proof of Theorem A. Recall that $\sigma: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is a non-constant holomorphic map such that $\sigma^* \mu_{f_2} \asymp \mu_{f_1}$ (resp. $\sigma^* \mu_{f_2} \propto \mu_{f_1}$ when J_1 is smooth), and $\sigma(p_1) = p_2$ where p_1 is a repelling periodic point for f_1 and p_2 a preperiodic point for f_2 . Replacing f_1 by a suitable iterate, and σ by $f_1^k \circ \sigma$ for a suitable k we may suppose that $f_1(p_1) = p_1$ and $f_2(p_2) = p_2$. Also we write $\ell = \deg_{p_1}(\sigma)$.

By Proposition 2.10, the point p_2 is repelling and there exist a generalized Poincaré-Koenigs maps χ_1, χ_2 associated to (f_1, p_1) and (f_2, p_2) such that $\chi_1^* \mu_1 \asymp \chi_2^* \mu_2$. We also have the relations $d_1^a = d_2^b$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{N}^*$, and

$$(7) \quad \chi_1(\lambda_1^a \zeta) = f_1^a(\chi_1(\zeta)) \text{ and } \chi_2(\lambda_1^a \zeta) = \sigma \circ \chi_1(\lambda_1^a \zeta) = \sigma \circ f_1^a \circ \chi_1(\zeta) = f_2^b(\chi_1(\zeta)).$$

Let $\Psi = (\chi_1, \chi_2) : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ and $F = (f_1^a, f_2^b)$. By Proposition 2.6, $\overline{\Psi(\mathbb{C})}$ is an irreducible algebraic curve Z which is neither a horizontal nor a vertical line, and from (7) we deduce that

$$F(\Psi(\zeta)) = \Psi(\lambda_1^a \zeta)$$

so Z is F -invariant.

Now note that the first (resp. second) projection $\pi_1: \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ (resp. π_2) semi-conjugates $F|_Z$ to f_1 (resp. to f_2). This implies that the measure of maximal entropy $\mu|_F$ is equal to

$$\mu_{F|_Z} = \frac{1}{\deg(\pi_1)} \pi_1^* \mu_{f_1} = \frac{1}{\deg(\pi_2)} \pi_2^* \mu_{f_2}$$

which implies $\sigma^* \mu_{f_2} \propto \mu_{f_1}$ (see e.g., [19] for details). This concludes the proof. \square

Remark 2.13. Theorem A fails in the integrable case.

Indeed, let f_1 and f_2 be arbitrary Lattès maps, associated to finite branched covers $\pi_i: \mathbb{C}/\Lambda_i \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$, for some lattices Λ_i $i = 1, 2$. Let p_i be any point in \mathbb{P}^1 located outside the critical value locus of π_i . Then there is a local measure preserving isomorphism σ mapping p_1 to p_2 . Indeed let q_i be a lift of p_i in \mathbb{C}/Λ_i , \tilde{q}_i be a lift of q_i in \mathbb{C} , and $\tilde{\pi}_i: (\mathbb{C}, \tilde{q}_i) \rightarrow (\mathbb{P}^1, p_i)$ the natural germ of biholomorphism. Then $(\tilde{\pi}_i^{-1})_* \mu_i$ is proportional to the Haar measure of the torus. Therefore, putting $\sigma = \tilde{\pi}_2 \circ \tau \circ (\tilde{\pi}_1)^{-1}$, where τ is the translation mapping \tilde{q}_1 to \tilde{q}_2 , we get $\sigma^* \mu_2 \propto \mu_1$.

On the other hand, there is an algebraic correspondence between f_1 and f_2 when and only when there is an isogeny between the corresponding elliptic curves \mathbb{C}/Λ_1 and \mathbb{C}/Λ_2 , and $\lambda_1^a = \lambda_2^b$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{N}^*$ (where λ_i is the derivative of any lift of f_i to \mathbb{C}).

An analogous discussion can be made in the monomial case. \square

3. LOCAL CONTRACTIONS AND PREPERIODIC POINTS

It is natural to expect that pre-repelling points in the Julia set are geometrically characterized by the existence of a contracting local symmetry. We confirm this intuition when f satisfies suitable expansion properties on its Julia set, namely when f satisfies the topological Collet-Eckmann (TCE) condition. This condition can be defined in a number of equivalent ways, for instance by the following exponential shrinking property: there exists $\lambda > 1$ and $r > 0$ such that for every $x \in J_f$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, every connected component W of $f^{-n}(B(x, r))$ satisfies $\text{Diam}(W) \leq \lambda^{-n}$. We refer to [33] for a thorough discussion of this notion.

Theorem 3.1. *Let f be a non-integrable rational map satisfying the Topological Collet-Eckmann condition. Let $\sigma: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be a non-constant holomorphic map satisfying $\sigma^{-1}(J_f) \cap U = J_f \cap U$, and furthermore $\sigma^* \mu_f \propto \mu_f$ if J_f is smooth.*

Suppose that there exists $p \in J_f \cap U$ such that $\sigma(p) = p$ and $|\sigma'(p)| < 1$. Then p is preperiodic to a repelling point.

Proof. Note that it is enough to show that p is preperiodic: indeed for a TCE map all periodic points on the Julia set are hyperbolic.

To make the main idea more transparent, we sketch a proof under the stronger assumption that f is hyperbolic. Then there exists $r > 0$ such that for every $n \geq 0$, there is a univalent inverse branch f_{-n} of f^n on $B(f^n(p), 2r)$ such that $f_{-n}(f^n(p)) = p$. Reducing r if necessary we may assume that $B(p, r) \Subset U$, where U is the domain of definition of σ . By the Koebe distortion theorem, f_{-n} has uniformly bounded distortion on $B(f^n(p), r)$. Therefore $f_{-n}(B(f^n(p), r))$ is up to uniformly bounded distortion a disk centered at p and of radius r_n , where r_n decreases exponentially with n . Let now $k = k(n)$ be the least integer such that $C^2(\sigma'(0))^k r < r_n$, where C bounds the distortion of f_{-n} on $B(f^n(p), r)$ and the distortion of σ^k on $B(p, r)$. Then $f^n \circ \sigma^{k(n)}$ is a sequence of univalent symmetries of J defined on $B(p, r)$, with derivative at p bounded away from 0 and infinity. Levin's theorem entails that this sequence is finite, and we conclude that there exists $n_1 < n_2$ such that $f^{n_1}(p) = f^{n_2}(p)$, as desired.

If f only satisfies the TCE property the argument is similar, except that we can only map a small neighborhood of p to the large scale with bounded degree and along a subsequence of integers. More specifically, the TCE condition of [33, p. 31] reads as follows. There exists a radius $r > 0$ and an integer δ such that if W_n denotes the connected component of $f^{-n}(B(f^n(p), r))$ containing p , then there exists a sequence of integers (n_j) of positive lower density such that

$$\deg(f^{n_j} : W_{n_j} \rightarrow B(f^{n_j}(p), r)) \leq \delta.$$

We claim that if r is small enough, W_n is simply connected for all n . Then by [34, Lemma 2.1], $f^{n_j}|_{W_{n_j}}$ satisfies some bounded distortion properties.

To prove our claim we make the following observations: first, the local structure of holomorphic maps shows that there exists $r_0 = r_0(f)$ such that for $r \leq r_0$, for every p , every component W of $f^{-1}(B(p, r))$ is simply connected. Then W is biholomorphic to a disk in \mathbb{C} so by the maximum principle, if $U \subset B(p, r)$ is a simply connected open set, $f^{-1}(U) \cap W$ is simply connected. Next, by the TCE property there exists r_1 such that for every $r \leq r_1$, every $p \in \mathbb{P}^1$ and every $n \geq 0$ and every component W_n of $f^{-n}(B(p, r))$ has diameter smaller than r_0 (see the Backward Lyapunov Stability condition in [33, §5]). Then the simple connectivity of W_n easily follows by induction.

Reduce r if necessary so that σ is well defined and univalent on $B(p, 2r)$, and write $\lambda := |\sigma'(0)| < 1$. By the Koebe distortion theorem, there exist constants C_1 and C_2 such that

$$B(p, C_1 \lambda^k r) \subset \sigma^k(B(p, r)) \subset B(p, C_2 \lambda^k r).$$

For any $0 < \tau < 1$, denote by $W_n(\tau)$ the connected component of $f^{-n}(B(f^n(p), \tau r))$ containing p . To simplify notation we write $W'_n = W_n(1/2)$.

Pick $\alpha < 1$, and let $k = k(n_j)$ be the least integer such that $\lambda^k r \leq \alpha \text{Diam}(W'_{n_j})$. Then $\alpha \text{Diam}(W'_{n_j}) \leq \lambda^{k-1} r$, and we get

$$B\left(p, \alpha \lambda C_1 \text{Diam}(W'_{n_j})\right) \subset \sigma^k(B(p, r)) \subset B\left(p, \alpha C_2 \text{Diam}(W'_{n_j})\right)$$

Now, by [34, Lemma 2.1 (2.3)], we have $B(p, \alpha C_2 \text{Diam}(W'_n)) \subset W'_n$ when α small enough, independently on n . Furthermore by [34, Lemma 2.1 (2.2)], when τ is small enough, then for every n , $W'_n(\tau) \subset B(p, \alpha \lambda C_1 \text{Diam}(W'_n))$.

It follows that $f^{n_j} \circ \sigma^{k(n_j)}$ is a sequence of symmetries of J defined on $B(p, r)$ which satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} f^{n_j} \circ \sigma^{k(n_j)}(B(p, r)) &\subset f^{n_j}(W'_n) \subset B(f^{n_j}(p), r/2), \text{ and} \\ \text{Diam}\left(f^{n_j} \circ \sigma^{k(n_j)}(B(p, r))\right) &\geq \text{Diam}\left(f^{n_j}(W_{n_j}(\tau))\right) \geq \tau r. \end{aligned}$$

The first estimate implies that $f^{n_j} \circ \sigma^{k(n_j)}$ forms a normal family on $B(p, r)$ and the second that no cluster value of this sequence is constant. At this stage we conclude as in the hyperbolic case: the sequence $f^{n_j} \circ \sigma^{k(n_j)}$ must be finite, and we find integers n_{j_1} and n_{j_2} such that $f^{n_{j_1}}(p) = f^{n_{j_2}}(p)$. \square

As a consequence we infer that the assumption that σ maps a repelling point to a preperiodic point is superfluous in Theorem A when f_2 satisfies the TCE property.

Corollary 3.2. *Let f_1 and f_2 be two rational maps and assume f_2 is non-integrable and satisfies the TCE property. Let $\sigma: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be any non-constant holomorphic map satisfying $\sigma^{-1}(J_2) \cap U = J_1 \cap U$ if J_{f_1} is not smooth, and $\sigma^* \mu_2 \propto \mu_1$ otherwise. Then σ maps any repelling periodic point of f_1 to a pre-repelling point of f_2 .*

Proof. Note that J_2 is smooth if and only if J_1 is smooth. Fix a repelling periodic p_1 of f_1 of period k outside the critical set of σ . Then $\sigma \circ f_1^{-k} \circ \sigma^{-1}$ defines a local holomorphic contraction of J_2 at $\sigma(p_1)$, which furthermore preserves μ_2 up to a constant if J_2 is smooth, thus the previous proposition gives the result. \square

Remark 3.3. The TCE property is detected by the maximal entropy measure: indeed it is equivalent to the property that the measure of small balls satisfies an estimate of the form $\mu(B(x, r)) \gtrsim r^\theta$ for some $\theta > 0$ and for every $x \in J$ (see [36]). It is not difficult to see that if such an estimate holds for every $x \in U$, where U is any open set interesting J_f , then it holds everywhere (possibly with a different θ). It follows that under the assumptions of Theorem A, f_1 is TCE if and only if f_2 is TCE.

Remark 3.4. Pick any local symmetry σ of J_f . By precomposing with some inverse branch of f , we may always assume that it satisfies $\sigma(U) \Subset U$, so it has an attracting fixed point. The proof of Theorem 3.1 then gives the existence of integers $n_1 < n_2$ and $k_1 < k_2$ such that $f^{n_1} \circ \sigma^{k_1} = f^{n_2} \circ \sigma^{k_2}$, so $\sigma^{k_2-k_1} = f^{-n_2} \circ f^{n_1}$, and we infer that an iterate of σ is the restriction of an algebraic correspondence.

Unfortunately, the algebraicity of σ itself does not seem to follow from this relation, and the only route we know of to algebraicity goes through measure class preservation and Theorem A. Still, this gives additional credit to the problem stated in the Introduction.

4. THE POLYNOMIAL CASE

For polynomials the maximal entropy measure is determined by the Julia set: indeed it coincides with the harmonic measure of K_f viewed from infinity. Thus in this case it is natural to expect that the measure class preservation hypothesis in Theorem A should follow from weaker property $\sigma^{-1}(J_2) \cap U = J_1 \cap U$. However, since we are working locally, some technicalities arise and we are only able to confirm this expectation under a mild additional assumption.

Theorem 4.1. *Let f_1 and f_2 be non-integrable polynomials such that:*

- (1) *either J_1 and J_2 are disconnected;*
- (2) *or J_1 and J_2 are connected and locally connected.*

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be an open subset intersecting J_1 and $\sigma : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a non-constant holomorphic map such that $\sigma^{-1}(J_2) \cap U = J_1 \cap U$. Then there exists $\Omega \subset U$ intersecting J_1 on which $\sigma^\mu_2 \asymp \mu_1$.*

Remark 4.2. Under the assumptions of Theorem 4.1, J_1 is connected (resp. locally connected) iff J_2 is connected (resp. locally connected), so we could state the assumption only for one of J_1 or J_2 .

Indeed suppose J_1 is disconnected. Then point components of J_1 accumulate the whole Julia set (see §4.1 below), hence $J_2 \cap \sigma(U)$ admits point components, and J_2 is disconnected.

When J_1 is locally connected, then it is clear that $J_2 \cap \sigma(U)$ is also locally connected. Since f_2 is open and $f_2^n(\sigma(U)) \supset J_2$ for large n , we conclude that J_2 is also connected. \square

We now have all the necessary ingredients for Theorem B.

Proof of Theorem B. Restricting U if necessary we may assume that σ is a biholomorphism, and without loss of generality we may assume that f_2 is non-integrable and TCE.

When J_2 is disconnected, then J_1 is disconnected too by the preceding remark, and Theorem 4.1 implies $\sigma^*\mu_2 \asymp \mu_1$ on some $\Omega \subset U$. By Remark 3.3, f_1 is TCE, and non-integrable. Corollary 3.2 implies that σ maps any repelling periodic point of f_1 to a preperiodic point of f_2 . Thus the result follows from Theorem A.

When J_2 is connected, then it is not locally smooth since f_2 is not integrable, and it is locally connected by the TCE property; see [27]. Applying the local biholomorphism σ , we infer that J_1 is not smooth, hence f_1 is not integrable, and by Remark 4.2, J_1 is connected and locally connected. We conclude as in the previous case. \square

The remainder of this section will be devoted to the proof of Theorem 4.1. It relies on a localization principle for harmonic measure, which requires different arguments in the disconnected and connected cases; the latter is the most delicate, a more precise outline is given at the beginning of §4.2.

Let us first introduce a few standard potential theoretic tools (see [28] for a gentle introduction to the probabilistic viewpoint on potential theory, [10] for a systematic account, and [18] for the planar case). If Ω is a domain on the Riemann sphere with non-polar complement, for $z \in \Omega$ the harmonic measure $\omega(z, \cdot, \Omega)$ is the measure on $\partial\Omega$

defined by declaring that $\int \varphi(w)\omega(z, dw, \Omega)$ is the value at z of the solution of the Dirichlet problem with boundary values given by $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}(\partial\Omega)$. It is also the exit distribution of the Brownian motion issued from z , that is, if we denote by B_z the Brownian motion issued from z on \mathbb{P}^1 , and $\tau_z = \inf \{t > 0, B_z(t) \in \partial\Omega\}$ the hitting time of the boundary (which is a.s. finite), then for a (say closed) subset $E \subset \partial\Omega$, $\omega(z, E, \Omega) = \mathbb{P}(B_z(\tau_z) \in E)$. If Ω is simply connected, let $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \Omega$ be a uniformizing map such that $\phi(0) = z$ (which is unique up to pre-composition with a rotation). Then ϕ extends radially outside a set of rays of zero capacity, and still denoting by ϕ this extension we have

$$\omega(z, E, \Omega) = \omega(0, \phi^{-1}(E), \mathbb{D}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} |\phi^{-1}(E)|,$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes usual arclength. We will only use this fact when $\partial\Omega$ is locally connected, in which case by the Caratheodory theorem ϕ extends to a continuous surjection $\overline{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow \overline{\Omega}$.

If f is a polynomial, the properties of the Green function G_f imply that the maximal entropy measure μ_f coincides with the harmonic measure of the basin of infinity: $\mu_f = \omega(\infty, \cdot, K_f^c)$ (where the complement here is understood in $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$).

Remark 4.3. Theorem B has some overlap with [24, Theorem 1.4] (see also [25, Prop. 4.5]), which relies on completely different ideas (even if Levin's finiteness theorem also plays a key role there). In his paper, Luo assumes that f_1 and f_2 are polynomials of the same degree with connected and locally connected Julia sets, and all these assumptions are essential. In this setting, his result is stronger than ours since no additional hyperbolicity assumption is required to guarantee that a periodic point is mapped to a preperiodic point. Note that by applying his methods, we can obtain the following generalization of [24, Theorem 1.1]: *if M_d denotes the degree d Multibrot set, then for $d \neq d'$, an open subset of ∂M_d cannot be biholomorphic to an open subset of $\partial M_{d'}$.*

4.1. Proof of Theorem 4.1 in the disconnected case. The localization principle that we use in the disconnected case is the following:

Lemma 4.4. *Let f be a polynomial of degree ≥ 2 . Let Ω be a connected and simply connected open set with smooth boundary such that $\Omega \cap J_f \neq \emptyset$ and $\partial\Omega \cap K_f = \emptyset$. Then for every $z \in \Omega \setminus K_f$, there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that $c^{-1}\mu_f \leq \omega(z, \cdot, \Omega \setminus K_f) \leq c\mu_f$ on $J_f \cap \Omega$.*

This is most likely well-known, however we give a (probabilistic) proof because we have not been able to locate it in the literature.

Proof. Since K_f is full, $\Omega \setminus K_f$ is connected. By the Harnack inequality, if $L \subset \Omega \setminus K_f$ then for any $(z, z') \in L^2$, there exists $c = c(L)$ such that

$$c^{-1}\omega(z, \cdot, \Omega \setminus K_f) \leq \omega(z', \cdot, \Omega \setminus K_f) \leq c\omega(z, \cdot, \Omega \setminus K_f).$$

In particular if the conclusion of the lemma is true for some $z \in \Omega \setminus K_f$, then it is true for every $z \in \Omega \setminus K_f$. Reduce Ω a little bit to get a smoothly bounded $\Omega' \Subset \Omega$ with the same properties as Ω and such that $\Omega \cap K_f = \Omega' \cap K_f$. Pick $z \in \Omega'$. Let $\tilde{\mu} = \omega(z, \cdot, \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus K_f)$. By the Harnack inequality again, $\tilde{\mu}$ is equivalent to μ_f with uniform bounds, so it is enough to compare $\tilde{\mu}$ and $\omega(z, \cdot, \Omega \setminus K_f)$.

Denote by ν_z the restriction of $\omega(z, \cdot, \Omega \setminus K_f)$ to $J_f \cap \Omega$. The difference between $\tilde{\mu}|_{\Omega \cap J_f}$ and ν_z is accounted for by the contributions of Brownian paths leaving Ω before reaching $\Omega \cap J_f$. If a Brownian path from z eventually hits $\Omega \cap J_f$ without staying in Ω , then it must cross $\partial\Omega'$. Let B_z be the Brownian motion from z in K_f^c killed when hitting J_f , and τ be the hitting time of $\Omega \cap J_f$. Then $\tau < \infty$ if $B_z(t)$ exits K_f^c in $\Omega \cap J_f$, and the distribution of $B_z(\tau)$ conditioned to $\tau < \infty$ is the harmonic measure $\tilde{\mu}|_{J_f \cap \Omega}$. Introduce the following sequence of stopping times: $T'_0 = 0$, and by induction $T_{i+1} = \inf \{t > T'_i, B_z(t) \in \partial\Omega\}$ and $T'_{i+1} = \inf \{t > T_{i+1}, B_z(t) \in \partial\Omega'\}$, so that T_1 is the first hitting time of $\partial\Omega$, T'_1 the first hitting time of $\partial\Omega'$ after T_1 , etc. The event $\tau < T_1$ holds if B_z does not reach $\partial\Omega$ before hitting J_f so the distribution of $B_z(\tau)$ conditioned to $\{\tau < T_1\}$ is ν_z . Now conditioned to the event that $\{T'_i < \tau < T_{i+1}\}$, the distribution of $B_z(T'_i)$ is a certain probability measure p_i on $\partial\Omega'$. Hence by the strong Markov property of Brownian motion [28, §2.2] the conditional distribution of $B_z(\tau)$ is $\nu^{(i)} := \int \nu_w dp_i(w)$, which satisfies $c^{-1}\nu_z \leq \nu^{(i)} \leq c\nu_z$ for a constant c depending only on $\partial\Omega'$ and z . Finally, decomposing the event $\{\tau < \infty\}$ as a disjoint union $\{\tau < \infty\} = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} \{T'_i < \tau < T_{i+1}\}$, we express $\tilde{\mu}|_{J_f \cap \Omega}$ (normalized by $\mathbb{P}(\tau < \infty)$) as an infinite convex combination of ν_z and of the $\nu^{(i)}$, and the lemma follows. \square

Conclusion of the proof of the theorem. Assume that the assumptions of Theorem 4.1 hold, with J_1 disconnected.

Since point components are dense in J_1 (see DeMarco-McMullen [8] or Emerson [13]), J_1 admits arbitrary small relatively compact components in U .

Therefore we can fix a smoothly bounded simply connected open set Ω intersecting J_1 , relatively compact in U and such that $\partial\Omega \cap J_1 = \emptyset$. By choosing Ω small enough we can further assume that σ is a biholomorphism in a neighborhood of Ω . Its image $\sigma(\Omega)$ under σ satisfies the same properties relatively to J_2 and $\sigma(U)$. By the holomorphic invariance of harmonic measure, for $z \in \Omega \setminus K_1$ we have that $\sigma_*(\omega(z, \cdot, \Omega)) = \omega(\sigma(z), \cdot, \sigma(\Omega))$, so the property $\sigma^*\mu_2 \asymp \mu_1$ follows from Lemma 4.4 applied to $\Omega \cap J_1$ and $\sigma(\Omega \cap J_2)$. \square

4.2. Proof of Theorem 4.1 in the connected case. To establish Theorem 4.1 for connected J_f we face several difficulties. The first one is that we need to take care of possible boundary effects in Lemma 4.4: indeed the argument of Lemma 4.4 breaks down since we cannot assume that $\Omega \cap J_f = \emptyset$. For this, we uniformize K_f^c and use some facts from Caratheodory theory (see §4.2.1 as well as the notion of endpoint in §4.2.2). The other new difficulty is that given a small open set Ω intersecting J_f and $x \in \Omega \setminus J_f$, we need to detect whether x belongs to K_f or not, by using only the data given by $J_f \cap \Omega$. If J_f is not a Jordan curve this can be done by looking at the local topological properties of J_f (the endpoints are also used here). In the Jordan curve case we cannot distinguish the inside from the outside of J_f from topology, nor even from complex analysis when the Julia set is a quasicircle, so a completely different argument needs to be found, which is postponed to the next section (see Proposition 5.1). Note that this study is necessary because the harmonic measures viewed from the two sides of a non-smooth Jordan curve are typically mutually singular (see [18, Theorem VI.6.3]).

4.2.1. *From local to global harmonic measure.* We denote by $\arg(\cdot)$ the argument function $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_-$, with values in $(-\pi, \pi)$.

Lemma 4.5. *For $0 < \theta < \pi$ and $0 < \delta < 1$, let $S_{\theta, \delta} \subset \mathbb{D}$ be the sector defined by*

$$S_{\theta, \delta} = \{z, |\arg(z)| < \theta, 1 - \delta < |z| < 1\}.$$

There exists a constant $c = c(\theta, \delta)$ such that for $\zeta_0 = 1 - \delta/2$, if E is any measurable subset of $\partial\mathbb{D} \cap \{z, |\arg(z)| \leq \theta/2\}$,

$$(8) \quad \omega(\zeta_0, E, S_{\theta, \delta}) \leq \omega(\zeta_0, E, \mathbb{D}) \leq c\omega(\zeta_0, E, S_{\theta, \delta}).$$

Proof. The first inequality in (8) follows automatically from the fact that $S_{\theta, \delta} \subset \mathbb{D}$. To prove the second one, let $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow S_{\theta, \delta}$ be the uniformisation such that $\phi(0) = z_0$ and $\phi'(0) \in \mathbb{R}_+$, which depends only on (θ, δ) and extends as a homeomorphism from $\partial\mathbb{D}$ to $\partial S_{\theta, \delta}$. Then $\omega(z_0, E, S_{\theta, \delta}) = \frac{1}{2\pi} |\phi^{-1}(E)|$. On the other hand $\phi^{-1}(\overline{S_{\theta, \delta}} \cap \partial\mathbb{D})$ is a closed circular arc I_0 , and for every sub-arc $I \Subset I_0$, ϕ extends by Schwarz reflection to a biholomorphism in a neighborhood of I . Fix $I = \phi^{-1}(\{z \in \partial\mathbb{D}, |\arg(z)| \leq \theta/2\})$. Then $\phi : I \rightarrow \phi(I)$ distorts lengths by a uniformly bounded amount, so $|\phi^{-1}(E)| \asymp |E|$, where the implied constant depends only on θ and δ . By the Harnack inequalities, we get that $|E| = 2\pi\omega(0, E, \mathbb{D}) \asymp \omega(\zeta_0, E, \mathbb{D})$, and this concludes the proof. \square

Let K be a full connected and locally connected compact set of \mathbb{C} , containing at least two points. Denote by $\phi_K : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow K^\circ$ the uniformisation map fixing ∞ and tangent to the identity at ∞ . Recall that by the Caratheodory theorem, ϕ_K extends continuously to a map $\phi_K : \overline{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow K^\circ \cup \partial K$. A *crosscut* of K is an open Jordan arc C in $\mathbb{C} \setminus K$ such that $\overline{C} = C \cup \{a, b\}$ with $a, b \in \partial K$. Note that we allow $a = b$. It follows that the open set $K^\circ \setminus C$ admits two connected components, see [32, Proposition 2.12].

Lemma 4.6. *Let K be any connected and locally connected full compact subset of the complex plane. Let C be any crosscut of K , and denote by W the bounded connected component of $K^\circ \setminus C$. Suppose that $\overline{W} \cap \partial K$ is not reduced to a singleton (that is, it is not reduced to $\overline{C} \cap \partial K$).*

Then for any point $z \in W$, and for any $x \in \partial K \cap \overline{W} \setminus \overline{C}$, there exist a neighborhood Ω of x and a constant $c > 0$ such that

$$c^{-1}\omega(\infty, \cdot, K^\circ)|_\Omega \leq \omega(z, \cdot, W)|_\Omega \leq c\omega(\infty, \cdot, K^\circ)|_\Omega.$$

Proof. Lift C to $\hat{C} := \phi_K^{-1}(C) \subset \mathbb{D}$. This is an arc in \mathbb{D} whose closure in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ intersects $\partial\mathbb{D}$ in two points $e^{i\theta_0}$ and $e^{i\theta_1}$. Let \hat{W} be the connected component of $\hat{C} \setminus \mathbb{D}$ which is mapped to W , and denote by $I := [\theta_0, \theta_1]$ the arc $\mathbb{S}^1 \cap \partial\hat{W}$. Observe that $\phi_K(I) = \overline{W} \cap \partial K$. By assumption, I contains $\phi_K^{-1}(x)$, so I is non trivial and in particular, $\theta_0 \neq \theta_1$.

Rotate the situation so that $1 \in I$ and $\phi_K(1) = x$. Fix a sector $S = S_{\theta, \delta}$ such that $S \subset \hat{W}$, and $\phi_K^{-1}(x) \in (-\theta, \theta)$. Pick any $\zeta \in S$ and any open arc A satisfying $\phi_K^{-1}(x) \in A \subset \overline{A} \subset (-\theta, \theta)$. Choose $\Omega = D(x, r)$ with $r > 0$ small enough so that the closure of $\phi_K^{-1}(\Omega)$ is included in A .

Lemma 4.5 now asserts that $\omega(\zeta, \cdot, S)|_A \asymp \omega(\zeta, \cdot, \mathbb{D})|_A$. Pushing forward by ϕ_K and using the conformal invariance of harmonic measure (see, e.g., [28, Theorem 7.22]), we

get that $\omega(z, \cdot, \phi_K(S))|_\Omega \asymp \omega(z, \cdot, K^c)|_\Omega$, where $z = \phi_K(\zeta)$. Thus we infer that

$$\omega(z, \cdot, W)|_\Omega \leq \omega(z, \cdot, K^c)|_\Omega \leq c\omega(z, \cdot, \phi_K(S))|_\Omega \leq c\omega(z, \cdot, W)|_\Omega,$$

where the first and last inequality follow directly from the inclusions $W \subset K^c$ and $\phi_K(S) \subset W$ respectively. Finally by the Harnack inequality, $\omega(z, \cdot, K^c) \asymp \omega(\infty, \cdot, K^c)$, and the proof is complete. \square

4.2.2. Endpoints. Assume that J_f is connected and locally connected, and write $\phi_f = \phi_{K_f}$. We say that $x = \phi_f(e^{i\theta})$ is an *endpoint* of J_f if there exists a sequence of intervals (θ_n^1, θ_n^2) in the circle \mathbb{S}^1 , decreasing to $\{\theta\}$ and such that for every n , $\phi(\theta_n^1) = \phi(\theta_n^2)$. The following lemma is essentially contained in [42].

Lemma 4.7. *Let f is a polynomial with connected and locally connected J_f and such that J_f is neither a Jordan curve nor an interval. Then endpoints are dense in J_f .*

Remark 4.8. If $x \in J_f$ is an endpoint, then for any $\delta > 0$, for large enough n the image C under ϕ_f of the chord joining θ_n to θ_n^l is a crosscut of K_f^c contained in $D(x, \delta)$.

Proof. Recall that the identification of external angles in K_f can be encoded in the so-called Thurston lamination \mathcal{L}_f , which is the lamination by hyperbolic geodesics in $\partial\mathbb{D}$ such that a leaf joins θ and θ' in \mathbb{S}^1 whenever $\phi_f(e^{i\theta}) = \phi_f(e^{i\theta'})$ (see [39, Appendix] for details). When J_f is not a Jordan curve, this lamination is non trivial, so by backward invariance the set of endpoints of leaves of \mathcal{L}_f is dense in \mathbb{S}^1 . A *gap* of this lamination is the closure of a connected component of $\mathbb{D} \setminus \text{Supp}(\mathcal{L}_f)$. A gap P is the closure of the (hyperbolic) convex hull of its intersection with $\partial\mathbb{D}$, and if we write $\partial P = P \cap \partial\mathbb{D}$, then $\partial\mathbb{D} \setminus \partial P$ has at least three connected components. Since f is not integrable, it follows from [39, Proposition II.6.1] (see also the discussion in [24, §4]) that the union of gaps is dense in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$.

Pick any gap P . Since the leaves of the lamination do not cross, for each connected component I of $\partial\mathbb{D} \setminus \partial P$ we can find a gap P_I contained in the convex hull of I , and $I \setminus \partial P_I$ admits at least 4 components, so two them, say I_1 and I_2 satisfy $|I_j| \leq |I|/2$. Proceeding inductively, we construct a sequence of disjoint intervals $I_{\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_n}$, $\varepsilon_i \in \{1, 2\}$ such that $|I_{\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_n}| \leq 2^{-n}$. Note that if θ is the decreasing intersection of such a sequence of intervals, then $\phi_f(e^{i\theta})$ is an endpoint. Furthermore by construction these endpoints are separated by crosscuts so they are disjoint.

This argument thus produces a Cantor set, hence an uncountable set, of endpoints. In particular there exists an endpoint x which does not lie in the post-critical set of f , so every preimage of x is an endpoint, and we conclude that endpoints are dense in J_f . \square

4.2.3. Conclusion of the proof of Theorem 4.1 when J_f is not a Jordan curve. Let σ be as in the statement of the theorem and reduce U if necessary so that σ is a biholomorphism in a neighborhood of \bar{U} . Since by assumption f_1 and f_2 are not integrable, their Julia set cannot be an interval.

Suppose J_1 is not a Jordan curve. Then by Lemma 4.7 (see also Remark 4.8) there exists $a \in J_1 \cap U$ and a crosscut C of K_1^c with $\bar{C} \cap K_1 = \{a\}$ (so that C is a Jordan curve), and $C \subset U$. Let W be the bounded component of $K_1^c \setminus C$ and pick $z \in W$. Then $\sigma(C)$ is a crosscut of J_2 with $\sigma(\bar{C}) \cap J_2 = \{\sigma(a)\}$. Now by the maximum principle $\sigma(C)$ must be

contained in K_2^c otherwise its interior would be disjoint from J_2 , which is contradictory. By applying Lemma 4.6 to z in W and $\sigma(z)$ in $\sigma(W)$, and using the conformal invariance of harmonic measure, we conclude that $\mu_1 \asymp \sigma^* \mu_2$ on some open set Ω intersecting J_1 , as was to be shown. \square

4.2.4. *The case of Jordan curves.* Assume now that J_1 is a Jordan curve. Then J_1 has no endpoints in U , so that J_2 has no endpoints either in $\sigma(U)$. It follows from Lemma 4.7 that J_2 is a Jordan curve as well.

Take a crosscut C of J_1 in U such that $\overline{C} \cap J_1$ consists now of two distinct points, and denote by W the bounded connected component of $K_1^c \setminus C$. When $\sigma(W) \subset K_2^c$, then the arguments of §4.2.3 applies ad litteram. Proposition 5.1 below proves that the possibility that $\sigma(W) \subset K_2$ does not occur. This finishes the proof. \square

5. PRESERVING THE SIDES OF A JORDAN CURVE JULIA SET

Proposition 5.1. *Let f_1 and f_2 be non-integrable polynomials such that J_1 is a Jordan curve. Let U be a connected open subset intersecting J_1 and σ be a biholomorphism defined on U such that $\sigma(U \cap J_1) = \sigma(U) \cap J_2$. Then J_2 is a Jordan curve and σ maps $K_1 \cap U$ to $K_2 \cap \sigma(U)$.*

Proof. We already saw in §4.2.4 that under the assumptions of the proposition, J_2 is a Jordan curve, too. We argue by contradiction and assume that σ flips the interior of J_1 to the exterior of J_2 .

Step 1: reduction to the hyperbolic case.

There is no critical point of f_1 on J_1 , otherwise by pulling back a neighborhood of the corresponding critical value, J_1 would have several branches at the critical point, and would not be a Jordan curve. The same applies to J_2 . Thus the unique bounded Fatou component of f_1 (resp. f_2) must be the basin of an attracting or parabolic fixed point.

If f_1 has an attracting point, then it attracts all critical points, and we conclude that f_1 is hyperbolic. In particular J_1 is a quasi-circle, and so is J_2 . In particular J_2 has no cusps, so f_2 has no parabolic points, and we infer that f_2 is hyperbolic as well.

If f_1 has a parabolic fixed point, then J_1 admits a dense set of cusps, hence J_2 cannot be a quasi-circle. It follows that f_2 is not hyperbolic, hence J_2 admits a dense set of cusps as well. Since all critical points of f_1 belong to $\text{Int}(K_1)$, [1, Theorem 3] implies that all cusps are preimages of the cusp at the parabolic fixed point p . From this and the fact that all critical points are attracted to p , all cusps of J_1 point inwards, that is, towards the interior of K_1 . The same must be true of J_2 . However, our assumption on σ implies that the cusps of J_2 should point outwards, which is a contradiction. Therefore f_1 and f_2 are hyperbolic.

Step 2: using the uniform Levin theorem.

A straightforward compactness argument yields the following uniformity statement in Levin's Theorem:

Corollary 5.2 (of Theorem 2.1). *Let f be a rational map with a non-smooth Julia set. Fix $r > 0$ and $r_1 < r_2$. Then there exists $M = M(f, r, r_1, r_2)$ such that for every $x \in J_f$*

there are at most M local symmetries σ of J_f defined in $B(x, 2r)$ and such that

$$(9) \quad r_1 \leq \text{Diam}(\sigma(B(x, r))) \leq r_2.$$

For local biholomorphisms between Julia sets, this yields:

Lemma 5.3. *Let f_1 and f_2 be rational maps with non-smooth Julia sets. Then, given $r > 0$ and $0 < c_1 < c_2 < 1$, there exists $M' = M'(f_1, f_2, r, c_1, c_2)$ such that for every $x \in J_1$ there are at most M' local biholomorphisms σ defined in $B(x, 2r)$, mapping J_1 to J_2 , and such that*

$$(10) \quad c_1 \leq \text{Diam}(\sigma(B(x, r))) \leq c_2.$$

Proof. By the Koebe Distortion Theorem, there exist r_1 and r_2 depending only on r , c_1 and c_2 such that for any σ as in the statement of the lemma

$$B(\sigma(x), 2r_1) \subset \sigma(B(x, r)) \subset B(\sigma(x), r_2).$$

Likewise, there exists $r_3 = r_3(r, c_1, c_2)$ such that $\sigma^{-1}(B(\sigma(x), r_1)) \supset B(x, r_3)$ and finally there exists $r_4 = r_4(r, c_1, c_2)$ such that $\sigma(B(x, r_3)) \supset B(\sigma(x), r_4)$. Now fix such a local biholomorphism σ_0 and let $y = \sigma(x) \in J_2$. For any other such σ , we infer that $\tau = \sigma \circ \sigma_0^{-1}$ is a symmetry of J_2 , defined in $B(y, 2r_1)$, and satisfying

$$B(\tau(y), r_4) \subset \tau(B(y, r_1)) \subset B(\tau(y), r_2),$$

and from Corollary 5.2 we conclude that there are only $M' = M'(f_2, r_1, r_4, 2r_2)$ such maps τ , and we are done. \square

The next result plays a key role in our argument.

Lemma 5.4. *Let f_1 and f_2 be non-integrable hyperbolic polynomials such that J_1 and J_2 are Jordan curves. Let U be a connected open subset intersecting J_1 and σ be a biholomorphism defined on U such that $\sigma(U \cap J_1) = \sigma(U) \cap J_2$.*

There exists a constant B depending only on f_1 , f_2 and σ such that the following holds. For any periodic point $p_1 \in J_1$ of period k_1 , there exists a local biholomorphism $\tilde{\sigma}$ defined in a neighborhood of p_1 such that $\tilde{\sigma}(p_1) = p_2$ is periodic under f_2 and $\tilde{\sigma} \circ f_1^{k_1 b} = f_2^{b'} \circ \tilde{\sigma}$ for some $b \leq B$ and some integer b' .

Proof. Since f_1 and f_2 are hyperbolic, we may suppose that $|f_1'| > 1$ on J_1 , and $|f_2'| > 1$ on J_2 . We may also find $r = r(f_1) > 0$ such that for any point $p \in J_1$ and any $q \in f_1^{-n}(p)$ there exists a univalent branch $f_{1,-n}$ of f_1^n defined in $B(p, 2r)$ and mapping p to q (we fix $\rho > 0$ such that the analogous property holds for f_2).

For p_1 as in the statement, choose any integer $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and a univalent inverse branch $f_{1,-N}$ of f_1^N defined on $B(p_1, 2r)$ with values in U . For notational ease we denote by $f_1^{-k_1 n}$ the branch of $(f_1^{k_1 n})^{-1}$ fixing p_1 .

Write $\kappa = |(f_1^{k_1})'(p_1)| > 1$ and for each n consider the map $F_n := \sigma \circ f_{1,-N} \circ f_1^{-k_1 n}$. This map is defined on $B(p_1, 2r)$, and by the Koebe Distortion Theorem, it satisfies

$$B(F_n(p_1), c_1' \kappa^n) \subset F_n(B(p_1, r)) \subset B(F_n(p_1), c_2' \kappa^n)$$

for some uniform constants $c_1' < c_2'$ depending only on f_1 and σ .

For any n , let $m = m_n$ be the largest integer such that the diameter of $f_2^m(F_n(B(p_1, r)))$ is bounded by ρ . Note that $n \mapsto m_n$ is non-decreasing. Write $q_m = f_2^m(F_n(p_1))$. Let $f_{2,-m}$ be the univalent branch defined on $B(q_m, 2\rho)$ and mapping q_m to $F_n(p_1)$. Set $L = \sup_{J_2} |f_2'|$. By Koebe distortion, we get

$$f_{2,-m} \left(B \left(q_m, \frac{\rho}{L} \right) \right) \supset B \left(F_n(p_1), \frac{\rho}{4L|(f_2^m)'(F_n(p_1))|} \right).$$

Now observe that by maximality of m , $f_2^m(F_n(B(p_1, r)))$ is not included in $B(q_m, \rho/L)$ so that $\frac{\rho}{4L|(f_2^m)'(F_n(p_1))|} \leq c_2' \kappa^n$. Thus by applying Koebe to f_2^m on the disk $B(F_n(p_1), c_1' \kappa^n)$, we conclude that $\tau_n := f_2^m \circ F_n$ is a sequence of univalent maps defined on $B(p_1, 2r)$ such that

$$\frac{c_1'}{16Lc_2'} \rho \leq \text{Diam}(\tau_n(B(p_1, r))) \leq \rho,$$

and $\sigma_n(J_1 \cap B(p_1, 2r)) \subset J_2$.

Lemma 5.3 yields an integer B depending only of f_1, f_2 and σ , and a pair of integers $0 < n < n' \leq B$ such that $\tau_n = \tau_{n'}$. Expanding this equality gives

$$f_2^{m_n} \circ \sigma \circ f_{1,-N} \circ f_1^{-k_1 n} = f_2^{m_{n'}} \circ \sigma \circ f_{1,-N} \circ f_1^{-k_1 n'},$$

that is,

$$\tilde{\sigma} = f_2^{m_{n'} - m_n} \circ \tilde{\sigma} \circ f_1^{-k_1(n' - n)}, \text{ where } \tilde{\sigma} = f_2^{m_n} \circ \sigma \circ f_{1,-N} \circ f_1^{-k_1 n},$$

and the result follows. \square

Remark 5.5. By pushing the argument further it is possible to prove that $b' \leq k_1 B'$ for some uniform B' .

Step 3: multipliers and smooth rigidity for expanding maps on the circle.

In this paragraph we prove some rigidity results for Blaschke products based on periodic points multipliers. If p is a periodic point of period n , its Lyapunov exponent is by definition $\frac{1}{n} \log |(f^n)'(p)|$. The following lemma is presumably well-known. We provide a proof for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 5.6. *Let g be a uniformly hyperbolic Blaschke product of degree d such that $J_g = \partial\mathbb{D}$. Assume that the Lyapunov exponents of periodic points of g take only one value $\log e$. Then $e = d$ and g is conjugate to $z \mapsto z^d$ by a Möbius transformation.*

Proof. Since g is uniformly expanding, any ergodic invariant measure has a positive Lyapunov exponent. By approximating it by periodic orbits we infer that this Lyapunov exponent is equal to $\log e$. Applying the dimension formula (see e.g. [35, Theorem 11.4.1]) to the unique measure of maximal entropy μ_g , we get that

$$1 \geq \text{HD}(\mu_g) = \frac{h_{\mu_g}(g)}{\chi_{\mu_g}(g)} = \frac{\log d}{\log e}, \text{ hence } \log e \geq \log d.$$

Likewise, applying it to the unique smooth invariant measure ν , we get

$$1 = \text{HD}(\nu) = \frac{h_{\nu}(g)}{\chi_{\nu}(g)} \leq \frac{\log d}{\log e}, \text{ hence } \log e \leq \log d.$$

From this we conclude that $e = d$ and that ν is the measure of maximal entropy. Then, if we let h be the conjugacy between g and M_d , $h \circ g = M_d \circ h$, by uniqueness of the maximal entropy measure, we infer that $h_*\nu = \text{Leb}_{\partial\mathbb{D}}$, so h is smooth. Finally, by [38, Theorem 4], $g|_{\partial\mathbb{D}}$ is conjugate to z^d by a Möbius transformation, and the proof is complete. \square

Lemma 5.7. *For any uniformly expanding C^1 -map of the circle, the closure of the set of Lyapunov exponents of periodic orbits is an interval.*

From the two previous lemmas we immediately get:

Corollary 5.8. *Suppose g is a uniformly hyperbolic Blaschke product of degree d whose set of Lyapunov exponents of periodic orbits is discrete. Then g is Möbius conjugate to $z \mapsto z^d$.*

Proof of Lemma 5.7. It is enough to show that if there are two periodic orbits x_1 of period n_1 , and x_2 of period n_2 , of respective Lyapunov exponents χ_1 and χ_2 , then there is a periodic orbit whose Lyapunov exponent is approximately $\frac{1}{2}(\chi_1 + \chi_2)$. This follows from the periodic specification property, which holds for any expanding map of the circle.

Choose $\eta > 0$, and pick $\varepsilon > 0$ so small that

$$\chi_1 - \eta \leq \frac{1}{n_1} \log |(f^{n_1})'(x)| \leq \chi_1 + \eta$$

(resp. $\chi_2 - \eta \leq \frac{1}{n_2} \log |(f^{n_2})'(x)| \leq \chi_2 + \eta$) for any $x \in \partial\mathbb{D}$ such that $d(x, x_1) \leq \varepsilon$ (resp. $d(x, x_2) \leq \varepsilon$).

By the periodic specification property, there exists an integer $M \geq 1$ such that for any $q, q' \geq 1$ there is a periodic orbit $x, f(x), \dots, f^{qn_1 + q'n_2 + 2M}(x) = x$ such that $d(f^k(x), f^k(x_1)) \leq \varepsilon$ for all $0 \leq k \leq qn_1 - 1$, and $d(f^{k+qn_1+M}(x), f^k(x_2)) \leq \varepsilon$ for all $0 \leq k \leq q'n_2 - 1$.

The Lyapunov exponent of x then satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} \chi &\leq \frac{1}{qn_1 + q'n_2 + 2M} (n_1q(\chi_1 + \eta) + n_2q'(\chi_2 + \eta) + (2M) \log(\sup |f'|)) \\ \chi &\geq \frac{1}{qn_1 + q'n_2 + 2M} (n_1q(\chi_1 - \eta) + n_2q'(\chi_2 - \eta) + (2M) \log(\inf |f'|)) \end{aligned}$$

So if we choose q and q' very large compared to M and satisfying $qn_1 = q'n_2$, we conclude that χ is very close to $\frac{1}{2}(\chi_1 + \chi_2)$, as announced. \square

Step 4: uniformization and conclusion.

We return to the original situation. Let f_1 and f_2 be non-integrable hyperbolic polynomials such that J_1 and J_2 are Jordan curves. Let U be a connected open subset intersecting J_1 and σ be a biholomorphism defined on U such that $\sigma(U \cap J_1) = \sigma(U) \cap J_2$ and $\sigma(K_1 \cap U) \subset K_2^c$.

Let $\phi_1: \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \text{Int}(K_1)$ be a uniformization with $\phi_1(0)$ the attracting fixed point of f_1 , and $\phi_2: \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus K_2$ be a uniformization with $\phi_2(0) = \infty$. Since J_1 and J_2 are Jordan curves, both ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 extend to respective homeomorphisms $\partial\mathbb{D} \rightarrow J_1$ and $\partial\mathbb{D} \rightarrow J_2$. Actually, since J_1 and J_2 are quasi-circles, these homeomorphisms are bi-Hölder (indeed they are quasi-symmetric, see [32, Chapter 5]). Let $g_1 = \phi_1^{-1} \circ f_1 \circ \phi_1$

(resp. $g_2 = \phi_2^{-1} \circ f_2 \circ \phi_2$). Up to conjugating by a rotation, $g_2(z) = M_{d_2}(z) := z^{d_2}$. Observe that $g_1(z)$ extends to a Blaschke product of degree d_1 . Indeed g_1 extends by Schwarz reflexion to a rational map which satisfies $g_1(\mathbb{D}) = \mathbb{D}$ and $g_1(\mathbb{D}^c) \subset \mathbb{D}^c$, hence \mathbb{D} is totally invariant so g_1 is a Blaschke product of the same degree as f_1 , which is uniformly hyperbolic on $\partial\mathbb{D}$ because no critical orbit of g_1 approaches $\partial\mathbb{D}$.

We claim that the set of Lyapunov exponents of periodic orbits of g_1 is discrete. Taking this claim for granted, by Corollary 5.8, we obtain that g_1 is Möbius conjugate to M_{d_1} thus f_1 admits a totally invariant fixed point in K_1 , so it is integrable, which is a contradiction.

To justify our claim, we proceed as follows. Pick any periodic point $q_1 \in \partial\mathbb{D}$ for g_1 of period k_1 . Then $p_1 := \phi_1^{-1}(q_1)$ is f_1 -periodic of the same period, and Lemma 5.4 implies the existence of a local biholomorphism $\tilde{\sigma}$ sending p_1 to a periodic point p_2 for f_2 such that $\tilde{\sigma} \circ f_1^{k_1 b} = f_2^{b'} \circ \tilde{\sigma}$ for some $b \leq B = B(f_1, f_2, \sigma)$ and some $b' \geq 1$. By the Schwarz reflection principle, the map $\tau := \phi_2^{-1} \circ \tilde{\sigma} \circ \phi_1$ is defined in a neighborhood of q_1 and satisfies $\tau \circ g_1^{k_1 b} = g_2^{b'} \circ \tau = M_{d_2}^{b'} \circ \tau$. Computing derivatives, this implies that the Lyapunov exponent of g_1 at q_1 belongs to $\bigcup_{1 \leq b \leq B} \frac{\mathbb{N}}{b} \log d_2$ which is a discrete set.

The proof is complete. □

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