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# ON THE FIRST PROLONGATIONAL LIMIT SET OF FLOWS OF FREE MAPPINGS

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**Abstract**. We consider an equivalence relation defined for a given flow of the plane which has no fixed points. We prove that the first prolongational limit set of every point from the boundary of an equivalence class is contained in the boundary of this class. Moreover, if two points lying on two different boundary orbits of a class are contained in the same component of the complement of an orbit of this class, then each of these two points is contained in the first prolongational limit set of the other one.

## 1. Introduction

We assume that *f* is a *free mapping*, i.e. a homeomorphism of the plane onto itself without fixed points which preserves orientation. We consider a relation in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  defined in the following way:

 $p \sim q$  if p = q or p and q are endpoints of some arc K for which  $f^n(K) \to \infty$  as  $n \to \pm \infty$ . By an *arc* K with endpoints p and q we mean the image of a homeomorphism  $c : [0,1] \to c([0,1])$  satisfying conditions c(0) = p, c(1) = q, where the topology on c([0,1]) is induced by the topology of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . It turns out that the relation defined above is an equivalence relation (see [5]) and has the same equivalence classes as the relation defined by S. Andrea in [1].

From now on we assume that f is embeddable in a flow { $f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}$ }. It follows from the Jordan theorem that each orbit C of { $f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}$ } divides the plane into two simply connected regions. Note that each of them is invariant under  $f^t$  for  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Thus two different orbits  $C_p$  and  $C_q$  of points p and q, respectively, divide the plane into three simply connected invariant regions, one of which contains both  $C_p$  and  $C_q$  in its boundary. We will call this region by the *strip* between  $C_p$  and  $C_q$  and denote by  $D_{pq}$ .

For any distinct orbits  $C_{p_1}$ ,  $C_{p_2}$ ,  $C_{p_3}$  of  $\{f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  one of the following two possibilities must be satisfied: exactly one of the orbits  $C_{p_1}$ ,  $C_{p_2}$ ,  $C_{p_3}$  is contained in the strip between the other two or each of the orbits  $C_{p_1}$ ,  $C_{p_2}$ ,  $C_{p_3}$  is contained in the strip between the other two. In the first case if  $C_{p_j}$  is the orbit which lies in the strip between  $C_{p_i}$  and  $C_{p_k}$  we will write  $C_{p_i}|C_{p_k}$  (*i*, *j*,  $k \in \{1,2,3\}$  and *i*, *j*, *k* are different). In the second case we will write  $|C_{p_i}, C_{p_i}, C_{p_k}|$  (see [3]).

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Put

$$J^+(q) := \{ p \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \text{ there exist a sequence}(q_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ and a sequence} \\ (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ such that } q_n \to q, t_n \to +\infty, f^{t_n}(q_n) \to p \\ \text{ as } n \to +\infty \}, \\ J^-(q) := \{ p \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \text{ there exist a sequence}(q_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ and a sequence} \\ (t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ such that } q_n \to q, t_n \to -\infty, f^{t_n}(q_n) \to p \\ \text{ as } n \to +\infty \}. \end{cases}$$

The set  $J(q) := J^+(q) \cup J^-(q)$  is called the *first prolongational limit set* of *q*. Let us observe that  $p \in J(q)$  if and only if  $q \in J(p)$  for any  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . For a subset  $H \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  we define

$$J(H) := \bigcup_{q \in H} J(q).$$

One can observe that for each  $p \in \mathbb{R}^2$  the set J(p) is invariant.

In this paper we study the structure of the first prolongational limit set  $J(\mathbb{R}^2)$  of a flow of free mappings. To this end we use equivalence classes of the equivalence relation defined above. These results can be useful in finding maximal parallelizable domains of such flows, because the boundary of each maximal parallelizable domain is contained in  $J(\mathbb{R}^2)$  (see [9]).

Now we collect the results from [5], [6], [7] and [8] which are needed in our considerations.

**Proposition 1.1** (see [5]) *Each equivalence class is invariant under*  $f^t$  *for*  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ *. In particular, each orbit of*  $\{f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  *is contained in exactly one equivalence class of the relation*  $\sim$ *.* 

**Proposition 1.2.** (see [8]) *The boundary of each equivalence class is a union of a family of orbits. In particular, the boundary of each class is invariant.* 

**Proposition 1.3.** (see [7]) If  $q \in \text{int } G_0$  for an equivalence class  $G_0$ , then  $q \notin J(\mathbb{R}^2)$ , i.e.  $J(q) = \emptyset$ .

**Proposition 1.4.** (see [6]) Let  $p \in \text{fr } G_0$  and  $q \in G_0 \setminus C_p$  for an equivalence class  $G_0$ . Let K be an arc with endpoints p and q such that  $K \setminus \{p, q\} \subset D_{pq}$  and  $C_p \mid C_r \mid C_q$  for every  $r \in K \setminus \{p, q\}$ . Then  $r \in G_0$  for every  $r \in K \setminus \{p\}$ . Moreover,  $C_p \mid C_s \mid C_q$  for every  $s \in D_{pq} \cap G_0$ .

**Proposition 1.5.** (see [6]) Let  $p \in \text{fr } G_0$  for an equivalence class  $G_0$ . Then for every class G such that  $G \setminus C_p \neq \phi$  the set  $cl G \setminus C_p$  is contained in exactly one of the components of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_p$ .

**Proposition 1.6.** (see [8]) Let  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  be any orbits of  $\{f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . If  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  are contained in an equivalence class, then each point of the strip between  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  belongs to the interior of this class.

**Proposition 1.7.** (see [5]) For any orbit  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$  of  $\{f^t : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ,  $if|C_1, C_2, C_3|$ , then  $C_1, C_2$ ,  $C_3$  cannot be contained in the same equivalence class of  $\sim$ .

## 2. First Prolongational Limit Set of a Boundary Point of a Class

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In this section we prove that the first prolongational limit set of every point from the boundary of a class is contained in the boundary of this class.

**Theomrem 2.1.** Let  $G_0$  be an equivalence class which does not consist of just one orbit. Let  $H_0$  the component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_p$  which contains  $\operatorname{cl} G_0 \setminus C_p$ . Assume that  $p \in \operatorname{fr} G_0$ ,  $q \in H_0$  and  $q \in J(p)$ . Then  $q \in \operatorname{cl} G_0$ .

**Proof.** Denote by *L* the straight line segment with endpoints *q* and *p*. Let  $p_0$  be the first point of *L* belonging to  $C_p$ . Then by Proposition 1.2 we have  $p_0 \in \text{fr} G_0$ . Moreover,  $p_0 \in J(q)$ , since  $p_0 \in C_p$ ,  $p \in J(q)$  and J(q) is invariant. Let  $L_0$  denote the subsegment of *L* having *q* and  $p_0$  as its endpoints.

Let  $q_0$  be the first point of  $L_0$  belonging to  $\operatorname{cl} G_0$ . Such a point  $q_0$  exists on account of the Weierstrass theorem, since  $L_0 \cap \operatorname{cl} G_0$  is a compact set. Now we will prove that  $q_0 \in \operatorname{fr} G_0$ . If  $s \in L_0 \cap \operatorname{int} G_0$ , then there exists a ball  $B(s, \varepsilon)$  centered at *s* with a radius  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\operatorname{cl} B(s, \varepsilon) \subset \operatorname{int} G_0$ . Hence *s* cannot be the first point of  $L_0$  belonging to  $\operatorname{cl} G_0$ , and consequently  $s \neq q_0$ . Thus  $q_0 \in \operatorname{fr} G_0$ , since  $q_0 \in L_0 \cap \operatorname{cl} G_0$  and  $s \neq q_0$  for all  $s \in L_0 \cap \operatorname{int} G_0$ .

Now we will show that  $q_0 \notin C_p$ , i.e.  $q_0 \neq p_0$ . On account of the Whitney-Bebutov theorem (see [2], p. 52) there exists a neighbourhood  $V_1$  of p which is a union of orbits such that  $\{f^t | _{V_1}: t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is conjugate with the flow of translations, i.e. there exists a homeomorphism  $\psi : V_1 \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty) \times (-1, 1)$  such that  $\psi(p) = (0, 0)$  and for every orbit C contained in  $V_1$  the image of C under  $\psi$  is a horizontal straight line in the open set  $(-\infty, +\infty) \times (-1, 1)$ . Then  $J(V_1) \cap V_1 = \emptyset$  (see [2], p. 46 and 49), and consequently  $q \notin V_1$ .

Since  $p \in \text{fr } G_0$  and  $G_0$  does not consist of just one orbit, there exists a point  $r_1 \in V_1 \cap H_0$ such that  $r_1 \in G_0$ . Let  $K_1$  be a section of  $V_1$  passing through  $p_0$  and  $r_1$  (as  $K_1$  we can take the preimage of the straight line containing  $\psi(p_0)$  and  $\psi(r_1)$ ). Then by Proposition 1.4,  $s \in G_0$  for every  $s \in K_1 \cap D_{r_1p}$ . Hence by Proposition 1.1 we have  $V_1 \cap D_{r_1p} \subset G_0$ . Let  $B_1$  be the preimage of a closed ball with center at  $\psi(p_0)$  contained in  $(-\infty, +\infty) \times (-1, 1)$  which has no common point with  $(-\infty, +\infty) \times \{\psi(r_1)\}$ . Then  $B_1 \cap H_0 \subset V_1 \cap D_{r_1p}$  and fr  $B_1$  is a Jordan curve having exactly two common points with  $C_p$ . Denote these points by  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ .

Since  $q \notin V_1$  and  $B_1 \subset V_1$ , we have  $q \notin B_1$ . Hence the endpoint q of  $L_0$  lies outside of the Jordan curve fr  $B_1$ , whereas the second endpoint  $p_0$  of  $L_0$  lies inside of fr  $B_1$ . Thus by the Jordan Theorem there exists a point  $x_1 \in L_0 \cap \text{fr } B_1$ . By the fact that  $p_0$  is the only point of  $L_0$ belonging to  $C_p$ , we have  $x_1 \neq z_1$  and  $x_1 \neq z_2$ . Since  $L_0 \subset \text{cl } H_0$ , the point  $x_1$  belongs to the arc of fr  $B_1$  having  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  as its endpoints which is contained in  $\text{cl } H_0$ . Since every point of this arc different from  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  belongs to  $V_1 \cap D_{r_1p}$  and  $V_1 \cap D_{r_1p} \subset G_0$ , we have  $x_1 \in G_0$ . Hence  $q_0$  belongs to the subarc of  $L_0$  having q and  $x_1$  as its endpoints, since  $q_0$  is the first point of  $L_0$ belonging to  $\text{cl } G_0$ . Thus  $q_0 \notin C_p$ , and consequently  $q_0 \in \text{cl } G_0 \setminus C_p$ .

Now we show that  $q = q_0$ . Suppose, on the contrary, that  $q \neq q_0$ . Since  $q_0 \in \text{fr } G_0$ , we have by Proposition 1.5 that the set  $cl G_0 \setminus C_{q_0}$  is contained in exactly one of the components of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{q_0}$ . Denote this component by  $F_0$ . In particular,  $p \in F_0$ , since  $q_0 \notin C_p$ . In the same way as before we can find a neighbourhood  $V_2$  of  $q_0$  which is a union of orbits such that  $\{f^t | V_2 : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is conjugate with the flow of translations and a homeomorphic preimage  $B_2$  of a closed ball such that  $B_2 \cap F_0 \subset V_2 \cap D_{r_2q_0} \subset G_0$  for some  $r_2 \in V_2 \cap F_0 \cap G_0$ ,  $q_0 \in \text{int } B_2$ ,  $q \notin B_2$  and fr  $B_2$  is a Jordan curve having exactly two common points with  $C_{q_0}$ . Denote these points by  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ . ZBIGNIEW LEŚNIAK

Denote by  $L_1$  the subarc of  $L_0$  having q and  $q_0$  as its endpoints. By the Jordan Theorem, there exists a point  $x_2 \in L_1 \cap \text{fr } B_2$ . It follows from Propositions 1.1 and 1.2 that  $\text{cl } G_0$  is a union of orbits. Hence by the fact that  $y_1, y_2 \in C_{q_0}$ , we have  $y_1, y_2 \in \text{cl } G_0$ . Since  $q_0$  is the only point of  $L_1$  belonging to  $\text{cl } G_0$  and  $q_0 \in \text{int } B_2$ , we have  $x_2 \neq y_1$  and  $x_2 \neq y_2$ . Moreover, the point  $q_0$  is the first point of  $L_1$  belonging to  $C_{q_0}$ , since it is the first point of  $L_1$  belonging to  $\text{cl } G_0$ . Hence  $L_1 \setminus \{q_0\}$  is contained in one of the components of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{q_0}$ . By the definition of J(p) we have  $J(p) \subset F_0 \cup C_{q_0}$ . Since  $p \in F_0$  and  $F_0$  is invariant, we get from the assumption  $q \in J(p)$  that  $q \in F_0 \cup C_{q_0}$ . Consequently  $L_1 \setminus \{q_0\} \subset F_0$ . Hence  $x_2 \in K_2 \setminus \{y_1, y_2\}$ , where  $K_2$  is the arc of fr  $B_2$ having  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  as its endpoints which is contained in  $F_0$ . Since this arc is a subset of  $G_0$ , we have  $x_2 \in G_0$ . But this contradicts the fact that  $q_0$  is the first point of  $L_1$  belonging to  $\text{cl } G_0$ . Thus  $q = q_0$ , and consequently  $q \in \text{cl } G_0$ .

**Corollary 2.2.** Let  $G_0$  be an equivalence class which does not consist of just one orbit. Let  $H_0$  be the component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_p$  which contains  $\operatorname{cl} G_0 \setminus C_p$ . Assume that  $p \in \operatorname{fr} G_0$ ,  $q \in H_0$  and  $q \in J(p)$ . Then  $q \in \operatorname{fr} G_0$ .

**Proof.** By Theorem 2.1, we have that  $q \in \operatorname{cl} G_0$ . On account of Proposition 1.3 the point q cannot belong to int  $G_0$ . Thus  $q \in \operatorname{fr} G_0$ .

## 3. Properties of Boundary Orbits

In this section we prove that if two points lying on two different boundary orbits of a class are contained in the same component of the complement of an orbit of this class, then each of these two points is contained in the first prolongational limit set of the other one.

**Proposition 3.1.** Let  $G_0$  be an equivalence class which does not consist of just one orbit. Let  $p \in \text{fr} G_0$ ,  $q \in \text{fr} G_0$  and  $C_p \neq C_q$ . Assume that p and q belong to the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{r_0}$  for an  $r_0 \in G_0$ . Then p and q belong to the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$  for every  $r \in \text{int} G_0$ .

**Proof.** Fix an  $r \in \text{int } G_0 \setminus C_{r_0}$ . Denote by  $H_0$  the component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{r_0}$  which contains p and q. If  $r \notin H_0$ , then p and q belong to the component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$  which contains  $r_0$ . Now assume that  $r \in H_0$ . Then by Proposition 1.6 neither p nor q belongs to  $D_{rr_0}$ , since  $p \notin \text{int } G_0$  and  $q \notin \text{int } G_0$ . Thus p and q belong to the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$ , since  $p, q \in H_0 \setminus (D_{rr_0} \cup C_r)$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $G_0$  be an equivalence class which does not consist of just one orbit. Let  $p \in \text{fr} G_0$ ,  $q \in \text{fr} G_0$  and  $C_p \neq C_q$ . Assume that p and q belong to the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$  for an  $r \in G_0$ . Then  $p \in J(q)$ .

**Proof.** First we prove that  $p \notin G_0$  and  $q \notin G_0$ . Suppose, on the contrary, that one of the points p, q belongs to  $G_0$ . Let  $p \in G_0$ . By Proposition 1.5, q and r are contained in the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_p$ . On the other hand, by our assumption, q and p are contained in the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$ . Thus  $q \in D_{pr}$ . Hence by Proposition 1.6  $q \in \text{int } G_0$ , since  $p \in G_0$ . But this contradicts the assumption that  $q \in \text{fr } G_0$ .

On account of the Whitney-Bebutov theorem (see [2], p. 52) there exists a neighbourhood  $V_1$  of p which is a union of orbits such that  $\{f^t |_{V_1} : t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is conjugate with the flow of

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translations, i.e. there exists a homeomorphism  $\psi_1$  of  $V_1$  onto  $(-\infty, +\infty) \times (-1, 1)$  such that  $\psi_1(p) = (0, 0)$  and for every orbit *C* contained in  $V_1$  the image of *C* under  $\psi_1$  is a horizontal straight line in the open set  $(-\infty, +\infty) \times (-1, 1)$ . Without loosing of generality we can assume that  $r \notin V_1$ . Since  $p \in \text{fr } G_0$ , there exists a point  $s_1 \in V_1$  such that  $s_1 \in G_0$ . Then by Proposition 1.5  $s_1$  and r are contained in the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_p$ .

Take as  $K_0$  the image under  $\psi_1^{-1}$  of the segment in  $(-\infty, +\infty) \times (-1, 1)$  from  $\psi_1(s_1)$  to  $\psi_1(p)$ . Then  $K_0$  has just one common point with every orbit contained in  $D_{ps_1} \cap V_1$ ,  $K_0 \setminus \{p, s_1\} \subset D_{ps_1}$ and  $C_p \mid C_x \mid C_{s_1}$  for all  $x \in K_0 \setminus \{p, s_1\}$ . Then by Proposition 1.4 we have  $K_0 \setminus \{p\} \subset G_0$ . In the same way we can find a neighbourhood  $V_2$  of q which is a union of orbits such that  $\{f^t \mid_{V_2}: t \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is conjugate with the flow of translations and  $r \notin V_2$ , a point  $s_2 \in V_2 \cap G_0$  and an arc  $L_0$ from  $s_2$  to q such that  $L_0$  has just one common point with every orbit contained in  $D_{qs_2} \cap V_2$ ,  $L_0 \setminus \{q, s_2\} \subset D_{qs_2}$  and  $L_0 \setminus \{q\} \subset G_0$ .

Fix  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 > 0$  such that  $\operatorname{cl} B(p, \varepsilon_1) \cap \operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_2) = \emptyset$ ,  $s_1, s_2 \notin \operatorname{cl} B(p, \varepsilon_1)$ ,  $s_1, s_2 \notin \operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_2)$ ,  $\operatorname{cl} B(p, \varepsilon_1) \cap C_r = \emptyset$ ,  $\operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_2) \cap C_r = \emptyset$ ,  $\operatorname{cl} B(p, \varepsilon_1) \cap C_q = \emptyset$  and  $\operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_2) \cap C_p = \emptyset$ . Denote by  $p_0$  the last point of  $K_0$  which belongs to fr  $B(p, \varepsilon_1)$  and let  $K_1$  be the subarc of  $K_0$  having  $p_0$ and p as its endpoints. Then  $K_1 \setminus \{p\} \subset G_0$  and  $K_1 \setminus \{p_0\} \subset B(p, \varepsilon_1)$ . Take a positive  $\varepsilon_3 \leq \varepsilon_2$  such that  $\operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_3) \cap C_{p_0} = \emptyset$ . Denote by  $q_0$  the last point of  $L_0$  which belongs to fr  $B(q, \varepsilon_3)$ . Let  $L_1$ be the subarc of  $L_0$  having  $q_0$  and q as its endpoints. Then  $L_1 \setminus \{q\} \subset G_0$  and  $L_1 \setminus \{q_0\} \subset B(q, \varepsilon_3)$ .

On account of Proposition 1.7 the relation  $\cdot |\cdot| \cdot$  holds for the orbits  $C_{p_0}, C_{q_0}, C_r$ , since  $p_0, q_0, r \in G_0$ . Suppose that  $C_{p_0} | C_{q_0} | C_r$ . Then  $\operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_3) \subset D_{rp_0}$ , since  $\operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_3) \cap C_{p_0} = \emptyset$ ,  $\operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_3) \cap C_r = \emptyset$  and  $q_0 \in \operatorname{cl} B(q, \varepsilon_3)$ . Hence by Proposition 1.6 we have  $q \in \operatorname{int} G_0$ , which is impossible. Consequently,  $C_{q_0} | C_{p_0} | C_r$ , since  $q_0$  and  $p_0$  belong to the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$ .

From the definition of  $p_0$  and  $q_0$  it follows that p, q,  $p_0$  and  $q_0$  belong to the same component of of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_r$ . Suppose that  $p \in D_{rq_0}$ . Then by Proposition 1.6 we have  $p \in \text{int } G_0$ , which is impossible. Thus  $p \notin D_{rq_0}$ . Moreover,  $p \notin C_{q_0}$ , since  $p \notin G_0$  and  $q_0 \in G_0$ . Consequently p belongs to the component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{q_0}$  which does not contain r. Thus  $p_0$  and p lies in different components of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{q_0}$ , which means that  $C_p \mid C_{q_0} \mid C_{p_0}$ . In the same way we can show that  $C_q \mid C_{q_0} \mid C_{p_0}$ . Hence  $L_1$  and p are contained in the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_{p_0}$ . On the other hand, by Proposition 1.5,  $L_1$  and  $p_0$  are contained in the same component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_p$ , since  $L_1 \subset cl G_0$ ,  $p_0 \in G_0$  and  $q \notin C_p$ . Thus  $L_1 \subset D_{pp_0}$ .

Take a sequence  $(q_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $q_n \to q$  as  $n \to \infty$ ,  $q_n \neq q$  and  $q_n \in L_1$  for all n. Then  $q_n \in D_{pp_0} \cap G_0$ , since  $L_1 \subset D_{pp_0}$  and  $L_1 \setminus \{q\} \subset G_0$ . By Proposition 1.4 we have  $C_{p_0} \mid C_{q_n} \mid C_p$ . Hence  $C_{q_n} \cap K_1 \neq \phi$  for every n. Since  $K_1$  has at most one common point with each orbit, the set  $C_{q_n} \cap K_1$  consists of just one point for every n. Denote this point by  $p_n$ . Thus there exists a sequence  $(t_n)$  such that  $p_n = f^{t_n}(q_n)$ . Since  $cl_B(p, \varepsilon_1) \cap cl_B(q, \varepsilon_3) = \phi$ , we have  $K_1 \cap L_1 = \phi$ . Hence either  $t_n > 0$  for all n or  $t_n < 0$  for all n. We assume without loosing of generality that  $t_n > 0$  for all n.

Now we show that  $p_n \to p$  as  $n \to \infty$ . Fix an  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let  $\varepsilon \le \varepsilon_1$ . Denote by z the last point of  $K_1$  which belongs to fr  $B(p, \varepsilon)$ . Denote by  $K_2$  the subarc of  $K_1$  having z and p as its endpoints. Then  $K_2 \setminus \{z\} \subset B(p, \varepsilon)$ . Let  $V_3 := V_2 \cap H_z$ , where  $H_z$  denotes the component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus C_z$  which contains q. Since  $V_3$  is a neighbourhood of q and  $q_n \to q$  as  $n \to \infty$ , there exists an  $n_0$  such that  $q_n \in V_3$  for all  $n > n_0$ . In the same way as before (taking z instead of  $p_0$  and  $q_n$  instead of

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 $q_0$ ) we get that  $C_z | C_{q_n} | C_q$  and  $C_z | C_{q_n} | C_p$ . Hence  $p \in H_z$  and consequently  $K_2 = K_1 \cap H_z$ . Thus for all  $n > n_0$  we have  $p_n \in K_2$ , since  $C_{q_n} \in H_z$  for all  $n > n_0$  and  $p_n \in C_{q_n}$ . Hence by the fact that  $K_2 \setminus \{z\} \subset B(p,\varepsilon)$  we have  $p_n \in B(p,\varepsilon)$  for all  $n > n_0$ .

To finish the proof we show that there exists a subsequence  $(t_{n_k})$  of the sequence  $(t_n)$  which tends to  $+\infty$  as  $n_k \to \infty$ . Suppose, on the contrary, that there exists a positive integer  $\alpha$  such that  $t_n \leq \alpha$  for all n. Denote by J the Jordan curve which is a union of  $L_1$ ,  $f^{\alpha}(L_1)$ , the subarc of  $C_{q_0}$  with endpoints  $q_0$  and  $f^{\alpha}(q_0)$  and the subarc of  $C_q$  with endpoints q and  $f^{\alpha}(q)$ . Let  $B := J \cup \inf J$ , where by ins J we mean the bounded component of  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus J$ . Then B is a closed set and  $f^{t_n}(q_n) \in B$  for every n. Hence by the fact that  $p = \lim_{n \to \infty} f^{t_n}(q_n)$  we have  $p \in B$ . But this is impossible, since  $B \subset G_0 \cup C_q$  and  $(G_0 \cup C_q) \cap C_p = \phi$ . Thus there exists a subsequence  $(t_{n_k})$  of the sequence  $(t_n)$  such that  $\lim_{k\to\infty} t_{n_k} = +\infty$ . Hence  $\lim_{k\to\infty} q_{n_k} = q$  and  $\lim_{k\to\infty} f^{t_{n_k}}(q_{n_k}) = p$ , since  $\lim_{n\to\infty} q_n = q$  and  $\lim_{n\to\infty} f^{t_n}(q_n) = p$ . Consequently  $p \in J(q)$ .

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