FILTRATIONS, HYPERBOLICITY AND DIMENSION FOR POLYNOMIAL AUTOMORPHISMS OF $\mathbb{C}^n$

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Abstract. In this paper we study the dynamics of regular polynomial automorphisms of $\mathbb{C}^n$. These maps provide a natural generalization of complex Hénon maps in $\mathbb{C}^2$ to higher dimensions. For a given regular polynomial automorphism $f$ we construct a filtration in $\mathbb{C}^n$ which has particular escape properties for the orbits of $f$. In the case when $f$ is hyperbolic we obtain a complete description of its orbits. In the second part of the paper we study the Hausdorff and box dimension of the Julia sets of $f$. We show that the Julia set $J$ has positive box dimension, and (provided $f$ is not volume preserving) that the filled-in Julia set $K$ has box dimension strictly less than $2n$. Moreover, if $f$ is hyperbolic, then the Hausdorff dimension of the forward/backward Julia set $J^\pm$ is strictly less than $2n$.

1. Introduction

Let $f$ be a polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. We denote by $\hat{f}$ the natural extension of $f$ to a meromorphic map in $\mathbb{P}^n$. Let $I^+$ denote the indeterminacy set of $\hat{f}$. Analogously we denote by $I^-$ the indeterminacy set of $\hat{f}^{-1}$. We say that $f$ is regular if $f$ has degree greater than one and $I^+ \cap I^- = \emptyset$.

In the case $n = 2$ the class of regular automorphisms consists of polynomial automorphisms with nontrivial dynamics, i.e., finite compositions of generalized Hénon maps (see for instance [BS], [FM], [FS]). In fact, regular polynomial automorphisms can be considered as a natural generalization of complex Hénon maps to higher dimensions. Higher dimensional regular maps are for instance the so-called shift-like automorphisms studied by Bedford and Pambuccian [BP]. For further examples we refer to Section 2. We point out that unlike the two-dimensional case, for $n > 2$ there exist polynomial automorphisms with nontrivial dynamics which are not regular (see for instance [CT]).

The notion of regular polynomial automorphisms was introduced by Sibony [S], who comprehensively studied these maps, in particular by using methods from pluripotential theory.

In this paper we study the dynamics of regular polynomial automorphisms from a different point of view: We introduce the notion of hyperbolicity for a regular polynomial automorphism $f$ and study its dynamics. In particular, we classify the orbits of $f$ analogously to the case of complex Hénon maps.
Finally, we study the Hausdorff and box dimension of the Julia sets of \( f \). We derive estimates for these dimensions in the hyperbolic as well as in the non-hyperbolic case.

We will now describe our results in more detail:

Let \( f \) be a regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \). We define \( K^\pm = \{ p \in \mathbb{C}^n : \{ f^\pm k(p) : k \in \mathbb{N} \} \text{ is bounded} \} \), and the filled-in Julia set by \( K = K^+ \cap K^- \). Furthermore, we define the sets \( J^\pm = \partial K^\pm \) and \( J = J^+ \cap J^- \). The set \( J^\pm \) is called the forward/backward Julia set and \( J \) is the Julia set of \( f \) (see Section 2 for details).

We construct a filtration of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) which has particular escape properties for the orbits of \( f \) (see Proposition 3.1). For \( n = 2 \) the existence of a filtration was already shown by Bedford and Smillie [BS]. In this case it proved to be a useful tool for analyzing the dynamics of \( f \).

We apply our filtration to study hyperbolic maps. We say that \( f \) is hyperbolic if its Julia set \( J \) is a hyperbolic set and the periodic points are dense in \( J \). It turns out that hyperbolicity implies that \( f \) is Axiom A (see Corollary 4.5). The latter is the classical notion for hyperbolic diffeomorphisms. We obtain a complete description for the possibilities of the orbits in the case of a hyperbolic map \( f \). The following result is a consequence of Proposition 4.1 and Theorems 4.2 and 4.4.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let \( f \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) and let \( p \) be a point in \( \mathbb{C}^n \). Then one of the following exclusive properties holds.

(i) There exists \( q \in J \) such that \( |f^k(p) - f^k(q)| \to 0 \) as \( k \to \infty \);

(ii) There exists an attracting periodic point \( \alpha \) of \( f \) such that \( |f^k(p) - f^k(\alpha)| \to 0 \) as \( k \to \infty \);

(iii) \( \{ f^k(p) : k \in \mathbb{N} \} \) converges to \( \infty \) as \( k \to \infty \).

The inverse of \( f \) is also a regular polynomial automorphism; therefore, Theorem 1.1 also holds for \( f^{-1} \). However, since \( f \) has constant jacobian, attracting periodic points can exist only either for \( f \) or for \( f^{-1} \). Theorem 1.1 implies that in order to understand the “complicated” dynamics of a hyperbolic map, it is sufficient to understand the dynamics on its Julia set.

In the second part of this paper we derive estimates for the Hausdorff and box dimension of the Julia sets. Let \( d \) be the degree of \( f \); then we denote by \( l = 1 \) the dimension of \( J^- \) (as an algebraic variety). We show that \( J \) carries the full entropy of \( f \), that is, \( h_{\text{top}}(f|J) = l \log d \) (see Theorem 5.4), where \( h_{\text{top}} \) denotes the topological entropy. As a consequence, the upper box dimension of the Julia set is strictly positive (see Corollary 5.6). On the other hand, if \( f \) is not volume preserving, then the upper box dimension of \( K \) is strictly smaller than \( 2n \) (see Corollary 5.3).

It is a widely studied problem in one-dimensional complex dynamics to determine whether the Hausdorff dimension of the Julia set of a rational map is strictly less than two (see for instance [1] for an overview). We solve the analogous problem in the case of hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphisms of \( \mathbb{C}^n, n \geq 2 \); namely we show that the Hausdorff dimension of \( J^\pm \) is strictly less than \( 2n \). More precisely, we derive an upper bound for the Hausdorff dimension of \( J^\pm \) which is given in terms of topological pressure (see Theorem 5.13). This upper bound is strictly smaller than \( 2n \).
Our Theorem improves a result of Bowen [Bo], which says that $J^\pm$ has zero Lebesgue measure. It should be noted that for $n = 2$ it is possible to construct hyperbolic maps whose forward/backward Julia sets have Hausdorff dimension arbitrarily close to $4 = 2n$ (see [Wo3]).

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we present basic facts about regular polynomial automorphisms of $\mathbb{C}^n$. In Section 3 we construct a filtration with particular escape properties for the orbits. Section 4 is devoted to the analysis of hyperbolic maps. Finally, we study in Section 5 the Hausdorff and the box dimension of the Julia sets.

For $n = 2$ it is shown in [BS] that hyperbolicity of $J$ already implies that $f$ is a hyperbolic map, i.e., $J$ being hyperbolic implies the density of the periodic points in $J$. In particular, this provides a weaker definition of a hyperbolic map in the case $n = 2$. It would be interesting to know whether the analogous result holds for $n > 2$, see also the remark at the end of Section 4.

2. Regular polynomial automorphisms

In this section we give an introduction to the dynamics of regular polynomial automorphisms of $\mathbb{C}^n$. This class of maps was studied in detail by Sibony in [Si]. We refer to this article for the proofs of the results presented below.

Let $f$ be a polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n, n \geq 2$. Then $f$ admits an extension to a meromorphic map $\hat{f} : \mathbb{P}^n \to \mathbb{P}^n$. Let $\pi : \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \to \mathbb{P}^n$ be the canonical projection and let $F$ be the homogeneous polynomial map in $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ corresponding to $\hat{f}$, i.e., $\hat{f} = \pi \circ F \circ \pi^{-1}$. Then $I^+ = \pi \circ F^{-1}(0)$ is the indeterminacy set of $\hat{f}$. Analogously, $I^-$ denotes the indeterminacy set of $\hat{f}^{-1}$. The sets $I^+$ and $I^-$ are algebraic varieties in $\mathbb{P}^n$ of codimension at least two which are contained in the hypersurface at infinity, which is denoted by $H_0$.

We write $f = (f_1, \ldots, f_n)$. Let $\deg f_i$ denote the polynomial degree of $f_i$. Then $d = \deg f = \max\{\deg f_1, \ldots, \deg f_n\}$ is the degree of $f$. A polynomial automorphism $f$ of $\mathbb{C}^n$ is called regular if $d > 1$ and $I^+ \cap I^- = \emptyset$.

Throughout this paper $f$ will be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Note that the complex Jacobian $\det Df$ is constant in $\mathbb{C}^n$. Therefore, we can restrict our considerations to the volume decreasing case ($|\det Df| < 1$) and to the volume preserving case ($|\det Df| = 1$), as otherwise we simply consider $f^{-1}$.

Examples of regular polynomial automorphisms are the well known family of generalized Hénon maps in $\mathbb{C}^2$ and shift-like mappings in $\mathbb{C}^n$ (see [BP]). Fornæss and Wu [FW] gave a classification of polynomial automorphisms of $\mathbb{C}^3$ of degree at most two. According to this classification automorphisms with non-trivial dynamics fall into five classes. One can easily verify that two of these classes, i.e., the maps of the form

$$h_1 = (P(x, y) + az, Q(y) + x, y),$$
$$h_2 = (P(x, y) + az, Q(x) + by, x),$$

are regular, provided that $ab \neq 0$, the degree of $P$ is two in each variable, and the degree of $Q$ is also two.
For a regular polynomial automorphism $f$ of $\mathbb{C}^n$, there exists an integer $l > 0$ such that $(\deg f)^l = (\deg f^{-1})^{n-l}$. For example, if $h_1$ and $h_2$ are regular, then $\deg h_1^{-1} = \deg h_2^{-1} = 4$. Moreover, it follows that for every regular polynomial automorphism we have $\dim I^- = l - 1$ and $\dim I^+ = n - l - 1$.

Let $K^\pm, K, J^\pm$ and $J$ be defined as in the introduction. Then all of these are $f$-invariant sets, and 
\[
K^\pm = K^\pm \cup I^\pm,
\]
where $\overline{K^\pm}$ denotes the closure in $\mathbb{P}^n$. While $K^\pm$ and $J^\pm$ are closed and unbounded in $\mathbb{C}^n$, the sets $K$ and $J$ are compact. If $n = 2$, then the set $J^\pm$ is connected (see [BS2]).

Furthermore, the distance between $f^k(p)$ and $I^-$ tends uniformly to zero on compact subsets of $\mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+$. On the other hand, the distance between $f^k(p)$ and $K$ tends uniformly to zero on compact subsets of $K^+$, and the family $\{f^k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is equicontinuous in the interior of $K^+$, $\text{int} K^+$. The analogous properties hold for $f^{-1}$ and $K^-$. 

3. Filtration Properties

In this section we construct for a regular polynomial automorphism $f$ a filtration in $\mathbb{C}^n$ that exhibits particular escape properties for the orbits of $f$. Our approach is motivated by the work of Bedford and Smillie [BS, §2] in the case of generalized Hénon maps.

**Proposition 3.1 (Filtration).** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Then there exist a compact set $V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with $K \subset \text{int} V$ and sets $V^+, V^- \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ with $\mathbb{C}^n = V \cup V^- \cup V^+$, such that the following hold.

(i) $f(V^-) \subset V^-;$
(ii) $f(V^- \cup V) \subset V^- \cup V$;
(iii) $f^{-1}(V^+) \subset V^+$;
(iv) $f^{-1}(V^+ \cup V) \subset V^+ \cup V$.

**Proof.** Let $V$ be a closed polydisk of sufficiently large radius such that $K \subset \text{int} V$. Let $V^+$ and $\hat{V}$ be open sets in $\mathbb{P}^n$ for which the following properties hold:

\[
(a) \ I^+ \subset \hat{V}^+, \ I^- \subset \hat{V}^-,
(b) \ f^{-1}(V^+) \subset \hat{V}^+, \ f(\hat{V}^-) \subset \hat{V}^-,
(c) \ \hat{V}^\pm \cap V = \emptyset, \ \hat{V}^\pm \cap K^\pm = \emptyset.
\]

We note that property (b) above can be satisfied, since $I^+$ is an attracting set for $f^{-1}$, and $I^-$ is an attracting set for $f$ (see [S], Prop. 2.2.6]). Moreover, it is a consequence of [S] that we can achieve the identities on the right of (c).

Let $V^\pm_0 = \hat{V}^\pm \cap \mathbb{C}^n$. To construct $V^+$ and $V^-$ we define
\[
V^+_k = f^k(V^+_0), \ V^-_k = f^{-k}(V^-_0),
\]
where $k \geq 1$, and at each step, if $V^+_k \cap V^-_k \neq \emptyset$, we replace the set $V^-_0$ with $f^k(V^-_0 \setminus V^+_k)$. To emphasize that $V^-_0$ depends on the number of times this
process was applied, we use the notation $V_0^-(k)$, where $k$ is the number of iterations.

We also note that the shrinking of $V_0^-(k)$ does not change the union of $V_k^+$ and $V_k^-$, and that $V_k^+$ and $V_k^-$ are disjoint for every $k > 0$. To prove the proposition we will show that there exists $N > 0$ such that $C^n \setminus V \subset V_N^- \cup V_N^-$. We will do this in two steps.

Claim 1. There exists $N > 0$ such that for every $p \in C^n \setminus V$ and every $k \geq N$ either $f^k(p) \in \hat{V}^- \cap C^n$, or $f^{-k}(p) \in V^+ \cap C^n$.

To prove the claim we consider a neighborhood $U$ in $\mathbb{P}^n$ of the compact set $H_0 \setminus (\hat{V}^- \cup V^+)$. We recall that $H_0 \subset \mathbb{P}^n$ denotes the hypersurface at infinity. Without loss of generality we may assume that $U \cap I^\pm = \emptyset$, and $U \cap V = \emptyset$. Furthermore, since $K^\pm \cap H_0 = I^+$, we may choose $U$ such that $\overline{U \setminus V^+ \cap K^+} = \emptyset$. From $\hat{f}(H_0 \setminus I^+) = I^-$ and the uniform convergence of $f^k(p)$ to $I^-$ on compact subsets of $C^n \setminus K^+$ we conclude that there exists $N_1 > 0$ such that $f^k(U) \subset \hat{V}^-$ for $k \geq N_1$. In view of property (b) in (2) it follows that Claim 1 holds for any point $p \in (U \setminus \hat{V}^+ \cup \hat{V}^-) \cap C^n$ and all $N \geq N_1$. We note, that $H_0 \subset U \cup \hat{V}^+ \cup \hat{V}^-$. We consider now the set $D = C^n \setminus (U \cup \hat{V}^+ \cup \hat{V}^- \cup V)$. Since $K \subset \text{int } V$, $K^\pm$ is closed and in view of (4), there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$K^\pm_\varepsilon \setminus K^\pm \subset V,$$  

where $K^\pm_\varepsilon$ denote the $\varepsilon$-neighborhood of $K^\pm$. We define the compact set $D^\pm = D \setminus K^\pm_\varepsilon$. Clearly, $D^\pm \cap K^\pm = \emptyset$, and from (4) we have $D \subset D^+ \cup D^-$. From the uniform convergence of $f^k(p)$ to $I^-$ on $D^-$ we conclude that there exists $N_2 > 0$ such that $f^k(p) \subset \hat{V}^-$ for $k \geq N_2$ and $p \in D^-$. Analogously, $f^{-k}(p) \subset \hat{V}^+$ for $p \in D^+$ and for $k \geq N_3 > 0$. Combining the above considerations, we conclude that Claim 1 holds for $N = \max(N_1, N_2, N_3)$.

Claim 2. Let $N$ be as in Claim 1. Then $V_N^- \cup V_N^+ \cup V = C^n$.

We prove the claim by contradiction. We assume that there exists a point $p \in C^n \setminus (V \cup V_N^+ \cup V_N^-)$. By Claim 1, either $f^N(p) \in \hat{V}^-$ or $f^{-N}(p) \in \hat{V}^+$. If $f^{-N}(p) \in \hat{V}^+ \cap C^n = V_0^+$, then $p \in f^N(V_0^+) = V_N^+$ which is a contradiction. Now we suppose that $f^N(p) \in \hat{V}^-$. If $f^N(p) \in V_0^-(N)$, then $p \in f^{-N}(V_0^-(N)) = V_N^-$, which is again a contradiction. The remaining case is $f^N(p) \in (\hat{V}^- \cap C^n) \setminus V_0^-(N)$. Since $f^N(p)$ is not contained in $V_0^-(N)$, it follows that for some $j \leq N$, $f^{N-j}(p) \in V_N^+$. But then the invariance of $V_N^+$ under $f^{-1}$ implies that $p \in V_N^+$. This proves the claim.

We finally set $V^\pm = V_N^\pm$, where $N$ is such that $C^n \setminus V \subset V_N^+ \cup V_N^-$. We remark that $V^-$ cannot be empty, because otherwise there would exist a neighborhood of $I^-$ whose intersection with $C^n$ is contained in $V^+$. Then, since the closure of $K^- \setminus I^-$, there exists a point $p \in K^- \setminus I^-$ which is also contained in $V^+$. By construction, $f^{-N}(p) \in \hat{V}^+$. But $\hat{V}^+ \cap K^- = \emptyset$ and this contradicts the fact that $K^-$ is an $f$-invariant set.

We redefine the set $V$ by setting $V = C^n \setminus (V^+ \cup V^-)$. Then $V$ is compact. Indeed, the union of $V^+$ and $V^-$ is not changed by the shrinking, and therefore, $V^+ \cup V^-$ is open. We claim that $K \subset \text{int } V$. To show the
claim, we note that by continuity for every $p \in K$ there exists a neighborhood $U \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ of $p$ such that $f^N(U) \cap V^- = \emptyset$ and $f^{-N}(U) \cap V^+ = \emptyset$, which implies $U \subset V$.

It follows immediately from the construction that $f^{-1}(V^+) \subset V^+$, i.e., inclusion (iii) hold. To obtain property (i), we first observe that it is sufficient to show $f(V_0^-(N)) \subset V_0^-(N)$. Let $p \in V_0^-(N)$, in particular, $p \notin f^N(V_N^+)$. Using the fact that $f^j(V_N^+) \subset f^{j+1}(V_N^+)$, we obtain $f(p) \notin f^{N+1}(V_N^+) \supset f^N(V_N^+)$, which implies $f(p) \in V_0^-(N)$, and (i) holds. We now show property (ii). If $p \in V^-$, then $f(p) \in V^-$ by (i). Let now $p \in V$, and assume $f(p) \in V^+$. Then, it follows from (iii) that $p \in V^+$, which is a contradiction. Analogously we obtain property (iv).

**Corollary 3.2.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$, and let the compact set $V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ be defined as in Proposition 3.1. Then

$$f^\pm 1(K^\pm \cap V) \subset K^\pm \cap V,$$

$$f^\pm 1(J^\pm \cap V) \subset J^\pm \cap V.$$  

**Proof.** Suppose $p \in K^+ \cap V$. Then by Proposition 3.1, $f(p) \in V$ or $f(p) \in V^-$. We only need to consider the case $f(p) \in V^-$. It follows from the construction that $f^{N+1}(p) \in V_0^-(N) \subset \hat{V}^-$. On the other hand, $K^+$ is an $f$-invariant set, and $K^+ \cap \hat{V}^- = \emptyset$. This is a contradiction. Similarly, one can easily verify the other cases. The proof of the second inclusion in (5) follows from the first inclusion and the $f$-invariance of $J^\pm$.

**Remark.** We note that for $n = 2$, that is, when $f$ is a finite composition of generalized Hénon mappings, $V$ can be chosen to be a closed bidisk of a sufficiently large radius $R$, and $V^- = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : |y| > R \text{ and } |y| > |x|\}$, $V^+ = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 : |x| > R \text{ and } |y| < |x|\}$, (see [BS]).

For a set $X \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ we define the stable and unstable sets $W^s(X)$ and $W^u(X)$ as

$$W^s(X) = \{q \in \mathbb{C}^n : \text{dist}(f^k(q), f^k(X)) \to 0 \text{ as } k \to \infty\},$$

$$W^u(X) = \{q \in \mathbb{C}^n : \text{dist}(f^{-k}(q), f^{-k}(X)) \to 0 \text{ as } k \to \infty\}.$$  

**Lemma 3.3.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Then the following hold.

(i) $W^s(K) = K^+$;
(ii) $W^u(K) = K^-$;
(iii) $\bigcup f^k(V^+) = \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^-;
(iv) \bigcup f^{-k}(V^-) = \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+;
(v) If |\det Df| = 1, then \text{int } K^+ = \text{int } K^- = \text{int } K;
(vi) If |\det Df| < 1, then $K^-$ has zero Lebesgue measure, in particular, $\text{int } K^- = \emptyset$.
(vii) $\{f^{\pm k} : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is a normal family on $\text{int } K^\pm$.

**Proof.** (i) The inclusion $W^s(K) \subset K^+$ follows from the definition. The opposite inclusion follows from the fact that the distance of $f^k(p)$ to $K$ converges uniformly to zero on compact subsets of $K^+$. Applying the same arguments to $f^{-1}$ gives (ii).
(iii) We first assume \( p \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^\pm \). Then \( f^{-k}(p) \) converges to \( I^+ \), and therefore, \( f^{-k}(p) \in V_0^+ \subset V^+ \) for sufficiently large \( k \). On the other hand, if \( p \in \bigcup f^k(V^+) \), then by Proposition 3.1 (i) there exists \( k_0 \in \mathbb{N} \) such that \( f^{-k}(p) \in V^+ \) for all \( k \geq k_0 \). Therefore, \( f^{-k}(p) \) cannot converge to \( K \subset \text{int} \, V \). Hence \( p \not\in K^\pm \), and property (iii) holds.

iv) Suppose \( p \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+ \). Then \( f^k(p) \) converge to \( I^- \) as \( k \to \infty \). Let us show that \( \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+ \subset \bigcup f^{-k}(V^-) \). Suppose on the contrary that \( f^k(p) \not\in V^- \) for any \( k > 0 \). Then, since the orbit of \( p \) converges to \( I^- \), there exists \( k_0 > 0 \) such that \( f^k(p) \in V^+ \) for all \( k > k_0 \). Let \( N \) be as in Claim 1 of the proof of Proposition 4.1, and let \( k > N \) be arbitrary. Then \( f^k(p) \in V^+ \) implies \( f^{-N}(p) \in V^+_0 \), i.e., all iterates of \( p \) stay in \( V^+_0 \). But \( V^+_0 \cap \hat{V}^- = \emptyset \) and therefore, since \( \hat{V}^- \) is a neighborhood of \( I^- \), this contradicts the fact that \( f^k(p) \) converge to \( I^- \). The opposite inclusion can be proven similarly to case (iii).

(v) Assume on the contrary that there exists a ball \( B = B(p, r) \subset \text{int} \, K^+ \setminus \text{int} \, K \). Without loss of generality we may assume \( B \subset \text{int} \, K^+ \setminus K \), in particular, \( B \subset \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^- \). Since \( f^{-k} \) converges uniformly to \( I^+ \) on compact subsets of \( \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^- \), there exists a subsequence \( (k_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \) such that the sets \( f^{-k_1}(B), f^{-k_2}(B), f^{-k_3}(B), \ldots \) are pairwise disjoint. Using that \( f^{-1} \) is volume preserving we obtain that \( \text{vol} \, \text{int} \, K^+ = \infty \). Here \( \text{vol} \) denotes the Lebesgue measure in \( \mathbb{C}^n \). Thus there exists \( r > 0 \) such that \( \text{vol} \, (B(0, r) \cap \text{int} \, K^+) > \text{vol} \, V \). But by the uniform convergence of \( f^k \) on compact subsets of \( K^+ \) there exists \( k_0 \in \mathbb{N} \) such that \( f^{k_0}(\text{int} \, K^+ \cap B(0, r)) \subset V \). But this is a contradiction to \( \text{vol} \, (f^{k_0}(\text{int} \, K^+ \cap B(0, r))) = \text{vol} \, (\text{int} \, K^+ \cap B(0, r)) > \text{vol} \, V \). Thus \( \text{int} \, K^+ = \text{int} \, K \) holds. The proof of the identity \( \text{int} \, K^- = \text{int} \, K \) is analogous.

Property (vi) follows analogously to the case \( n = 2 \) (see [FM]). Finally, (vii) follows from [FS, Prop. 2.2.7].

4. Hyperbolicity

For generalized Hénon maps in \( \mathbb{C}^2 \) the concept of hyperbolicity was studied in detail by Bedford and Smillie (see [BS]). Using the filtration properties obtained in Section 3, we generalize in this section some of the results of [BS] to regular polynomial automorphisms of \( \mathbb{C}^n \).

We first give some basic definitions. We refer to [KH] for details. Let \( f \) be a regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \). We say that a compact \( f \)-invariant set \( \Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}^n \) is a hyperbolic set for \( f \) if there exists a continuous \( Df \)-invariant splitting of the tangent bundle \( T\Lambda \mathbb{C}^n = E^u \oplus E^s \) such that \( Df \) is uniformly expanding on \( E^u \) and uniformly contracting on \( E^s \).

An important feature of hyperbolic sets is that we can associate with each point \( p \in \Lambda \) its local unstable/stable manifold \( W^{u/s}_p \). The local unstable/stable manifolds are complex manifolds of the same (complex) dimension as \( E^u \). We denote by \( W^{u/s}_p \) (global) unstable/stable manifold of \( p \) (see [B]). It follows from the work of Jonsson and Varolin [JV] that for all \( p \) in a set of total probability the global unstable/stable manifolds \( W^{u/s}_p \) are biholomorphic copies of \( \mathbb{C}^k \) where \( k = \dim \mathbb{C} E^u_p \). We call \( \dim \mathbb{C} E^u_p \) the unstable/stable index of \( \Lambda \) at \( p \). Note that unstable/stable index is locally
constant. If $\Lambda$ is a hyperbolic set for $f$, we say that $\Lambda$ is locally maximal if there exists a neighborhood $U$ of $\Lambda$ such that every hyperbolic set of $f$ in $U$ is contained in $\Lambda$. We say that an $f$-invariant set $X$ has a local product structure if for all $p, q \in X$ we have $W^s(p) \cap W^u(q) \subseteq X$. We now consider the situation when $J$ is a hyperbolic set for $f$.

**Proposition 4.1.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$, and suppose that $J$ is a hyperbolic set for $f$. Then the following holds.

(i) If $p \in J$, then $W^{s/u}(p) \subseteq J^\pm$;
(ii) The set $J$ has a local product structure;
(iii) The set $J$ is locally maximal, and $W^{u/s}(J) = \bigcup_{p \in J} W^{u/s}(p)$;
(iv) $W^{s/u}(J) \subseteq J^\pm$.

**Proof.** (i). Without loss of generality we show the inclusion only for $W^s(p)$ The proof for $W^u(p)$ is analogous. Clearly, $W^s(p) \subseteq K^+$. Suppose there exists a point $q \in W^s(p) \cap \text{int } K^+$. Then, since the family $\{f^k : k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is normal in a neighborhood of $q$, the derivatives of $f^k$ at $q$ are bounded. On the other hand, by extending the hyperbolic structure of $f$ to a neighborhood of $J$, it follows that the derivatives of $f^k$ at $q$ are unbounded.

(ii) If $p, q \in J$, then by (i), $W^s(p) \in J^+$ and $W^u(q) \in J^-$, therefore, the intersection is in $J$.

(iii) The local product structure combined with hyperbolicity implies that $J$ is locally maximal (see [Sh, Prop. 8.22]). The second statement is an application of the shadowing lemma for locally maximal hyperbolic sets (see [Bo]).

Finally, (iv) follows from (i) and (iii). \hfill \Box

Let $C$ be a connected component of int $K^+$. We say that $C$ is periodic, if there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $f^N(C) = C$. Otherwise we call $C$ wandering. If $\alpha$ is a periodic point such that for all $p$ in a neighborhood of $\alpha$ we have $f^k(p) \to f^k(\alpha)$ as $k \to \infty$, then we call $\alpha$ an attracting periodic point. Furthermore, $C = \{p \in \mathbb{C}^n : f^k(p) \to f^k(\alpha)\}$ is a periodic connected component of int $K^+$ and is called the basin of attraction of $\alpha$.

**Theorem 4.2.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$ with $|\det Df| \leq 1$. Suppose $J$ is a hyperbolic set for $f$. Then the following holds.

(i) There are no wandering components in int $K^+$;
(ii) Each periodic component of int $K^+$ is the basin of attraction of an attracting periodic point;
(iii) There are at most finitely many basins of attraction.

The proof of Theorem 4.2 is analogous to that of Theorem 5.6 in [BS]. We note that the references to Propositions 5.1 and 5.2 in the proof of [BS] should be replaced by references to Propositions stated above.

**Corollary 4.3.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Assume $J$ is hyperbolic and $|\det Df| = 1$. Then int $K^+ = \text{int } K^- = \text{int } K = \emptyset$.

**Proof.** By Theorem 4.2, the interior of $K^+$ is a finite union of basins of attraction, but since $|\det Df| = 1$, it is impossible to have a basin of attraction. Hence int $K^+ = \emptyset$. Therefore, the corollary follows from Lemma 3.3 (v). \hfill \Box
We need the following definitions. Let $X$ be a topological space and let $T : X \to X$ be a continuous map. We call $x \in X$ a nonwandering point of $T$ if for every neighborhood $U$ of $x$ there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $U \cap T^k(U) \neq \emptyset$. Otherwise we call $x$ wandering. The set of nonwandering points of $T$ is called the nonwandering set of $T$ and is denoted by $\Omega(T)$.

We say that a regular polynomial automorphism $f$ of $\mathbb{C}^n$ is hyperbolic if $J$ is a hyperbolic set for $f$ and the periodic points of $f|_J$ are dense in $J$. We note that this definition of hyperbolicity is equivalent to $J$ being hyperbolic and $\Omega(f|_J) = J$ (see for instance [KH]).

**Theorem 4.4.** Let $f$ be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$ with $|\det Df| \leq 1$. Then

(i) $W^s(J) = J^+$;

(ii) $W^u(J) = J^- \setminus \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m\}$, where the $\alpha_i$ are the attracting periodic points of $f$;

(iii) $\Omega(f) = J \cup \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m\}$.

**Proof.** (i) To prove $W^s(J) = J^+$ we observe that by Proposition 1.4 (iv) we have $W^s(J) \subseteq J^+$. To show the reverse inclusion we notice that it follows from Lemma 3.3 (i) that $J^+ \subseteq W^s(K)$. If $p \in J^+$, then the iterates of $p$ converge to $K \cap J^+ = K^- \cap J^+$. To prove (i) we claim that $K^- \cap J^+ = J^- \cap J^+ = J$. In the case $|\det Df| = 1$ the claim follows from Lemma 3.3 (v). For $|\det Df| < 1$ the claim follows from Lemma 3.3 (vi).

(ii) Obviously every attracting periodic point belongs to int $K^+$, and therefore, $W^u(J) \subseteq J^- \setminus \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m\}$ follows from Proposition 1.4 (iv). In order to show the reverse inclusion we consider $p \in J^- \setminus \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m\}$. If $p \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+$, then the backward orbit of $p$ converges to $K \cap \partial(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+) = K \cap J^+$. Using the fact that $J^-$ is a closed invariant set, we conclude that the backward orbit of $p$ must converge to $J^+ \cap J^+ = J$. If $p \in J^+$, then $p \in J$, and there is nothing to prove. To complete the proof of (ii) we have to consider the case $p \in \text{int} K^+$. By Theorem 1.2 there exists an attracting periodic point $\alpha_i$ such that $p$ is contained in the basin of attraction $C$ of $\alpha_i$. Without loss of generality we assume that $\alpha_i$ is an attracting fixed point, i.e., $C$ is an $f$-invariant component. Let $V$ be as in Proposition 3.4 and let $U \subset V \cap C$ be an open neighborhood of $\alpha_i$ such that $f(U) \subset U$. Such a set $U$ always exists since $\alpha_i$ is an attracting fixed point. Obviously $\bigcup f^{-k}(U)$ is an exhaustion of $C$. Thus $\bigcup f^{-k}(U \cap J^-)$ is an exhaustion of $C \cap J^-$. Therefore, since $p \in K$, we may conclude that the backward orbit of $p$ cannot have a cluster point in $C$, and thus it must converge to $\partial C \subset J^+$. Thus $p \in J^- \setminus \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m\}$ implies $p \in W^u(J)$.

(iii) Evidently every periodic point of $f$ belongs to the nonwandering set of $f$. Since the nonwandering set is closed, it follows that $\Omega(f) \supseteq J \cup \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m\}$. Let $p \in \mathbb{C}^n$ be a nonwandering point for $f$. If $p$ is not an attracting periodic orbit, then $p$ can not belong to int $K^+$, because otherwise Theorem 1.3 would imply that its forward orbit converges to an attracting periodic orbit. On the other hand $p \not\in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus K^+$, because in this case the forward orbit of $p$ would converge to $I^-$. Hence $p \in J^+$. It follows from (i) that $p \not\in J^+ \setminus J$. This implies $p \in J$, which completes the proof. \qed
We say that a diffeomorphism on a Riemannian manifold is Axiom A if its nonwandering set is a hyperbolic set and the periodic points are dense in the nonwandering set.

**Corollary 4.5.** Let \( f \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \). Then \( f \) is Axiom A.

**Proof.** This is a consequence of Theorem 4.4 (iii) and the fact that every attracting periodic point is an isolated hyperbolic set.

**Remarks.**

1. As it was noted in the introduction, if \( n = 2 \) and \( J \) is hyperbolic, then it follows that the periodic points are dense in \( J \), see [BS]. This provides a weaker definition of hyperbolic maps. We do not know whether the analogous result holds in the case \( n > 2 \). However, there exist examples of diffeomorphisms of higher dimensional real manifolds with the property that the non-wandering set is a hyperbolic set, but the periodic points are not dense in it, see [P].

2. It is shown in [MNTU, Thm. 9.3.14] that in the case \( n = 2 \) hyperbolicity is equivalent to Axiom A. We do not know whether the analogous result holds for \( n > 2 \). The difficulty is to prove that the Julia set of an Axiom A regular polynomial map is a subset of the nonwandering set. This is shown in the case \( n = 2 \) with methods that are not available in higher dimensions.

5. Dimension theory

In this section we study the Hausdorff dimension and box dimension of the Julia sets of a regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \).

5.1. The general case. We first consider the dimensions of the Julia sets without the assumption of hyperbolicity.

Let \( f \) be a regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) and let \( V \subset \mathbb{C}^n \) be a compact set with \( K \subset \text{int} \ V \) and \( f^{\pm 1}(J^\pm \cap V) \subset J^\pm \cap V \) (see Corollary 3.2). We define

\[
 s^V_\pm = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \left( \max \{ \| Df^{\pm k}(p) \| : p \in J^\pm \cap V \} \right). \tag{7}
\]

The submultiplicativity of the operator norm guarantees the existence of the limit defining \( s^V_\pm \). Since all norms in \( \mathbb{C}^n \) are equivalent, the value of \( s^V_\pm \) is independent of the norm. Moreover, since the saddle points of \( f \) are contained in \( J \subset J^\pm \cap V \) (see [S]), the quantity \( s^\pm \) is strictly positive.

**Lemma 5.1.** The value of \( s^V_\pm \) is independent of the choice of \( V \).

**Proof.** It is shown in Lemma 3.3 that \( W^s(K) = K^+ \) and \( W^u(K) = K^- \). Therefore, the proof follows by a standard argument.

In view of Lemma 5.1 we set \( s^\pm = s^V_\pm \). Given a set \( A \subset \mathbb{C}^n \cong \mathbb{R}^{2n} \) we denote by \( \dim_H A \) the Hausdorff dimension of \( A \) and (provided \( A \) is bounded) by \( \overline{\dim_B A} \) its upper box-dimension (see [M] for details). Then \( \dim_H A \leq \overline{\dim_B A} \) holds for an arbitrary set \( A \), while the equality holds if \( A \) is a sufficiently regular set. We now consider the volume decreasing case,
i.e., when $|\det Df| < 1$. The following theorem provides an upper bound for the dimension of $K^-$.

**Theorem 5.2.** Let $f$ be a volume-decreasing regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Assume $V$ is as in Corollary 3.2. Then

$$\dim_{B} K^- \cap V \leq 2n + \frac{2 \log |\det Df|}{s} < 2n.$$ (8)

**Proof.** By Lemma 3.3 (vi), $K^-=J^-$. Therefore, it is sufficient to show inequality (8) for $J^- \cap V$. Note that the real Jacobian of $f^{-1}$ as a map of $\mathbb{R}^{2n} \cong \mathbb{C}^n$ is equal to $|\det Df|^{-2}$. The result follows now immediately from [Wo1, Thm. 1.1].

**Remark.** Since $W^u(K) = K^-$ we can define an exhaustion $V_k = f^{-k}(V \cap K^-)$ of $K^-$. This implies that the upper bound in inequality (8) provides also an upper bound for the Hausdorff dimension of $K^-$. \[ \square \]

**Corollary 5.3.** Let $f$ be regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$ which is not volume-preserving. Then $\dim_{B} K < 2n$.

**Proof.** If $f$ is not volume-preserving, then either $f$ or $f^{-1}$ is volume-decreasing. The result follows immediately from Theorem 5.2. \[ \square \]

**Remark.** It should be noted that Corollary 5.3 does not hold without the assumption that $f$ is not volume-preserving. In fact, there exist volume-preserving regular polynomial automorphisms having a Siegel ball, in which case $K$ has a non-empty interior.

For a continuous map $T$ on a compact metric space $X$ we denote by $h_{\text{top}}(T)$ the topological entropy of $T$ (see [Wa] for details). We now show that the Julia set $J$ carries the full entropy of $f$.

**Theorem 5.4.** Let $f$ be regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Assume that $I^-$ has dimension $l-1$. Then $h_{\text{top}}(f|J) = l \log d$.

**Proof.** Without loss of generality we assume $|\det Df| \leq 1$. We claim that $K \setminus J \subset \text{int } K^+$. Indeed, we have $K = (\text{int } K^+ \cup J^+) \cap (\text{int } K^- \cup J^-)$. This implies

$$K \setminus J \subset \text{int } K^+ \cup \text{int } K^-.$$ (9)

If $|\det Df| < 1$, then by Lemma 3.3 (vi), $\text{int } K^- = \emptyset$. Therefore, (8) implies $K \setminus J \subset \text{int } K^+$. On the other hand, if $|\det Df| = 1$, then by Lemma 3.3 (v), $\text{int } K^+ = \text{int } K^- = \text{int } K$. Again by (8) we obtain $K \setminus J \subset \text{int } K^+$.

Sibony observed in [Si] that $h_{\text{top}}(f|K) = l \log d$. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. It follows from the variational principle (see for instance [Wa]) that there exists an $f$-invariant probability measure $\mu$ on $K$ with $h_{\mu}(f|K) > l \log d - \varepsilon$, where $h_{\mu}(f|K)$ denotes the measure-theoretic entropy of $f|K$ with respect to $\mu$. Let $\tau$ be an ergodic decomposition of $\mu$. This means that $\tau$ is a probability measure on the metrizable space $\mathcal{M}$ of $f$-invariant probability measures on $K$ which puts full measure on the subset $\mathcal{M}_E$ of ergodic measures. Furthermore,

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}} \int_{K} \varphi d\nu d\tau(\nu) = \int_{K} \varphi d\mu$$ (10)
for every $\varphi \in C(K, \mathbb{R})$. Since
\[ h_\mu(f|K) = \int_M h_\nu(f|K) d\tau(\nu), \] (11)
there exists $\nu \in M_E$ such that $h_\nu(f|K) > \log d - \varepsilon$.

Next we claim that $\text{supp} \; \nu \subset J$. If not, then $\nu(K \setminus J) > 0$. Since $\nu$ is ergodic, this would imply $\text{supp} \; \nu \subset K \setminus J \subset \text{int} \; K^+$. By Ruelle’s inequality $\nu$ must have at least one positive Lyapunov exponent. On the other hand, since $\nu$ has compact support, Lemma 3.3 (vii) implies that the derivatives of $f^k$ are bounded on $\text{supp} \; \nu$. This contradicts the existence of a positive Lyapunov exponent. Hence $\text{supp} \; \nu \subset J$.

Finally, since $\varepsilon$ can be chosen arbitrarily small, the variational principle yields $h_{\text{top}}(f|J) = \log d$.

The following is an immediate consequence of the proof of Theorem 5.4.

**Corollary 5.5.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Then $h_{\text{top}}(f|K \setminus J) = 0$.

We note that in Corollary 5.5, $h_{\text{top}}$ denotes the entropy for maps on non-compact spaces (see [Wa]).

Another consequence of Theorem 5.4 is that the upper box dimension of $J$ is strictly positive.

**Corollary 5.6.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Assume that $I^-$ has dimension $l - 1$. Define
\[ s^\pm = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \left( \max \{ \|Df^\pm k(p)\| : p \in J \} \right). \] Then
\[ \overline{\dim}_B J \geq \max \left\{ \frac{l \log d}{s^+}, \frac{l \log d}{s^-} \right\}. \] (12)
In particular, $\overline{\dim}_B J > 0$.

**Proof.** We have $h_{\text{top}}(f|J) = h_{\text{top}}(f^{-1}|J) = l \log d$. Therefore, inequality (12) follows from [KH, Thm. 3.2.9] and a standard limit argument.

Next we give a lower bound for the Hausdorff dimension of $J^+$ in the case when $I^-$ has dimension zero. For this we introduce the positive Green function
\[ G^+(p) = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{d^k} \log^+ |f^k(p)|. \] (13)
We note that $G^+$ is a well-defined Hölder continuous function with $K^+ = \{G^+ = 0\}$ (see [S] for details).

**Proposition 5.7.** Let $f$ be a regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$. Assume that $I^-$ has dimension 0 and let $s^+$ be as in (7). Then for all $s^+_0 > s^+$ the positive Green function $G^+$ is Hölder continuous on compact subsets of $\mathbb{C}^n$ with Hölder exponent $\frac{\log d}{s^+_0}$. Furthermore,
\[ \dim_H J^+ \geq 2n - 2 + \frac{\log d}{s^+} > 2n - 2. \] (14)
Proof. Let $s_0^+ > s^+$. Using the filtration properties (see Proposition 3.1), one can show the Hölder continuity of $G^+$ on compact subsets of $\mathbb{C}^n$ with Hölder exponent $\frac{\log d}{s_0}$ analogously as it was done by Fornæss and Sibony [FS] in the case $n = 2$ (see also [Si]). By [Si, Prop. 2.2.10] the positive Green function $G^+$ is pluriharmonic on $\mathbb{C}^n \setminus J^+$. Furthermore, the maximum principle for pluriharmonic functions implies that $G^+$ cannot be extended as a pluriharmonic map to any neighborhood of any point of $J^+$. Inequality (14) follows now by a classical result of Carleson about the Hausdorff dimension of removable sets for Hölder continuous harmonic functions (see [C]).

Remarks.

(i) The analogous result holds for the Hausdorff dimension of $J^-$ if $I^+$ is zero-dimensional.

(ii) We note that Proposition 5.7 is only of interest if int $K^+ = \emptyset$, because otherwise $J^+$ has topological dimension $2n - 1$.

5.2. Hyperbolic maps. We now consider hyperbolic maps. It is well-known that a locally maximal hyperbolic set, which carries positive topological entropy, has positive Hausdorff dimension. For a hyperbolic regular automorphism $f$ of $\mathbb{C}^n$ the positivity of the Hausdorff dimension of the Julia set can be shown for instance by the following argument: Let $J = J_1 \cup \cdots \cup J_m$ be the decomposition of $J$ into basic sets (see e.g. [Bo] for details); We note that in the case $n = 2$ the Julia set $J$ is the unique basic set of $f$ which is not an attracting periodic orbit (see [BS]). Since $h_{\text{top}}(f|J) = l \log d$ (see Theorem 5.4), there exists $i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ such that $h_{\text{top}}(f|J_i) = l \log d$. Here $l = \dim I^- + 1$. It is a well-known fact that there exists a unique $f$-invariant probability measure $\mu_i$ of maximal entropy for $f|J_i$ (see for example [KH]). Moreover $\mu_i$ is ergodic. We define

$$s_i^\pm = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \left( \max \{ \| Df^{\pm k}(p) \| : p \in J_i \} \right).$$

Applying [Y, Cor. 5.1] yields

$$l \log d \left( \frac{1}{s_i^+} + \frac{1}{s_i^-} \right) \leq \dim_H \mu_i \leq \dim_H J_i \leq \dim_H J,$$

where $\dim_H \mu_i = \inf \{ \dim_H A : \mu_i(A) = 1 \}$ denotes the Hausdorff dimension of the measure $\mu_i$. We note that in general, the Hausdorff dimension of an $f$-invariant measure provides only a rough estimate of the Hausdorff dimension of the Julia set. In fact, it was shown in [W1] that for a generic hyperbolic polynomial automorphism $f$ of $\mathbb{C}^2$ there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ (which depends on $f$) such that $\dim_H \nu < \dim_H J - \varepsilon$ for all ergodic $f$-invariant probability measures $\nu$.

Let $f$ be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of $\mathbb{C}^n$, let $J_i \subset J$ be a basic set of $f$ and $\varphi \in C(J_i, \mathbb{R})$. We denote by $P(f|J_i, \varphi)$ the topological pressure of $\varphi$ with respect to $f|J_i$ (see [KH] for the definition and details). We consider the function $\phi^u = - \log \| Df \| E^u$. Note that $\phi^u$ is Hölder continuous, see [Bc].

We now consider the case when the unstable index $J_i$ is identically one.
Theorem 5.8. Let \( f : \mathbb{C}^n \to \mathbb{C}^n \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism and let \( J_i \subset J \) be a basic set of \( f \). Assume that the unstable index of \( J_i \) is identically one. Then \( t^u = \dim_H W^u_\varepsilon(p) \cap J_i \) is independent of \( p \in J_i \) and \( 0 < t^u < 2 \). Moreover, \( t^u \) is given by the unique solution of
\[
P(f|J_i, t^u) = 0.
\]

Equation (17) is usually called the Bowen–Ruelle formula. We refer to \( t^u \) as the Hausdorff dimension of the unstable slice. Theorem 5.8 is a special case of [1, Thm. 22.1]. In the case \( n = 2 \), Theorem 5.8 is due to Verjovsky and Wu [VW]. We note that in this situation the stable index of the basic set \( J \) is also identically one, and we obtain the analogous result to Theorem 5.8 for the Hausdorff dimension of the stable slice \( t^s = \dim_H W^s_\varepsilon(p) \cap J \). Moreover, \( \dim_H J = t^u + t^s \) (see [Wo2] and the references therein).

The following result is a version of [Wo2, Thm. 4.1]. The proof is analogous.

Theorem 5.9. Let \( f \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) and let \( J_i \subset J \) be a basic set of \( f \). Assume that the unstable index of \( J_i \) is identically one. Then \( \dim_H W^s(J_i) = t^u + 2n - 2 \). In particular, \( 2n - 2 < \dim_H W^s(J_i) < 2n \).

Let now \( A \subset \mathbb{C}^k \) be an open set and let \( \{ f_a : a \in A \} \) be a holomorphic family of hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphisms of \( \mathbb{C}^n \). Let \( a_0 \in A \) and let \( J_{a_0,i} \subset J_{a_0} \) be a basic set of \( f_{a_0} \). Let \( U \subset \mathbb{C}^n \) be a neighborhood of \( J_{a_0,i} \) with the property that for all \( a \in A \) close enough to \( a_0 \), \( f_a \) has a basic set \( J_{a,i} \subset U \) such that \( f_{a_0}|_{J_{a_0,i}} \) is conjugate to \( f_a|_{J_{a,i}} \). For \( p \in J_{a,i} \) we denote by \( t^u_a \) the Hausdorff dimension of \( W^u_\varepsilon(p) \cap J_{a,i} \). Recall that by Theorem 5.8 \( t^u_a \) does not depend on \( p \). The following result can be proven analogously to the corresponding results in the case \( n = 2 \) (see [VW], [Wo2]).

Theorem 5.10. Assume that the unstable index of \( J_{a,i} \) is identically one in a neighborhood of \( a_0 \in A \). Then the functions \( a \mapsto t^u_a \) and \( a \mapsto \dim_H W^s(J_{a,i}) \) are real-analytic and plurisubharmonic in a neighborhood of \( a_0 \in A \).

Remark. The corresponding versions of Theorems 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 for the stable slices also hold provided the stable index has dimension identically one.

Let \( f \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) and let \( J_i \subset J \) be a basic set of \( f \). We define \( \varphi^{u/s} : J_i \to \mathbb{R} \) by \( \varphi^{u/s}(p) = \mp \log |\lambda(p)| \), where \( \lambda(p) \) denotes the Jacobian of the linear map \( Df_{p}^{\pm 1}(p)|_{E_{p}^{u/s}} \). The following is the main result of this section.

Theorem 5.11. Let \( f \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) and let \( J_i \subset J \) be a basic set of \( f \). Define
\[
W^{s/u}_\varepsilon(J_i) = \bigcup_{p \in J_i} W^{s/u}_\varepsilon(p),
\]
where
\[
s^\pm = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \left( \max\{|Df^{\pm k}(p)| : p \in J_i\} \right).
\]

Then
\[
\dim_B W^{s/u}_\varepsilon(J_i) \leq 2n + \frac{P(f|J_i, \varphi^{u/s})}{s^\pm} < 2n.
\]
Proof. We prove the result only for $W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)$. The proof for $W^u_\varepsilon(J_i)$ is entirely analogous. Since $J_i \subset J$, its unstable index must be at least one, which implies $s^+ > 0$. By Proposition [3], $W^s_\varepsilon(J_i) \subset J^+$, in particular, $W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)$ is not a neighborhood of $J_i$. Therefore, we may conclude from [3, Prop. 3.10, 4.8, Thm. 4.11] that $P(f|J_i, \varphi^u) < 0$. This gives the inequality on the right.

Let $\delta > 0$. It follows by a simple continuity argument that there exist $\varepsilon > 0$ and $k_\delta \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $p \in B(W^s_\varepsilon(J_i), \varepsilon) = \{p \in \mathbb{C}^n : \exists q \in W^s_\varepsilon(J_i), |p - q| < \varepsilon\}$ we have

$$\|Df^{k_\delta}(p)\| < \exp(k_\delta(s^+ + \delta)).$$

(19)

From now on we consider the map $g = f^{k_\delta}$. Note that $J_i$ is also a basic set of $g$. Evidently $W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)$ is forward invariant under $g$. It follows from the variational principle that $P(g|J_i, \varphi^u) = k_\delta P(f|J_i, \varphi^u)$; moreover $s^+_\delta = k_\delta s^+_\varepsilon$. It is thus sufficient to prove the left-hand side of inequality (18) for $g$. Let $p \in J_i$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Following [18], we define

$$B(p, \varepsilon, k) = \{q \in \mathbb{C}^n : |g^i(p) - g^i(q)| < \varepsilon, i = 0, \ldots, k - 1\},$$

(20)

and $B(J_i, \varepsilon, k) = \bigcup_{q \in J_i} B(p, \varepsilon, k)$. Making $\varepsilon$ smaller if necessary, it follows from [18, Prop. 4.8] that

$$P(g|J_i, \varphi^u) = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log(\text{vol}(B(J_i, 2\varepsilon, k))).$$

(21)

For simplicity we write $b = P(g|J_i, \varphi^u)$. From (21) we obtain that if $k$ is sufficiently large, then

$$\text{vol}(B(J_i, 2\varepsilon, k)) < \exp(k(b + \delta)).$$

(22)

For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we define real numbers

$$r_k = \frac{\varepsilon}{\exp(s^+ + \delta)}$$

(23)

and neighborhoods $B_k = B(W^s_\varepsilon(J_i), r_k)$ of $W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)$. Let $q \in B_k$. Then there exists $p \in W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)$ with $|p - q| < r_k$. An elementary induction argument in combination with the mean-value theorem implies $|g^i(p) - g^i(q)| < \varepsilon$ for all $i \in \{0, \ldots, k - 1\}$. Since $p$ is contained in the local stable manifold of size $\varepsilon$ of a point in $J_i$ it follows that $q \in B(J_i, 2\varepsilon, k)$. Hence $B_k \subset B(J_i, 2\varepsilon, k)$. Therefore, (22) implies

$$\text{vol}(B_k) < \exp(k(b + \delta))$$

(24)

for sufficiently large $k$. Let us recall that for $t \in [0, 2n]$ the $t$-dimensional upper Minkowski content of a bounded set $A \subset \mathbb{C}^n \cong \mathbb{R}^{2n}$ is defined by

$$M^t(A) = \lim_{\rho \to 0} \sup \frac{\text{vol}(A_\rho)}{(2\rho)^{2n-t}},$$

(25)
where \( A_\rho = \{ p \in \mathbb{C}^n : \exists q \in A : |p - q| \leq \rho \} \). Let \( t \in [0, 2n] \) and \( \rho_k = \frac{t}{k} \) for all \( k \in \mathbb{N} \). Then we have
\[
M^*t(W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)) = \limsup_{\rho \to 0} \frac{\text{vol}(W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)_\rho)}{(2\rho)^{2n-t}} \leq \limsup_{k \to \infty} \frac{\text{vol}(W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)_{\rho_k})}{(2\rho_{k+1})^{2n-t}} \leq \limsup_{k \to \infty} \frac{\text{vol}(B_k)}{(r_{k+1})^{2n-t}} \leq \frac{\exp(s^+ + \delta)^{2n-t}}{\varepsilon^{2n-t}} \lim_{k \to \infty} \left( \exp(s^+ + \delta)^{2n-t} \exp(b + \delta) \right)^k.
\]

Let \( t > 2n + \frac{b + \delta}{s^+/s^-} \). Then \( \exp(s^+ + \delta)^{2n-t} \exp(b + \delta) < 1 \). This implies \( M^*t(W^s_\varepsilon(J_i)) = 0 \), in particular, \( t \geq \text{dim}_BW^s_\varepsilon(J_i) \) (see [M]). Since \( \delta \) can be chosen arbitrarily small, the result follows.

**Corollary 5.12.** Let \( f : \mathbb{C}^n \to \mathbb{C}^n \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism. Then \( \text{dim}_BJ < 2n \).

**Proof.** By the spectral decomposition, \( J \) is the union of finitely many basic sets. By Theorem 5.11, each of these basic sets has upper box dimension strictly smaller than \( 2n \), and the result follows.

**Remark.** We note that Corollary 5.12 is only of interest if \( f \) is volume-preserving, because otherwise \( \text{dim}_BJ < 2n \) holds even without the assumption of hyperbolicity (see Corollary 5.3).

**Theorem 5.13.** Let \( f \) be a hyperbolic regular polynomial automorphism of \( \mathbb{C}^n \) and let \( J_1, \ldots, J_m \) be the basic sets of \( f \) which are contained in \( J \). For each \( i \in \{1, \ldots, m\} \) define
\[
s^\pm_i = \lim_{k \to \infty} \frac{1}{k} \log \left( \max \{ \| Df^{\pm k}(p) \| : p \in J_i \} \right)
\]
and \( b^\pm_i = P(f|J_i, \varphi^{u/s}) \). Then
\[
\text{dim}_HJ^\pm \leq 2n + \max \{ b^\pm_i / s^\pm_i \} < 2n.
\]

**Proof.** Without loss of generality we show the result only for \( J^+ \). By Theorem 5.11 we have
\[
\text{dim}_B \left( \bigcup_{p \in J_i} W^s_\varepsilon(p) \right) \leq 2n + \frac{b^+_i}{s^+_i} < 2n
\]
for all \( i = 1, \ldots, m \). This implies
\[
\text{dim}_B \left( \bigcup_{i=1}^m \bigcup_{p \in J_i} W^s_\varepsilon(p) \right) \leq 2n + \max \{ b^+_1 / s^+_1 \} < 2n.
\]

Hence
\[
\text{dim}_H \left( \bigcup_{p \in J} W^s_\varepsilon(p) \right) \leq 2n + \max \{ b^+_1 / s^+_1 \} < 2n.
\]
Since
\[ W^s(p) = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbb{N}} f^{-k}(W^s_\varepsilon(f^k(p))) \] (31)
for all \( p \in J \), inequality (27) follows from Theorem 4.4 (i), Proposition 4.1 (iii) and the fact that the Hausdorff dimension is countable union stable. \( \square \)

Remark. In the case \( n = 2 \) the result \( \dim_H J^\pm < 4 \) was already shown in \([\text{Wo}1]\). However, the methods used in \([\text{Wo}1]\) crucially depend on the fact that the unstable/stable index of \( J \) is identically one, and therefore, do not apply to the case \( n > 2 \).

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