Rotation numbers for planar attractors of equivariant homeomorphisms

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Abstract

Given an integer $m > 1$ we consider $\mathbb{Z}_m$—equivariant and orientation preserving homeomorphisms in $\mathbb{R}^2$ with an asymptotically stable fixed point at the origin. We present examples without periodic points and having some complicated dynamical features. The key is a preliminary construction of $\mathbb{Z}_m$—equivariant Denjoy maps of the circle.

1 Introduction

This work is motivated by the study of the global behavior of a planar map having a fixed point which is asymptotically stable but is not a global attractor. In [3], the authors show that it can happen even when there is no periodic points different from the fixed point. Actually, they construct examples of planar dissipative homeomorphisms $f$ such that the set $\text{Rec}(f) \setminus \{p\}$ is a Cantor set with almost automorphic dynamics, being $\text{Rec}(f)$ the set of recurrent points of $f$ and $p$ the asymptotically stable fixed point. Besides,

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they show that this behaviour is strongly related to the fact that these planar attractors have irrational rotation number.

As we are interested in systems with symmetry, in this work we construct symmetric and orientation preserving dissipative homeomorphisms in the plane with an asymptotically stable fixed point and irrational rotation number. These examples have no periodic points different from the fixed point and also present a complicated dynamical features. This constructions is based on the dissipative homeomorphisms given in [3].

Let \( f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2 \) be an orientation preserving homeomorphism with a fixed point which is not a global attractor and its basin of attraction is unbounded. In that case, Theory of Prime Ends due to Carathéodory is applied and \( f \) induces an orientation preserving homeomorphism \( f^* \) in the space of prime ends. Since this space is homeomorphic to the circle, it is possible to associate a rotation number to \( f \) being the rotation number of \( f^* \).

The authors prove in [3] that if \( f \) is dissipative and has an irrational rotation number, then the induced map in the space of prime ends is always conjugated to a Denjoy map. Otherwise, they prove in [9] that periodic orbits different from fixed points can appear when the rotation number is rational.

Given a Lie group \( \Gamma \) acting on \( \mathbb{R}^2 \), a map \( f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2 \) is said to be \( \Gamma - \text{equivariant} \) (or \( \Gamma - \text{symmetric map} \)) if for all \( x \in \mathbb{R}^2 \) and \( \sigma \in \Gamma \)

\[
f(\sigma x) = \sigma f(x).
\]

In [1] the authors prove that if the group \( \Gamma \) is \( SO(2) \) or contains any reflection, the local dynamics of the asymptotically stable fixed point implies global dynamics. That work shows that the symmetry forces the global attraction to arise from an asymptotically stable fixed point in all cases except when the map is \( \mathbb{Z}_m - \text{equivariant} \).

In [2] are constructed \( \mathbb{Z}_m - \text{equivariant} \) homeomorphisms of the plane with an asymptotically stable fixed point and having periodic points of period \( m \) and rotation number \( 1/m \). So we might be led to think that the presence of the \( \mathbb{Z}_m - \text{symmetry} \) implies that the rotation number of a homeomorphism should be rational. In this article we give examples which show that this is false. We prove the existence of \( \mathbb{Z}_m - \text{equivariant} \) homeomorphisms with an asymptotically stable fixed point such that the induced map in the space
of prime ends is conjugated to a Denjoy map, which is also $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant. The idea is to reproduce the construction given in \([3]\) in the context of symmetry.

This work is organized as follows: In Section 2 we explain some notations and results of Denjoy maps in the circle that will be used. In Section 3 we explain the problem in the context of symmetry and construct $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant Denjoy maps in the circle. In section 4 we prove the existence of homeomorphisms of the plane which induce a symmetric Denjoy map in the space of prime ends with the help of some results in \([3]\) and Section 3.

2 Notation and Denjoy map in the circle

We introduce the same notation as in \([3]\):

We consider the quotient space $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ and points $\bar{\theta} = \theta + \mathbb{Z}$, with $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Although all figures are sketched on the unit circle $\mathbb{S}^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$, which is homeomorphic to $\mathbb{T}$.

The distance between two points $\bar{\theta}_1, \bar{\theta}_2 \in \mathbb{T}$ is

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{T}}(\bar{\theta}_1, \bar{\theta}_2) = \text{dist}_\mathbb{R}(\theta_1 - \theta_2, \mathbb{Z})$$

where $\text{dist}_\mathbb{R}$ indicates the distance from a point to a set on the real line.

A closed counter-clockwise arc in $\mathbb{T}$ from $p$ to $q$, $p \neq q$, will be denoted by $\alpha = \hat{pq}$ and by $\dot{\alpha}$ its corresponding open arc.

We define the cyclic order as follows: Given three different points $p_0, p_1, p_2 \in \mathbb{T}$ we say that $p_0 \prec p_1 \prec p_2$ if $p_1 \in \hat{p_0p_2}$.

We define the cyclic order for arcs as follows: Given three pairwise-disjoint arcs $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2 \subset \mathbb{T}$, we say that $\alpha_0 \prec \alpha_1 \prec \alpha_2$ if $p_0 \prec p_1 \prec p_2$ for some $p_0 \in \alpha_0$, $p_1 \in \alpha_1$, $p_2 \in \alpha_2$.

A Cantor set $C$ is any compact totally disconnected perfect subset of $\mathbb{T}$ (see \([3]\)). $C$ may be considered as

$$C = \mathbb{T} \setminus \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \dot{\alpha}_k,$$
where \( \{\alpha_k\}_{k \geq 0} \) is a family of pairwise disjoint closed arcs in \( \mathbb{T} \). The set of \textit{accessible} and \textit{inaccessible points} will be denoted by \( A \) and \( I \), respectively. The set \( A \) is composed by the end points of all \( \alpha_k \), thus

\[
I = \mathbb{T} \setminus \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k.
\]

Using \( C \) we define an equivalence relation on \( \mathbb{T} \) by putting \( \bar{\theta}_1 \sim \bar{\theta}_2 \) (mod \( C \)) if \( \bar{\theta}_1 = \bar{\theta}_2 \) or \( \bar{\theta}_1, \bar{\theta}_2 \in \alpha_k \) for some \( k \geq 0 \). Thus, the \textit{Cantor function} associated to \( C \) is a continuous function \( P : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) such that

\[
P(\bar{\theta}_1) = P(\bar{\theta}_2) \iff \bar{\theta}_1 \sim \bar{\theta}_2.
\]

The intuitive idea of this type of maps is to collapse every arc \( \alpha_k \) into a point in such a way that the cyclic order is preserved. See [3] and [11] for more details.

The Cantor function \( P \) is onto and \( P(A) \) is a countable and dense subset of \( \mathbb{T} \). See [8] for more details.

The \textit{rotation} \( R_\eta : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) is defined by \( R_\eta(\bar{\theta}) = \bar{\theta} + \eta \), where \( \eta, \theta \in \mathbb{R} \). Given a homeomorphism \( f \) of \( \mathbb{T} \), the \( f \)–\textit{orbit} starting at a point \( \bar{\theta} \in \mathbb{T} \) is denoted by \( O(\bar{\theta}) \). The \( \omega \)–\textit{limit} of a point \( \bar{\theta} \in \mathbb{T} \) is denoted by \( \omega(\bar{\theta}) \). It is well known (see [11]) that an orientation preserving homeomorphism \( f \) in \( \mathbb{T} \) with rational rotation number has periodic points. However, if \( f \) has irrational rotation number \( \rho(f) = \frac{\tau}{\in} \notin \mathbb{Q} \), then:

(a) \( \omega(\bar{\theta}) \) is independent of \( \bar{\theta} \).

(b) \( f \) is semi-conjugate to the rigid rotation map \( R_\tau \). The semi-conjugacy takes the orbits of \( f \) to orbits of \( R_\tau \), is at most two to one on \( \omega(\bar{\theta}) \) and preserves orientation.

(c) If \( \omega(\bar{\theta}) = \mathbb{T} \), then \( f \) is conjugate to \( R_\tau \) and the minimal set of \( f \) is the whole circle \( \mathbb{T} \).

(d) If \( \omega(\bar{\theta}) \neq \mathbb{T} \), then the semi-conjugacy from \( f \) to \( R_\tau \) collapses the closure of each open interval in the complement of \( \omega(\bar{\theta}) \) to a point. Moreover the only minimal set of \( f \) is a Cantor set \( C \) in \( \mathbb{T} \).
An orientation preserving homeomorphism $f : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T}$ is said to be a Denjoy map if $f$ has an irrational rotation number $\bar{\tau}$ and $f$ is not conjugated to any rotation. In that case, $f$ admits a Cantor minimal set $C_f$ that attracts all orbits in the future and in the past — and every point in $C_f$ is a recurrent point of $f$. We can associate to $C_f$ a Cantor function $\mathcal{P}$ which is unique up to rotations and such that $\mathcal{P} \circ f = R_{\bar{\tau}} \circ \mathcal{P}$. So $\mathcal{P}$ is a semi-conjugacy from $f$ to $R_{\bar{\tau}}$.

The construction in [11] of a Denjoy map with irrational rotation number $\bar{\tau}$ consists of choosing a point $\bar{\theta} \in \mathbb{T}$ and determining a family of pairwise disjoint open arcs in $\mathbb{T}$ with decreasing lengths whose sum is one and the complement of the union of all of them is a Cantor set. Each arc is identified with an element of the orbit of $\bar{\theta}$ via $R_{\bar{\tau}}$ which is always dense in $\mathbb{T}$. They also are put in the same order as the elements of the orbit, that is, preserving the cyclic order. These open intervals correspond to the gaps of the Cantor set and the union of the two extremes of all the intervals is the accessible set $A$ of $C_f$. Next step is to define $f$ on the union of the intervals and then extend the map to the closure.

But it is also possible to generate a Denjoy map considering the $R_{\bar{\tau}}$-orbit of more than one point. Markley proved in [8] that given an irrational number $\tau \notin \mathbb{Q}$ and a countable set $D \neq \emptyset$ in $\mathbb{T}$ such that $R_{\bar{\tau}}D = D$, there exists a Denjoy map with rotation number $\bar{\tau}$ and minimal Cantor set with Cantor function verifying $\mathcal{P}(A) = D$ and being unique up to rotations. For instance, the construction in [11] corresponds to the countable set $\mathcal{P}(A)$ composed by the orbit of a unique point $\varphi \in \mathbb{T}$ by the rotation $R_{\bar{\tau}}$, say

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\varphi + n\bar{\tau} : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Figure [11] illustrates the construction of a Denjoy map considering the orbit of two different points, which is well explained in [3]. The corresponding countable set is

$$\mathcal{P}(A) = \{\varphi + n\bar{\tau} : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\psi + n\bar{\tau} : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$ 

3 $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant Denjoy maps in the circle

Observe that the construction in Figure [11] depends on the points $\varphi, \psi \in \mathbb{T}$. Since it can be made with every two points, in this section we consider
\[ \bar{\psi} = R^1_{m} \bar{\varphi} \] in order to look for any symmetry of the Denjoy map (see Figure 3). This motivated us to study the more general case when the countable set \( D \) is the union of the orbits of points which are the rational rotation \( R^k_m \) of a given point \( \bar{\varphi} \in \mathbb{T} \) for some \( k = 0, \ldots, m - 1 \). That is, given a point \( \bar{\varphi} \in \mathbb{T} \) and numbers \( \tau \notin \mathbb{Q}, m \in \mathbb{N} \) we consider the set

\[ \mathcal{P}(A) = \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \{ \varphi^k + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z} \} \]

where \( \varphi^k = R^k_m \bar{\varphi} \), for \( k = 0, \ldots, m - 1 \). See Figure 2.

Since \( \mathbb{Z}_m = \{ R^k_m \}_{k=0}^{m-1} \), given a point \( \bar{\varphi} \in \mathbb{T} \) we define the set \( \{ \varphi^k \}_{k=0}^{m-1} \) as the orbit of the group \( \mathbb{Z}_m \) (or \( \mathbb{Z}_m \)-orbit) of \( \bar{\varphi} \), where \( \varphi^k = R^k_m \bar{\varphi} \).
In addition, \( Z_m \) is a cyclic compact Lie group generated by \( R_{\frac{1}{m}} \). So, in order to stay that a map \( f \) is \( Z_m \)-equivariant, we only need to prove that

\[
f(\bar{\varphi} + \frac{1}{m}) = f(\bar{\varphi}) + \frac{1}{m}.
\]

See [5] for more details.

In this section we prove the existence of \( Z_m \)-equivariant Denjoy maps. For simplicity, details of the proof will be explained only in case \( m = 2 \) because the case \( m > 2 \) is analogous. Firstly we construct a Cantor set which is invariant under the rotation \( R_{\frac{1}{2}} \). Secondly we prove the existence of \( Z_2 \)-equivariant Denjoy maps in the circle with the constructed Cantor set as its minimal set. Finally, we give the keys of the proof in case \( m > 2 \).

**Lemma 3.1** (Herman [7], p. 140). Let \( D_1, D_2 \) be two dense subsets in \( \mathbb{R} \), and \( \phi : D_1 \to D_2 \) be a strictly increasing map which is onto. Then \( \phi \) can be extended to a monotone strictly increasing continuous map from \( \mathbb{R} \) to \( \mathbb{R} \).

**Lemma 3.2.** Let \( \tau \notin \mathbb{Q} \). Given a point \( \bar{\varphi} \) in the circle, there exists a Cantor set \( C \) such that \( R_{\frac{1}{2}}C = C \) and the associated Cantor function \( P : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) verifies:

(a) \( P(A) = \{\bar{\varphi} + n\tau/n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\bar{\varphi}' + n\tau/n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subset \mathbb{T} \), where \( A \) is the accessible set of \( C \) and \( \bar{\varphi}' = R_{\frac{1}{2}}\bar{\varphi} \)

(b) \( P \) is \( Z_2 \)-equivariant.

**Proof.** Given an angle \( \tau \notin \mathbb{Q} \) and an orbit \( \{\bar{\varphi} + n\tau/n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subset \mathbb{T} \) we consider the countable dense set

\[
\mathcal{D} = \{\bar{\varphi} + n\tau/n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\bar{\varphi}' + n\tau/n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subset \mathbb{T},
\]

such that \( \bar{\varphi}' = R_{\frac{1}{2}}\bar{\varphi} \).

We claim that there exists a family \( \{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \) of compact subsets of \( \mathbb{T} \) such that

\[
\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = \mathbb{T} \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (\hat{\beta}_n \cup \hat{\beta}'_n \cup \hat{\beta}^-_n \cup \hat{\beta}'^-_n),
\]

where \( \{\beta'_n, \beta_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \) is a family of pairwise disjoint closed arcs in \( \mathbb{T} \) such that \( \beta'_n = R_{\frac{1}{2}}\beta_n \). See Figure [3]

We construct the family \( \{A_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \) by induction on \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). It verifies:
Figure 3: Construction of a Cantor set with two symmetric points.

(a) $A_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^{2k(n)} \gamma_i^n$, where $\gamma_i^n = \overline{a_i^1 b_i^1}$ is a closed arc in $\mathbb{T}$ with end points $a_i^1, b_i^1$. In addition $\gamma_i^n \cap \gamma_j^n = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$ with $i, j = 1, \ldots, 2k(n)$, where $k(n) = 2n - 1$. Moreover $\gamma_{k(n)+j}^n = R_{1/2} \gamma_j^n$ for $j = 1, \ldots, k(n)$.

(b) $\bigcup_{j=1}^n \{a_i^{j-1}, b_i^{j-1}\}_{i=1}^{2k(j-1)} \subset A_n$. That is, every extreme point of each arc $\gamma_i^k$ of $A_k$ belongs to $A_n$, for $k = 1, \ldots, n - 1$.

(c) $A_n \subset A_{n-1}$.

(d) $R_{1/2} A_n = A_n$.

(e) The correspondence which associates to each point $\bar{\varphi}_N = \varphi + N\tau$ the arc $\beta_N$, for all $|N| \leq n - 1$, preserves the cycle order. Equivalently, if $\bar{\varphi}_{N_1} \prec \bar{\varphi}_{N_2} \prec \bar{\varphi}_{N_3}$, then $\beta_{N_1} \prec \beta_{N_2} \prec \beta_{N_3}$ for all $|N_i| \leq n - 1$.

Consider $A_0 = \mathbb{T}$. We associate to the points $\bar{\varphi}_0 = \overline{\varphi + 0\tau}$ and $\bar{\varphi}'_0 = \overline{\varphi' + 0\tau}$ two open arcs $\beta_0$ and $\beta'_0 = R_{1/2} \beta_0$, respectively, preserving the cyclic order such that $\beta_0 \cap \beta'_0 = \emptyset$ and $\mu(\mathbb{T} \setminus \beta_0 \cup \beta'_0) < \frac{1}{2} \mu(A_0) = \frac{1}{2}$. We define

$$A_1 = A_0 \setminus \beta_0 \cup \beta'_0 = \gamma_1^1 \cup \gamma_2^1,$$

where $\gamma_1^1, \gamma_2^1$ are closed, $\gamma_1^1 \cap \gamma_2^1 = \emptyset$ and $\gamma_2^1 = R_{1/2} \gamma_1^1$. Clearly, $R_{1/2} A_1 = A_1$ and $A_1 \subset A_0$. See Figure 4.

Now we associate to the points $\bar{\varphi}_1 = \overline{\varphi + \tau}$, $\bar{\varphi}'_{-1} = \overline{\varphi - \tau}$, $\bar{\varphi}'_1 = \overline{\varphi' + \tau}$ and $\bar{\varphi}'_{-1} = \overline{\varphi' - \tau}$ four open arcs in $A_1$, say $\beta_1, \beta_{-1}, \beta'_1 = R_{1/2} \beta_1$ and $\beta'_{-1} = R_{1/2} \beta_{-1}$,
respectively, preserving the cycle order and being pairwise-disjoint such that

$$\mu(A_1 \setminus \beta_1 \cup \beta'_1 \cup \beta_{-1} \cup \beta'_{-1}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu(A_1).$$

We define

$$A_2 = A_1 \setminus \beta_1 \cup \beta'_1 \cup \beta_{-1} \cup \beta'_{-1} = \gamma_1^2 \cup .. \cup \gamma_6^2,$$

where $\gamma_1^2, ..., \gamma_6^2$ are closed, pairwise-disjoint and $\gamma_4^2 = R_2 \gamma_1^2, \gamma_5^2 = R_2 \gamma_2^2$ and $\gamma_6^2 = R_2 \gamma_3^2$. Clearly, $R_2 A_2 = A_2$ and $\{a_1^1, b_1^1, a_2^1, b_2^1\} \subset A_2 \subset A_1$. See Figure 5.

Suppose by induction that there exists $A_n$ verifying assumptions (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

As $\tau \notin \mathbb{Q}$, the orbit of $\varphi$ is dense in $\mathbb{T}$ so we can associate to the points $\bar{\varphi}_n = \varphi + n\tau, \bar{\varphi}_{-n} = \varphi - n\tau, \varphi'_n = \varphi' + n\tau$ and $\varphi'_{-n} = \varphi' - n\tau$ four open arcs in $A_{n-1}$, say $\beta_n, \beta_{-n}, \beta'_n$ and $\beta'_{-n}$, respectively, such that
• they are pairwise-disjoint and preserving the cyclic order,
• \( \beta'_n = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \beta_n \) and \( \beta'_n = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \beta_n \),
• if \( \bar{\varphi}_N < \varphi_{N_2} < \varphi_{N_3} \), then \( \beta_{N_1} < \beta_{N_2} < \beta_{N_3} \) for all \( |N_i| \leq n \).

In addition, the arcs verify

\[
\mu(\gamma_i \setminus \beta) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu(\gamma_i^n)
\]

where \( \beta \) can be one arc \( \beta_n, \beta'_n, \beta''_n \) or the union of two of such arcs. The arc \( \gamma_i^n \) is the component of \( A_n \) containing each \( \beta \).

Figures 6 and 7 show how one component of \( A_n \) could be cut by two arcs or by one. But in both cases the obtained new arcs should have less measure than the first one. That is,

**Case I:** Suppose the component \( \gamma_i^n \) is cut by only one arc \( \beta_n \), then there appear two new closed arcs \( \gamma_j^{n+1}, \gamma_{j+1}^{n+1} \) in \( \gamma_i^n \) such that

\[
\mu(\gamma_j^{n+1} \cup \gamma_{j+1}^{n+1}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu(\gamma_i^n).
\]

**Case II:** Suppose now the component \( \gamma_i^n \) is cut by the two arcs \( \beta_n \) and \( \beta'_n \). Then there appear three closed arcs \( \gamma_j^{n+1}, \gamma_{j+1}^{n+1}, \gamma_{j+2}^{n+1} \) in \( \gamma_i^n \) such that

\[
\mu(\gamma_j^{n+1} \cup \gamma_{j+1}^{n+1} \cup \gamma_{j+2}^{n+1}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu(\gamma_i^n).
\]

Observe that in the first case the arc \( \gamma_i^n = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_i^n \) has also been cut by the arcs \( \beta'_n \) and \( \beta_n \) such a way the obtained new arcs are \( \gamma_j^{n+1} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_j^{n+1}, \gamma_{j+1}^{n+1} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_{j+1}^{n+1} \) and \( \gamma_{j+2}^{n+1} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \gamma_{j+2}^{n+1} \) all in \( \gamma_i^n \). The case that the arc \( \gamma_i^n \) had been cut only by one arc \( \beta \) is analogous.

We define

\[
A_{n+1} = A_n \setminus \beta_n \cup \beta'_n \cup \beta_{-n} \cup \beta'_{-n} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{2k(n+1)} \gamma_i^{n+1},
\]
where $k(n) = 2n - 1$ and $\{\gamma_i^{n+1}\}_{i=1}^{2k(n+1)}$ is a family of pairwise-disjoint and closed arcs in $\mathbb{T}$ such that $\gamma_{k(m+1)+i}^{n+1} = R_{\frac{i}{2}} \gamma_i^{n+1}$ for all $i = 1, ..., k(n + 1)$. Clearly, $R_{\frac{i}{2}} A_{n+1} = A_{n+1}$ and

$$\{a_{i_1}^1, b_{i_1}^1\}_{i_1=1}^{2k(1)} \cup ... \cup \{a_{i_n}^n, b_{i_n}^n\}_{i_n=1}^{2k(n)} \subset A_{n+1} \subset A_n \subset ... \subset A_1,$$

that is, the two extreme points of each arc $\gamma_i^k$ of $A_k$ belong to $A_{n+1}$ for all $k = 1, ..., n$. Therefore, the family $\{A_n\}$ is well defined and

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = \mathbb{T} \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (\check{\beta}_n \cup \check{\beta}'_n \cup \check{\beta}_{-n} \cup \check{\beta}'_{-n}).$$

![Figure 6: The subset $A_3$. Case I](image)

Now we claim that $\mu(\bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n) = 0$, where $\mu$ denotes the Lebesgue measure. By construction, for each $m \geq 0$ there exists a natural number $\sigma(m) \geq m$ such that $\mu(A_{\sigma(m)}) < \frac{1}{2} \mu(A_m)$. The compact set $A_{\sigma(m)}$ is the $\sigma(m)$–th element of the family $\{A_{\sigma(n)}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$. Let us consider the subfamily $\{A_{\sigma(n)}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ where the compact set $A_{\sigma(n+1)(m)}$ is an element of $\{A_{\sigma(n)}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ such that every component of $A_{\sigma(n)}$ have been cut by an arc $\beta_k$ or $\beta'_k$ with $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ at least once.

Let us consider the subfamily $\{A_{\sigma(n)}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ where the compact set $A_{\sigma(n+1)(m)}$ is an element of $\{A_{\sigma(n)}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ such that every component of $A_{\sigma(n)}$ have been cut by an arc $\beta_k$ or $\beta'_k$ with $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ at least once. Then,

$$\mu(A_{\sigma(n+1)(m)}) \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu(A_{\sigma(n)(m)}), \quad \forall n \geq 0.$$
and $A_{\sigma n+1}(m) \subseteq A_{\sigma n}(m)$ for all $n \geq 0$. So

$$0 \leq \mu(A_{\sigma n+1}(m)) \leq \frac{1}{2^n} \mu(A_m) < \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$$

and

$$0 \leq \mu(\bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n) \leq \mu(\bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} A_{\sigma n}(m)) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mu(A_{\sigma n}(m)) = 0.$$

Figure 7: The subset $A_3$. Case II

Now we claim that

$$C = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = \mathbb{T} \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (\hat{\beta}_n \cup \hat{\beta}'_n \cup \hat{\beta}_-n \cup \hat{\beta}'_-n)$$

is a Cantor set. $C$ is compact because it is an intersection of compact sets. Suppose that there exists a connected component of $C$ different from a singleton $\{p\}$, then there exists an arc belonging to $C$. Therefore $\mu(\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n) = 0$, which is impossible. So $C$ is totally disconnected. Now take a point $x \in C$, then $x \in A_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. In particular, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a $i(n)$—th compact component of $A_n$ such that $x \in \gamma_{i(n)}^n$. Let $x_n$ be an extreme of $\gamma_{i(n)}^n$ such that $x_n \neq x$. As $n$ increases the component $\gamma_{i(n)}^n$ is being cut in pieces such that the measure of the complement of the gaps is less than the half of the piece I have cut, so the distance between $x_n$ and $x$ is getting smaller. That is, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ there exists a $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ and a component $\gamma_{i(n)}^n$ such that, if $x$ is an extreme of $\gamma_{i(n)}^n$,

$$d(x_n, x) = L(\hat{x_n} \hat{x}) = \mu(\gamma_{i(n)}^n)$$
where \( L(\hat{x}_n x) \) denotes the length of the arc \( \hat{x}_n x \). Then,

\[
d(x_n, x) = \mu(\gamma_i^n) < \frac{1}{2} \mu(\gamma_i^{n-1}) < \ldots < \frac{1}{2^n} < \varepsilon, \quad \forall n > n_0.
\]

And if \( x \in \hat{\gamma}_n \), then

\[
d(x_n, x) < d(x_n, y) < \frac{1}{2^n} < \varepsilon, \quad \forall n > n_0,
\]

where \( y \) is the other extreme of \( \gamma_i^n \). Then \( C \) is perfect.

Note that, by construction, \( R_{1/2} C = C \) and the set of accessible points of \( C \) is the union of the two extremes of all components \( \gamma_i^n \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \).

Let now to define the associated Cantor function \( P : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) of \( C \). Consider the function

\[
P_* : \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\beta}_i \cup \hat{\beta'}_i \to \{\varphi + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\varphi' + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}
\]

such that \( P_*(\hat{\beta}_n) = \varphi_n \) and \( P_*(\hat{\beta'}_n) = \varphi'_n \), for all \( n \in \mathbb{Z} \). It is easy to verify by induction that it is well defined considering the functions

\[
P_n : \bigcup_{i=-n}^{i=n} \hat{\beta}_i \cup \hat{\beta'}_i \to \{\varphi + N\tau : |N| \leq n\} \cup \{\varphi' + N\tau : |N| \leq n\}
\]

such that \( P_n(\hat{\beta}_N) = \varphi_N, P_n(\hat{\beta'}_N) = \varphi'_N, P_n(\hat{\beta}_-N) = \varphi_-N, P_n(\hat{\beta'}_-N) = \varphi'_-N \), for all \( |N| \leq n \) and a given \( n \in \mathbb{N} \).

Observe that \( P_*(\hat{\beta'}_n) = P_*(\hat{\beta}_n) + \frac{1}{2} \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{Z} \) by construction. This implies that \( P_* \circ R_{1/2} = R_{1/2} \circ P_* \) and \( P_* \) is \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-equivariant. Now we extend \( P_* \) to the function \( P \) at the points in the closure of \( \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\beta}_n \cup \hat{\beta'}_n \) applying Lemma 3.1.

Actually, \( \Omega = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\beta}_n \cup \hat{\beta'}_n \) is open and \( \mu(\mathbb{T} \setminus \Omega) = 0 \), so \( \Omega \) is dense in \( \mathbb{T} \). Note that \( D = \{\varphi + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\varphi' + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \) is also dense because \( \tau \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \). Let consider \( \hat{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R} \) and \( \hat{D} \subset \mathbb{R} \) be the lift of \( \Omega \) and \( D \), respectively. The function \( \hat{P}_* : \hat{\Omega} \to \hat{D} \) is onto and preserves orientation, so it is strictly increasing. By Lemma 3.1, \( \hat{P}_* \) can be extended to a continuous
strictly increasing function \( \hat{P} : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) such that \( \hat{P}(x + 1) = \hat{P}(x) + 1 \), for all \( x \in \mathbb{R} \). So \( \hat{P} \) can be consider as a lift of a cyclic order preserving and continuous function \( P : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) such that \( P \circ R_{\frac{1}{2}} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \circ P \) and \( P(A) = D_2 \), where \( A \) is the union of the two extremes of every component \( \gamma_i^n \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), the set of accessible points of the Cantor set \( C \).

Proposition 3.3. Let \( \tau \notin \mathbb{Q} \). Given a point \( \bar{\varphi} \in \mathbb{T} \), there exists a Denjoy map \( f : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) such that:

(a) \( f \) is \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)–equivariant.

(b) \( \rho(f) = \bar{\tau} \).

(c) \( f \) has a minimal Cantor set as in Lemma 3.2.

Proof. Let \( \tau \notin \mathbb{Q} \) and consider a point \( \bar{\varphi} \in \mathbb{T} \). By Lemma 3.2, we can construct a Cantor set \( C \) such that \( R_{\frac{1}{2}} C = C \) and the associated Cantor function \( P : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \) is \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)–equivariant.

Let now to define the Denjoy homeomorphism with minimal set the Cantor set \( C \). We are going to apply Lemma 3.1 in the same way as the construction of \( P \) in Lemma 3.2.

Consider the bijection

\[
\begin{align*}
f_* : \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\beta}_n &\cup \hat{\beta}_n' \to \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\beta}_n \cup \hat{\beta}_n'.
\end{align*}
\]

verifying:

- For each \( n \in \mathbb{Z} \), \( f_*(a_n) = a_{n+1} \), \( f_*(b_n) = b_{n+1} \), \( f_*(a'_n) = a'_{n+1} \) and \( f_*(b'_n) = b'_{n+1} \).

- \( f_* \circ R_{\frac{1}{2}} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \circ f_* \).

Analogously to the definition of the Cantor function associated to \( C \), it is easy to verify that \( f_* \) is well defined considering for each \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) the bijection

\[
\begin{align*}
f_n : \bigcup_{|i| \leq n} \hat{\beta}_i &\cup \hat{\beta}_i' \to \bigcup_{|i| \leq n+1} \hat{\beta}_i \cup \hat{\beta}_i'.
\end{align*}
\]

verifying:
• \( f_n(a_i) = a_{i+1} \), \( f_n(b_i) = b_{i+1} \), \( f_n(a'_i) = a'_{i+1} \) and \( f_n(b'_i) = b'_{i+1} \).

• \( f_n \circ R_{\frac{1}{2}} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \circ f_n \).

Let \( \Omega = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{\beta}_n \cup \hat{\beta}'_n \). Consider \( \hat{\omega} \) and \( \hat{f}_* : \hat{\omega} \to \hat{\omega} \) being the
lift of \( \Omega \) and \( f_* \), respectively. As \( f_* \) is a bijection and preserves the cyclic
order, \( \hat{f}_* \) is a strictly increasing bijection. Then, by Lemma 3.1, it can be
extended to a continuous orientation preserving bijection \( \hat{f} : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) such
that \( \hat{f}(x + 1) = \hat{f}(x) + 1 \) for all \( x \in \mathbb{R} \). Moreover \( \hat{f} \circ R_{\frac{1}{2}} = R_{\frac{1}{2}} \circ \hat{f} \) and,
as every continuous and one-to-one map in \( \mathbb{R} \) is open, \( \hat{f} \) is an orientation
preserving homeomorphism in \( \mathbb{R} \). Therefore \( \hat{f} \) can be consider as a lift of an
orientation preserving \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-equivariant homeomorphism \( f : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T} \).

By construction, \( R_{\tau} \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ f \). Therefore, \( f \) is an orientation preserving
\( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-equivariant Denjoy homeomorphisms of the circle with rotation number
\( \bar{\tau} \). \( \square \)

**Theorem 3.4.** Let \( \tau \notin \mathbb{Q} \) and \( m \in \mathbb{N} \). Given a point \( \bar{\varphi} \in \mathbb{T} \), there exists a
\( \mathbb{Z}_m \)-equivariant Denjoy map with rotation number \( \bar{\tau} \).

**Proof.** The case \( m = 2 \) is given in Proposition 3.3. The case \( m \geq 3 \) is
analogous considering the dense and countable set

\[
D = \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \{ \varphi^k + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z} \}
\]

If \( A_0 = \mathbb{T} \), we may associate to \( \{ \varphi^k \}_{k=0}^{m-1} \), the orbit of \( \varphi_0 = \bar{\varphi} \), the family
of pairwise-disjoint open arcs \( \{ \beta^k \}_{k=0}^{m-1} \) such that \( \mu(\bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \beta^k) < \frac{1}{2} \mu(A_0) = \frac{1}{2} \)
and define \( A_1 = A_0 \setminus \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \beta^k \).

Analogously to case \( m = 2 \) we can define by induction the sets

\[
A_{n+1} = A_n \setminus \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \beta^k_n \cup \beta^k_{-n}, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}
\]
such that

(a) \( A_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^{mk(n)} \gamma_i \), where \( \gamma_i = a_i b_i^n \) is closed and \( \gamma_i \cap \gamma_j = \emptyset \) for all \( i \neq j \)
and \( i, j = 1, ..., mk(n) \). Moreover \( k(n) = 2n - 1 \) and \( \gamma_{i+mj} = R_{\frac{m}{m'}} \gamma_i \) for
\( j = 1, ..., m - 1 \) and \( i = 1, ..., k(n) \).
(b) \( \bigcup_{j=1}^{n} \{a_i^{j-1}, b_i^{j-1}\} \) is a subset of \( A_n \). That is, every extreme point of each arc \( \gamma^k_i \) of \( A_k \) belongs to \( A_n \), for \( k = 1, \ldots, n-1 \).

(c) \( A_n \subset A_{n-1} \).

(d) \( R_m A_n = A_n \).

(e) The correspondence which associates to each point \( \varphi_N = \varphi + N\tau \) the arc \( \beta_N \), for all \( |N| \leq n-1 \), preserves the cycle order. Equivalently, if \( \varphi_{N1} \prec \varphi_{N2} \prec \varphi_{N3} \), then \( \beta_{N1} \prec \beta_{N2} \prec \beta_{N3} \) for all \( |N_i| \leq n-1 \).

Then, the set

\[
C = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n = \mathbb{T} \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left( \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \beta^k_n \cup \beta^k_{-n} \right)
\]

is a Cantor set such that \( R_m C = C \) and the set of accessible points of \( C \) is the union of the two extremes of all components \( \gamma^k_n \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \).

If we consider the functions

\[
P_\ast : \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \left( \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \tilde{\beta}^k_n \right) \rightarrow \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \left\{ \varphi^k + n\tau : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}
\]

such that \( P_\ast (\tilde{\beta}^k_n) = \varphi^k_n \) for all \( k = 0, \ldots, m-1 \), \( n \in \mathbb{Z} \), where \( \varphi^k_n = \varphi^k + n\tau \). Analogously to case \( m = 2 \), \( P_\ast \) is well defined and for all \( k = 0, \ldots, m-1 \),

\[
P_\ast (\beta^k_n) = P_\ast (\beta^0_n) + \frac{k}{m}.
\]

By Lemma 3.1 we can extend \( P_\ast \) to a function \( P : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T} \) which is the associated Cantor function to \( C \) such that \( P(A) = D_m \) and it is \( \mathbb{Z}_m \)-equivariant.

Now consider the bijection

\[
f_\ast : \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \left( \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \tilde{\beta}^k_n \right) \rightarrow \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \left( \bigcup_{k=0}^{m-1} \tilde{\beta}^k_n \right)
\]

verifying:
• For each $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $k = 0, ..., m - 1$, $f_*(a_k^n) = a_{k+1}^n$ and $f_*(b_k^n) = b_{k+1}^n$, where $a_k^n$, $b_k^n$ and $a_{k+1}^n$, $b_{k+1}^n$ are the two extremes of $\beta_k^n$ and $\beta_{k+1}^n$, respectively.

• $f_* \circ R_{\frac{1}{m}} = R_{\frac{1}{m}} \circ f_*$. Analogously as in Proposition 3.3, $f_*$ is well defined. Moreover, by Lemma 3.1, we can extend $f_*$ to a function $f : \mathbb{T} \to \mathbb{T}$ such that:

(a) $f$ is $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant.

(b) $\rho(f) = \bar{\tau}$.

(c) $f$ has a minimal Cantor set.

Observe that the construction of the $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant Denjoy depend on the given point $\bar{\varphi}$. As different points in $\mathbb{T}$ define different Cantor sets we have that the construction of the $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant Denjoy maps of Theorem 3.4 is not unique.

4 Main result

This work is motivated by the study of the global dynamics of an equivariant planar map with an asymptotically stable fixed point. Authors in [1] prove that the symmetry forces the existence of a global attractor in all cases except $\mathbb{Z}_m$. Moreover, they give in [2] a family of $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant homeomorphisms with an asymptotically stable fixed point and rotation number $1/m$. That paper raises the question of whether there are some relationship between the rotation number and the order of the group $\mathbb{Z}_m$. In this section we construct $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant homeomorphisms with an asymptotically fixed point and irrational rotation number. Consequently, there are no linkages between rotation number and the order of the group. Hence, symmetry properties does not give any extra information about global dynamics in the case $\mathbb{Z}_m$.

A dissipative and orientation preserving homeomorphism of the plane $h : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ is said to be an $U$–admissible (or admissible) map provided that has an asymptotically stable fixed point with proper and unbounded basis of attraction $U \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Note that the proper condition follows when
the fixed point is not a global attractor. We can obtain automatically the unboundedness condition if we suppose that $h$ is area contracting.

It is well studied in [10] the Theory of Prime Ends which states that an admissible map $h$ induces an orientation preserving homeomorphism $h^* : \mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ in the space of prime ends. This topological space is homeomorphic to the cycle, that is $\mathbb{P} \simeq \mathbb{T}$, and hence the rotation number of $h^*$ is well defined, say $\bar{\rho} \in \mathbb{T}$. The rotation number for an $U$–admissible orientation preserving maps is defined by $\rho(h,U) = \bar{\rho}$.

In [3] the authors prove that given an irrational number $\tau \notin \mathbb{Q}$ and a Denjoy homeomorphism $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$, there exists an $U$–admissible map $h : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ with rotation number $\rho(h,U) = \bar{\tau}$. That motivate us to prove the existence of $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant homeomorphisms of the plane which induce a Denjoy map in the circle of prime ends using the construction given in Section [3].

**Proposition 4.1** (Corbato, Ortega and Ruiz del Portal, [3]). Given a $\tau \in (0,1) \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ and a Denjoy map $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$, there exists an admissible map with rotation number $\rho(h,U) = \bar{\tau}$ and such that $h^*$ is topologically conjugate to $f$.

**Theorem 4.2.** Given an irrational number $\tau \notin \mathbb{Q}$, there exists a $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant and admissible map in $\mathbb{R}^2$ with rotation number $\bar{\tau} \in \mathbb{T}$ and such that induces a Denjoy map in the circle of prime ends which is also $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant.

**Proof.** Let $\tau \notin \mathbb{Q}$ an irrational number and $\phi \in \mathbb{T}$ be a point in the circle. By Theorem 3.4, it is possible to construct a Denjoy map $f : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}$ which is $\mathbb{Z}_m$–equivariant and has minimal Cantor set $C$ verifying that $R_{\frac{2k\pi}{m}}C = C$, for all $k = 0, ..., m - 1$.

By Proposition 4.1, there exists an admissible map with rotation number $\rho(h,U) = \bar{\tau}$ and such that the induced map in the space of prime ends $h^*$ is topologically conjugate to $f$. Authors in [3] define the homeomorphism $h$ in polar coordinates by:

$$h : \quad \theta_1 = f(\theta), \quad \rho_1 = R(\theta, \rho)$$

where $R : \mathbb{T} \times [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that

$$R(\bar{\theta}, \rho) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \rho & \text{if } \rho \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \rho + \frac{1}{2} - \Pi(\bar{\theta}) & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < \rho \leq 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} \rho + \frac{1}{2} - \Pi(\bar{\theta}) & \text{if } \rho > 1 \end{cases}$$
and $\Pi : \mathbb{T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is such that

$$\Pi(\bar{\theta}) = \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } \bar{\theta} \in C \\
\frac{1}{k|n|+1}\frac{\text{dist}_R(\bar{\theta}, C)}{\text{length}(\beta_k^n)} & \text{if } \bar{\theta} \in \beta_k^n
\end{cases}$$

We claim that $h$ is $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant. Since $f$ is $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant, we obtain that

$$f(\tilde{\theta} + \frac{k}{m}) = f(\bar{\theta}) + \frac{k}{m}, \quad \forall \tilde{\theta} \in \mathbb{T}$$

so we only need to verify that

$$R(\tilde{\theta} + \frac{k}{m}) = R(\bar{\theta})$$

or equivalently,

$$\Pi(\tilde{\theta} + \frac{k}{m}) = \Pi(\bar{\theta})$$

Indeed, if $\bar{\theta} + \frac{k}{m} \in C$ then $\tilde{\theta} \in C$ and $\Pi(\bar{\theta} + \frac{k}{m}) = \Pi(\bar{\theta})$. Otherwise, there exists an arc $\beta_k^n$ such that $\tilde{\theta} + \frac{k}{m} \in \beta_k^n$. In this case, $\tilde{\theta} \in \beta_k^n - k$ and $\text{dist}_R(\tilde{\theta}, C) = \text{dist}_R(\bar{\theta} + \frac{k}{m}, C)$, so $\Pi(\tilde{\theta} + \frac{k}{m}) = \Pi(\bar{\theta})$ and $h$ is $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant.

Observe that the $\mathbb{Z}_m$-equivariant and admissible map constructed in Theorem 4.2 depends on the initial point $\bar{\varphi}$, so the constructed map is not unique.

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