

On some rational piecewise linear rotations

Anna Cima⁽¹⁾, Armengol Gasull^(1,2), Víctor Mañosa⁽³⁾ and Francesc Mañosas⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Departament de Matemàtiques, Facultat de Ciències,
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,
08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain
anna.cima@uab.cat, armengol.gasull@uab.cat, manyosas@mat.uab.cat*

⁽²⁾ *Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, Campus de Bellaterra,
08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain*

⁽³⁾ *Departament de Matemàtiques,
Institut de Matemàtiques de la UPC-BarcelonaTech (IMTech),
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Colom 11, 08222 Terrassa, Spain
victor.manosa@upc.edu*

Abstract

We study the dynamics of the piecewise planar rotations $F_\lambda(z) = \lambda(z - H(z))$, with $z \in \mathbb{C}$, $H(z) = 1$ if $\text{Im}(z) \geq 0$, $H(z) = -1$ if $\text{Im}(z) < 0$, and $\lambda = e^{i\alpha} \in \mathbb{C}$, being α a rational multiple of π . Our main results establish the dynamics in the so called regular set, which is the complementary of the closure of the set formed by the preimages of the discontinuity line. We prove that any connected component of this set is open, bounded and periodic under the action of F_λ , with a period ℓ , that depends on the connected component. Furthermore, F_λ^ℓ restricted to each component acts as a rotation with a period which also depends on the connected component. As a consequence, any point in the regular set is periodic. Among other results, we also prove that for any connected component of the regular set, its boundary is a convex polygon with certain maximum number of sides.

Mathematics Subject Classification: 37C25, 39A23, 37B10.

Keywords: Periodic points; pointwise periodic maps; piecewise linear maps; fractal tessellations.

1 Introduction and main results

We consider the family of planar piecewise linear maps which, in complex notation, writes as:

$$F_\lambda(z) = \lambda(z - H(z)),$$

where $z \in \mathbb{C}$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lambda = e^{i\alpha} \in \mathbb{C}$ (thus $|\lambda| = 1$), and

$$H(z) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{C}_0^+, \\ -1, & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{C}^-, \end{cases}$$

being $\mathbb{C}^+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; \text{Im}(z) > 0\}$, $\mathbb{C}^- = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; \text{Im}(z) < 0\}$ and $\mathbb{C}_0^+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; \text{Im}(z) \geq 0\}$. Observe that these maps are invertible. Indeed, some easy computations show that $F_\lambda^{-1}(z) = z/\lambda + H(z/\lambda)$.

These maps have been studied in [2, 7, 8, 10]. When α is a rational multiple of π , they are closely related to polygonal dual billiards maps on regular polygons, [9, 11, 14]. The special cases $\alpha \in \mathcal{R} := \{\pi/3, \pi/2, 2\pi/3, 4\pi/3, 3\pi/2, 5\pi/3\}$ have been studied in [3, 4, 6, 8]. We found these examples to be especially interesting because they are easy explicit examples of pointwise periodic bijective maps which are not globally periodic, hence their sets of periods are unbounded. Furthermore, for each of these cases, in [8], we gave an explicit first integral whose energy levels are discrete and they are bounded sets whose interior is a necklace formed by a finite number of open tiles of a certain regular tessellation. The boundary of each of these open regular tessellations is formed by the so-called *critical set* $\mathcal{F} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \text{ such that } \text{Im}(F^i(z)) = 0 \text{ for some } i \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}$, formed by all the preimages of the discontinuity line \mathbb{R} . In general, it is well known that this discontinuity line, which is also called critical line, together with its preimages play a crucial role to understand the dynamics of the corresponding map, see [1, 12].

The general properties of the maps F with $\alpha \in [0, 2\pi) \setminus \mathcal{R}$, being a rational multiple of π , are still not completely known. For instance, in [10] it is proved that for each of such cases there exists a sequence of open invariant nested necklaces that tend to infinity, whose beads are polygons, and where the dynamics of F is given by a product of two rotations, see also Section 2.1. Remarkably, although the adherence of the union of all these invariant necklaces does not fill the full plane, it allows to prove that all orbits of F are bounded. As in the regular cases, the boundary of these necklaces is given by some segments of the critical set \mathcal{F} . Our simulations indicate that, in the non-regular cases, the critical set seems to fractalize.

We consider the *regular set* $\mathcal{U} = \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathcal{F}}$, where $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$ is the closure of the critical set. Among the results in this work, we prove that when α is a rational multiple of π , any connected

component of \mathcal{U} is open, bounded and periodic. Moreover, any element of \mathcal{U} is periodic. We also prove that if $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$, then the elements of $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ are aperiodic.

In next two theorems the map F_λ and the set \mathcal{U} are defined as above. Our first result characterizes the dynamics on the regular set when α is a rational multiple of π .

Theorem A. *Set $\alpha = 2\pi p/q$ where $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ with $(p, q) = 1$, then any connected component of \mathcal{U} is open, bounded and periodic under the action of F_λ . Furthermore, F_λ permutes ℓ connected components of \mathcal{U} , that are invariant by F_λ^ℓ , which is a rotation of order k around the center of each connected component. As a consequence, on each connected component there is an ℓ -periodic point (the center) and the rest of the points are $k\ell$ -periodic. Moreover, both values k and ℓ depend on the connected component and ℓ is unbounded.*

Our second result describes the geometry of the connected component of \mathcal{U} , again when α is a rational multiple of π .

Theorem B. *Set $\alpha = 2\pi p/q$ where $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ with $(p, q) = 1$, then:*

- (a) *Let V be a connected component of \mathcal{U} . Then ∂V is a convex polygon with at most q sides if q is even and at most $2q$ sides when q is odd.*
- (b) *If ℓ is the period of V and $(\ell, q) = 1$, then ∂V has either q sides and ∂V is a regular polygon or q is odd and ∂V has $2q$ sides.*
- (c) *For some values of α there are connected components that are not regular polygons.*

Although in this work, we only deal with the case that $\alpha = 2\pi\theta$ with θ rational, we remark that when θ is irrational similar arguments that the ones used in the proof of Theorem B can be applied to prove that then ∂V is a circle. We do not include this study in this work.

Theorem B characterizes the connected components in the regular set \mathcal{U} as open convex polygons. For this reason sometimes we will refer them as *tiles* of the tessellation in \mathcal{U} defined by $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$.

Theorem A is proved in Section 2.3 and Theorem B is proved in Section 3.2. In Section 3 it is also proved that any point in $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ is not periodic, see Proposition 6.

In Section 4 we also present some evidences of the fractalization of \mathcal{F} , and the unboundedness of periods in compact sets both in \mathcal{U} and \mathcal{F} , as well as for the existence of non-periodic points in \mathcal{F} .

2 Dynamics on the regular set

The object of this section is to prove Theorem A, see Section 2.3. The essential ingredients of the proof are the facts that the connected components of the regular set $\mathcal{U} = \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathcal{F}}$ are

the sets of points sharing the same itinerary (see the definition below) which are convex and bounded as well as the union of all its iterates.

2.1 Boundedness of orbits and connected subsets of the regular set

We are interested in the dynamical study of F_λ in the case when $\lambda = e^{2\pi\frac{p}{q}i}$ with $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ and $(p, q) = 1$. That is, when the maps $F_\lambda^+ := F_\lambda|_{\mathbb{C}_0^+}$ and $F_\lambda^- := F_\lambda|_{\mathbb{C}_0^-}$ are (rational) periodic rotations. This situation was studied in [10], where the authors proved several facts which are essential for our purposes. We list three consequences of their results. The first one, is that for any bounded subset A of \mathbb{C} the (forward or backward) orbit of A by F_λ is bounded. The second one, is that any connected unbounded set must intersect \mathcal{F} and the third one is that there is a sequence of invariant necklaces formed by periodic points and these necklaces have increasing periods when they tend towards infinity. We state these results for future references in the next result, which is a consequence of Theorem 1 in [10]:

Theorem 1 (Goetz & Quas, [10]). *Set $\alpha = 2\pi p/q$ where $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ with $(p, q) = 1$. The following assertions hold:*

- (a) *For any bounded subset $A \subset \mathbb{C}$ the orbit of A is bounded. That is, the set $\bigcup_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} F_\lambda^i(A)$ is bounded*
- (b) *If B is a connected and unbounded subset of \mathbb{C} , then it must intersect \mathcal{F} .*
- (c) *There is a sequence of necklaces, like the ones in the right picture of Figure 1, which tend to infinity, filled with periodic point of F_λ and with certain computable periods that tend to infinity.*

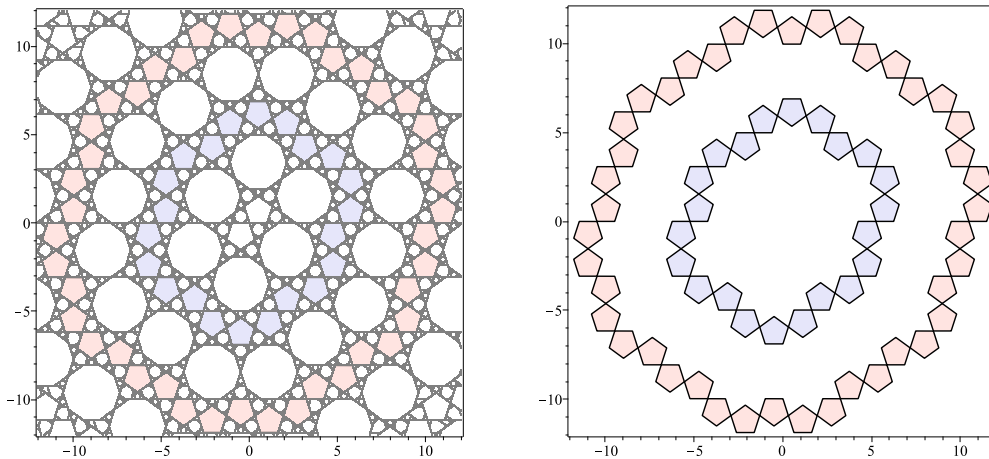


Figure 1: Necklaces for $\alpha = 8\pi/5$. The critical set, formed by the union of a numerable sets of lines, in grey, in the left picture. In the right picture two invariant necklaces.

2.2 Properties of the sets of points with the same itinerary

For $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we define the *address* of z , denoted $A(z)$, by

$$A(z) = \begin{cases} +, & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{C}^+, \\ -, & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{C}^-. \end{cases}$$

We also define the *itinerary of length n* as the finite sequence of symbols

$$\underline{I}_n(z) = A(z)A(F(z)) \dots A(F^{n-1}(z)),$$

and the *itinerary* as the infinite sequence of symbols

$$\underline{I}(z) = A(z)A(F(z)) \dots A(F^i(z)) \dots$$

Notice that if $\underline{I}_n(z) = s_1 \dots s_n$ then $F_\lambda^n(z) = F_\lambda^{s_n} \circ \dots \circ F_\lambda^{s_1}(z)$.

Let \mathcal{J} be the set of infinite sequences of two symbols $+$ and $-$, and let S be the shift operator defined in \mathcal{J} . That is $S(s_1 s_2 \dots s_i \dots) = s_2 s_3 \dots s_i \dots$. An element $\underline{I} \in \mathcal{J}$ is called n -periodic if $S^n(\underline{I}) = \underline{I}$ and n is the smallest natural with this property. In this case we will write $\underline{I} = (s_1 s_2 \dots s_n)^\infty$. Since $\underline{I}(F_\lambda^n(z)) = S^n(\underline{I}(z))$ if z is n -periodic for F_λ then $\underline{I}(z)$ is k -periodic with k divisor of n .

Let \mathcal{J}_n be the set of finite sequences of two symbols $+$ and $-$, with length n . For $\underline{J} \in \mathcal{J}$ and $\underline{J}_n \in \mathcal{J}_n$ we define the corresponding subsets of \mathbb{C} of points in the regular set with the same itinerary, given by

$$B(\underline{J}) = \{z \in \mathcal{U} : \underline{I}(z) = \underline{J}\} \text{ and } B(\underline{J}_n) = \{z \in \mathcal{U} : \underline{I}_n(z) = \underline{J}_n\}.$$

The next result can be found in [8, Lemma 3], we include its proof for completeness.

Lemma 2. (i) Let $\underline{J}_n \in \mathcal{J}_n$. Then $B(\underline{J}_n)$ is either empty or convex. Moreover $F_\lambda^n|_{B(\underline{J}_n)}$ is an affine map.

(ii) Let $\underline{J} \in \mathcal{J}$. Then $B(\underline{J})$ is either empty or convex and bounded.

Proof. The proof of the convexity follows easily by induction. If $n = 1$, $B(\underline{J}_n)$ is either \mathbb{C}^+ or \mathbb{C}^- both convex sets. Assume that the result holds for sequences of length $n - 1$ and set $\underline{J}_{n-1} = (s_1, \dots, s_{n-1})$. Therefore we have

$$B(\underline{J}_n) = \{(x, y) \in B(\underline{J}_{n-1}) : F_\lambda^{n-1}(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^{s_n}\}.$$

Moreover, F_λ^{n-1} restricted to $B(\underline{J}_{n-1})$ is the affine map $G = F_{s_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ F_{s_1}$. So we have

$$B(\underline{J}_n) = B(\underline{J}_{n-1}) \cap G^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^{s_n}).$$

This fact proves that $B(\underline{J}_n)$ is convex because it is the intersection of two convex sets. This ends the inductive proof of convexity. Furthermore, $F_\lambda^n(x, y) = F_\lambda^{s_n} \circ F_\lambda^{s_n-1} \circ \dots \circ F_\lambda^{s_1}(x, y)$, for all $(x, y) \in B(\underline{J}_n)$, showing that F_λ^n restricted to $B(\underline{J}_n)$ is an affine map.

(ii) Write $\underline{J} = s_1 s_2 \dots s_i \dots$. Then $B(\underline{J}) = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} B((s_1 \dots s_n))$ and the lemma follows because the infinite intersection of convex sets is either empty or convex. Since it is convex it is also connected. Then, it is bounded from Theorem 1 (b) (recall that, by definition, $B(\underline{J}) \subset \mathcal{U}$). ■

The next result is one of the key steps in the proof of Theorem A. It establishes that for α being a rational multiple of π , the points with periodic itinerary are periodic:

Proposition 3. *Assume that $\lambda = e^{\frac{p}{q}2\pi i}$ with $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ with $(p, q) = 1$. Let $z \in \mathcal{U}$, then $\underline{I}(z)$ is periodic if and only if z is periodic for F_λ . Moreover $B(\underline{I}(z))$ is bounded and convex.*

Proof. Trivially, if z is a periodic point then $\underline{I}(z)$ is periodic. Assume now, that $z \in \mathcal{U}$, is a point such that $\underline{I}(z) = (s_1 \dots s_\ell)^\infty$. In this case $B(\underline{I}(z))$ is non empty and positively invariant by F_λ^ℓ . By Lemma 2 (i), the map $F_\lambda^\ell|_{B(\underline{I}(z))}$ is affine. Direct computations show that $F_\lambda^\ell|_{B(\underline{I}(z))}(z) = \lambda^\ell z + b$ for some $b \in \mathbb{C}$. Thus when ℓ is not a multiple of q we have that $F_\lambda^\ell|_{B(\underline{I}(z))}$ is a rotation of angle $\ell 2\pi p/q \neq 0$ centered at some point of the plane. This shows that all points belonging to $B(\underline{I}(z))$ are periodic. Note that, in fact, if $w \in B(\underline{I}(z))$, then the orbit by the rotation of angle $\ell 2\pi p/q$ is also contained in $B(\underline{I}(z))$. Since, by Lemma 2 (ii), $B(\underline{I}(z))$ is convex it follows that the center of the rotation is contained in $B(\underline{I}(z))$. On the other hand if $B(\underline{I}(z))$ is unbounded, from Lemma 1 it must intersect \mathcal{F} : a contradiction.

When ℓ is a multiple of q we get $F_\lambda^\ell|_{B(\underline{I}(z))}(z) = z + b$. If $b \neq 0$ it follows that $B(\underline{I}(z))$ must be unbounded: in contradiction with Lemma 2 (ii). So $b = 0$ and $F_\lambda^\ell|_{B(\underline{I}(z))} = \text{Id}$. ■

2.3 Proof of Theorem A

To end the proof of Theorem A we need the following last technical result.

Lemma 4. *If $V \subset \mathbb{C}$ is connected and $V \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$, then all points in V have the same itinerary.*

Proof. Since $V \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$, then $F_\lambda^i(V) \cap \mathbb{R} = \emptyset$ for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$. Therefore $F_\lambda^i|_V$ is continuous and since V is connected $F_\lambda^i(V)$ is contained in one of the two connected components of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$. This ends the proof of the lemma. ■

Proof of Theorem A. The fact that any component of \mathcal{U} is open follows from the fact that \mathcal{U} is open. Moreover, since any connected component does not intersect \mathcal{F} it follows, by Theorem 1 (b), that they are bounded. Also since any connected component V

does not intersect \mathcal{F} , it follows that $F_\lambda^i|_V$ is continuous and preserves area for any $i \in \mathbb{N}$. So we obtain that for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$ the sets $F_\lambda^i(V)$ are connected and with the same area that V . Since, by Theorem 1 (a), $\bigcup_{i=0}^\infty F_\lambda^i(V)$ is bounded, then there must be an overlapping of the images of V , that is, there exists $n, \ell \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$F_\lambda^n(V) \cap F_\lambda^{n+\ell}(V) \neq \emptyset. \quad (1)$$

By Lemma 4, the points in $F_\lambda^n(V)$ have all the same itinerary, namely \underline{J} . As a consequence of (1), necessarily $S^\ell(\underline{J}) = \underline{J}$, that is, the itinerary \underline{J} is ℓ -periodic. Therefore, from Proposition 3, the points in $F_\lambda^n(V)$ are periodic and, since F_λ is invertible, the same holds for the points in V .

Notice that F_λ permutes the ℓ tiles $F_\lambda^i(V)$ with $i = 0, \dots, \ell - 1$. Moreover, each of these sets $F_\lambda^i(V)$ is invariant by $F_\lambda^\ell(z) = \lambda^\ell z + b$, with $b \in \mathbb{C}$, which is a rotation of order k around a center point, which is contained in this set because of the convexity of $F_\lambda^i(V)$; see Lemma 2 (ii) and the proof of Proposition 3. As a consequence, on each tile there is a ℓ -periodic point (the center) and the rest of the points are $k\ell$ -periodic. Of course $F_\lambda^{k\ell} = \text{Id}$.

Finally, the periods on \mathcal{U} are unbounded as a direct consequence of the results of [10], see item (c) in Theorem 1. ■

3 Geometrical aspects.

The objective of this section is to prove Theorem B, which describes the geometry of the boundary of the connected components of \mathcal{U} . This is done in Section 3.2. To do this, several results characterizing the closure of the critical set must be established.

3.1 Geometry of the critical set and regular set.

For any $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we denote the distance of z to the abscissa axis, which is the critical line \mathbb{R} , by $d(z, \mathbb{R})$.

Lemma 5. *Let $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$ be the closure of the critical set, then*

$$\overline{\mathcal{F}} = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \inf_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = 0 \right\}.$$

Proof. Let us denote by $\mathcal{S} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \inf_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = 0\}$. First, we will show that $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \subset \mathcal{S}$. To do this we take $z \notin \mathcal{S}$ and we will show that $z \notin \overline{\mathcal{F}}$. If $z \notin \mathcal{S}$ it follows that $\inf_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = a > 0$. Now consider D the open disc centered at z with radius $b < a$. We will show that $D \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$ which implies that $z \notin \overline{\mathcal{F}}$. To do this we will prove inductively that $D \cap F_\lambda^{-n}(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. This is clear for $n = 0$ because

$d(z, \mathbb{R}) \geq a > b$. Now assume that $D \cap F_\lambda^{-i}(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ for all $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$. Then it follows that $F_\lambda^i(D) \cap \mathbb{R} = \emptyset$ for all $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$. Observe that $F|_{F^n(D)} = F^{n+1}|_D$ is a rotation that in particular preserves the distance, so if $F^{n+1}(D) \cap \mathbb{R} \neq \emptyset$ then $d(F_\lambda^{n+1}(z), \mathbb{R}) < b < a$, which is a contradiction. Then $F^{n+1}(D) \cap \mathbb{R} = \emptyset$, and this ends the inductive proof.

Now we show that $\mathcal{S} \subset \overline{\mathcal{F}}$. Assume that $z \notin \overline{\mathcal{F}}$ and $z \in \mathcal{S}$. Then from Theorem A, z is periodic. Therefore its orbit is finite and $\inf_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = \min_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = a$. If $a = 0$ then $z \in \mathcal{F}$: a contradiction. So $a > 0$ and the disc D centered at z with radius $b < a$ does not intersect \mathcal{F} , a contradiction, again. \blacksquare

We denote by \mathcal{G} the critical set for F_λ^{-1} . That is

$$\mathcal{G} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_\lambda^i(\mathbb{R}).$$

Proposition 6. *The following assertions hold*

- (a) *If $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$ then the elements of $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ are aperiodic.*
- (b) *$\mathcal{G} \subset \overline{\mathcal{F}}$.*

Proof. (a) Assume, to get a contradiction, that $z \in \overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ is periodic. Therefore its orbit is finite and

$$\inf_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = \min_{n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}} d(F_\lambda^n(z), \mathbb{R}) = a.$$

From Lemma 5, $a = 0$. But this implies that $z \in \mathcal{F}$, a contradiction.

(b) Assume, to get a contradiction, that there exists $z \in \mathcal{G} \cap \mathcal{U}$. By Theorem A, z is periodic, but due to the bijectivity of F , this also implies that $z \in \mathcal{F}$, a contradiction. \blacksquare

Corollary 7. *The regular set \mathcal{U} and the closure of the critical set $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$ are invariant sets (both positively and negatively) for F_λ . Moreover $F_\lambda|_{\mathcal{U}}$ is a pointwise periodic homeomorphism, which permutes the connected components of \mathcal{U} .*

Proof. By definition $F_\lambda(\mathcal{U}) \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$. On the other hand, as a consequence of Theorem A and Proposition 6 (a), $F_\lambda(\mathcal{U}) \cap (\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}) = \emptyset$. Then $F_\lambda(\mathcal{U}) \subset \mathcal{U}$. The same considerations holds for F_λ^{-1} and therefore \mathcal{U} is positively and negatively invariant. Since $\overline{\mathcal{F}}$ is the complement of \mathcal{U} , the same holds for it. Lastly, since \mathcal{U} is disjoint from the critical set of F_λ and F_λ^{-1} it follows that $F_\lambda|_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $F_\lambda^{-1}|_{\mathcal{U}}$ are both continuous maps. \blacksquare

The next result, characterizes each connected component of the regular set by its (periodic) itinerary:

Corollary 8. *Let V be a connected component of \mathcal{U} . Let I be a finite-length itinerary such that for all $z \in V$ we get $\underline{I}(z) = I^\infty$. Then $V = B(I^\infty)$. In particular the connected components of \mathcal{U} are convex.*

Proof. Clearly $V \subset B(I^\infty)$. On the other hand $B(I^\infty) \cap \overline{\mathcal{F}} = \emptyset$, because by definition it does not contains points in \mathcal{F} , and the points in $\overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}$ are not periodic (Proposition 6). Therefore $B(I^\infty) \subset \mathcal{U}$. By Lemma 2 (ii), the set $B(I^\infty)$ is convex, so it is also connected and, in consequence, it is contained only in one connected component of \mathcal{U} . Then $B(I^\infty) \subset V$. ■

The following Proposition summarizes some known results about convex planar sets that we are going to use, see for instance [13, Part I, Chapter 1].

Proposition 9. *Let A be a convex open planar set and ∂A its boundary. Then the following assertions hold:*

- (a) *For any point $z \in A$ and any point $w \in \partial A$, the segment joining both points is entirely contained in A , except for the point w .*
- (b) *∂A is the union of a countable set of C^1 -open arcs and their endpoints.*
- (c) *If z belongs to one of the arcs in statement (b), then the tangent line to ∂A at z does not cut A .*
- (d) *If ∂A is a polygon, then it contains at most two segments with the same slope.*

Lemma 10. *The boundary of a connected component of \mathcal{U} is contained in \mathcal{F} .*

Proof. Let V be a connected component of \mathcal{U} and denote its boundary by ∂V . Since V is open $\partial V \subset \overline{\mathcal{F}}$. Let $z \in \partial V$ and assume, to obtain a contradiction, that $z \in \overline{\mathcal{F}} \setminus \mathcal{F}$. Pick a point $z' \in V$ and consider L be the segment that joints z' and z . By the convexity of V it follows that all points in L , except z , belong to V (Proposition 9 (a)). Since $z \notin \mathcal{F}$, by Lemma 4 all points in L , including z , have the same itinerary. From Theorem A, it follows that z' is periodic and hence its itinerary is also periodic. So the itinerary of z is periodic as well, and as a consequence, z is periodic. This fact contradicts Proposition 6 (a). ■

3.2 Proof of Theorem B

Proof of Theorem B. (a) Let $z \in \partial V$. From Lemma 10, z belongs to \mathcal{F} . Therefore there exists a first iterate i such that z belongs to $F_\lambda^{-i}(\mathbb{R})$. At this point note that $F_\lambda^{-i}(\mathbb{R})$ is a finite union of segments all of them with the same slope. The argument of this slope belongs to the set $\Theta = \left\{0, \frac{2\pi}{q}, \dots, \frac{(q-1)2\pi}{q}\right\}$. So there are q possible slopes in the case q odd and only $\frac{q}{2}$ in the even case. Note also that for each iterate i the number of endpoints of this

segments is finite and then the set of points in \mathcal{F} that are not contained in the interior of one segment in \mathcal{F} is countable.

From Proposition 9 (b), ∂V is a countable union of \mathcal{C}^1 -open arcs and their endpoints. We will show that each of these arcs is a segment with slope in Θ . Pick a point z in the interior of one of these arcs not belonging to the countable set of extremal points in \mathcal{F} . In this point, the tangent line to ∂V is well defined and it (locally) belongs to the interior of a segment in \mathcal{F} . It is clear that this segment must coincide with the tangent. If not, this segment crosses ∂V : a contradiction. So almost all points (all except a countable set) have a tangent with slope in Θ . Since the slope varies continuously in each arc, it follows that it is constant and each arc is a segment with slope in Θ . So ∂V is a polygon. Now the result about the number of sides follows from Proposition 9 (d).

(b) If $(\ell, q) = 1$ we get that F_λ^ℓ is a rotation with order q that leaves V invariant. So the only possibility is that either q is even and ∂V has q sides, or q is odd and ∂V has $2q$ sides. In the first case it follows that each side has the same length and also each angle of the polygon must be equal.

(c) In order to prove the existence of connected components of \mathcal{U} which are non-regular polygons, we consider $\alpha = 11\pi/6$ (that is, $\alpha = 2\pi p/q$ with $p = 11$ and $q = 12$), and we consider the non-regular hexagon

$$H := \left\langle (2, 0), \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}+3}{2}, 0 \right), \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}+3}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}-1}{2} \right), \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}+7}{4}, \frac{\sqrt{3}+1}{4} \right), \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}+2}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right), \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}+5}{4}, \frac{\sqrt{3}-1}{4} \right) \right\rangle,$$

where $\langle \rangle$ stands for the convex hull. The center of H is the point $C = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} + \frac{3}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \right) \in \mathcal{U}$, which is a 20-periodic point.

Carefully keeping track the iterates of the segment joining the points $(2, 0)$ and $\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}+3}{2}, 0 \right)$ which belong to \mathcal{F} , we obtain that all the segments of the boundary of H , belong to \mathcal{F} .

By inspection, we have that the interior of this hexagon, H° , does not cut the discontinuity line. The maps F^+ and F^- , respectively, are rotations of angle $\alpha = 11\pi/6$ around the centers of the upper and lower big dodecagons depicted in Figure 2, respectively. Hence, the images by F of the interior of the hexagon, $H_n^\circ = F^n(H^\circ)$, evolve describing a rotation around the dodecagon which corresponds with the address of the center of H_n° . As a consequence, one can check that $H_{20}^\circ = H^\circ$ and that for $n = 0, \dots, 19$, $H_n^\circ \cap \mathbb{R} = \emptyset$. As a consequence, these 20 open irregular hexagons are an invariant subset of \mathcal{U} under the action of F . ■

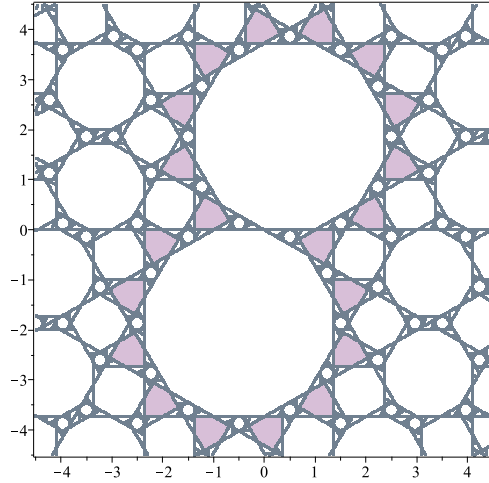


Figure 2: The 20-periodic irregular hexagons associate to the hexagon H , for $\alpha = 11\pi/6$.

4 Some further evidences.

One of the main differences between the special cases studied in [2, 7, 8, 10], in which $\alpha \in \mathcal{R} = \{\pi/3, \pi/2, 2\pi/3, 4\pi/3, 3\pi/2, 5\pi/3\}$, and the cases $\alpha = 2\pi\frac{p}{q} \notin \mathcal{R}$, is the apparent fractalization of both \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{U} (see Figure 3, for instance), and the unboundedness of the periods of the periodic orbits that can be found in compact sets. In this final section, we present some particular evidences in this direction.

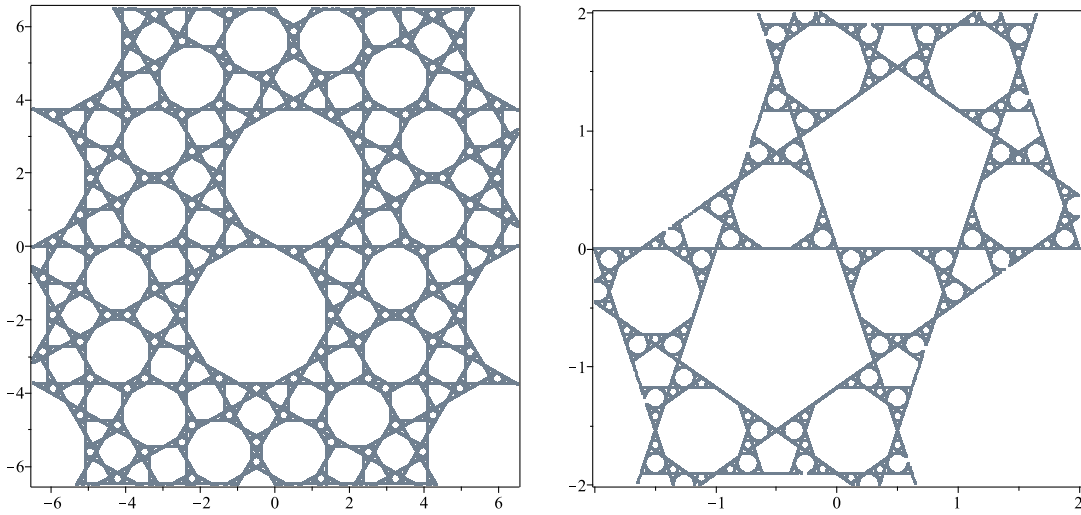


Figure 3: Apparent fractalization of \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{U} when $\alpha = 2\pi\frac{p}{q} \notin \mathcal{R}$, for the cases $\alpha = \frac{11\pi}{6}$ and $\alpha = \frac{8\pi}{5}$, respectively.

As an example, for $\alpha = 8\pi/5$, by using geometrical arguments we found a scale factor of $1/\varphi^3$, where $\varphi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ is the golden ratio, between the triangle contained in \mathcal{F} , defined by the points

$$Q = (-\varphi, 0), R = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{(1 + 2\varphi)\varphi\sqrt{\varphi + 2}}{2}\right) \text{ and } S = (1 + \varphi, 0)$$

and, seemingly, two infinite sequence of nested triangles in both left and right directions. More precisely, the left sequence of nested triangles are obtained using the rescaling $r(x, y) = ((2\varphi - 3)x + 2 - 2\varphi, (2\varphi - 3)y)$ (notice that $1/\varphi^3 = 2\varphi - 3$). Starting by $\triangle QRS$ and obtaining the sequence $\triangle QR_iS_i$ where $R_i = r^i(R)$ and $S_i = r^i(S)$. See Figure 4.

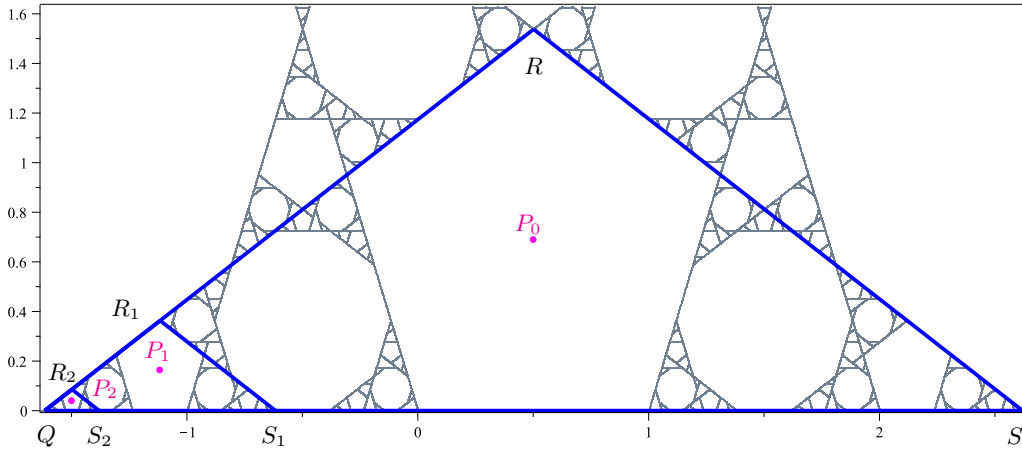


Figure 4: Sequence of nested triangles defined by the critical curves for $\alpha = \frac{8\pi}{5}$. In blue, $\triangle QRS$, $\triangle QR_1S_1$ and $\triangle QR_2S_2$. In magenta, the periodic points P_0, P_1 and P_2 .

The rescaling r allows to obtain a seemingly infinite sequence of periodic points with unbounded periods in a compact set of \mathcal{U} . Indeed, if we consider the fixed point $P_0 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{10}\sqrt{(2 + \varphi)^3}\right)$, which is the center of the pentagon in Figure 4, and we consider the recurrence $P_{n+1} = r(P_n)$, we obtain a sequence of nested pentagons whose periods seems to monotonically increase, see also Figure 4.

$P_n = r^n(P_0)$	P_0	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8	P_9
Period	1	7	38	232	1338	8332	49988	299932	1799588	10797532

Table 1: First periods of the centers of the pentagons in Figure 4.

For instance, $P_1 = r(P_0)$ is the center of a second pentagon and it is 7-periodic, which induces a 7-periodic inter-tile dynamics. Its itinerary map is a 5-order rotation, hence there

exists 7 pentagons filled by 35-periodic orbits. See Figure 5. The first periods we encounter are given in Table 1

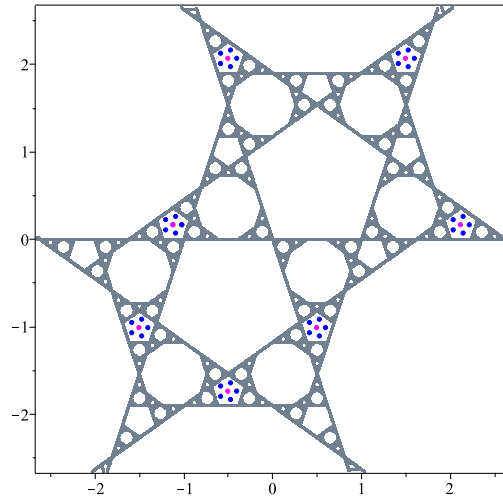


Figure 5: The 7-periodic orbit associate with $P_1 = r(P_0)$ in Magenta. All the points in the corresponding pentagons are 35-periodic. In blue a 35-periodic orbit.

Also, it seems that $\text{period}(P_{n+1})/\text{period}(P_n) \rightarrow 6$. The existence of this sequence of points implies the existence of nested connected components of \mathcal{U} in bounded regions, filled by periodic points whose periods seem to increase indefinitely. This allows to find segments in \mathcal{F} belonging to the boundaries of these connected components of \mathcal{U} , filled by periodic points whose periods also seem to increase indefinitely.

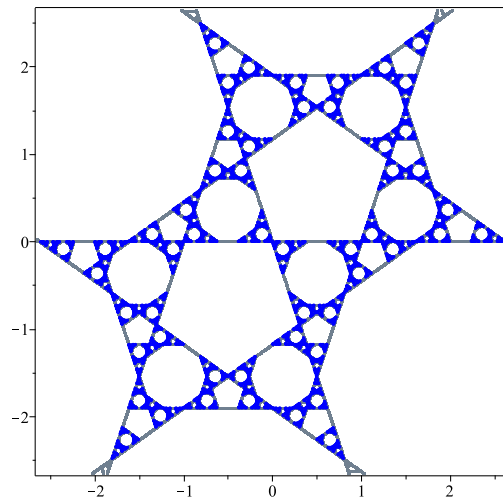


Figure 6: Some iterates of the orbit of the point $Q = (-\varphi, 0) \in \mathcal{F}$ in blue.

It is also still open the possibility of the existence of aperiodic points in \mathcal{F} . In this sense, observe that the sequence of points $\{P_n\}_n$ converges to the point $Q = (-\varphi, 0) \in \mathcal{F}$. This point has been identified as a possible aperiodic point in [5]. In Figure 6, the orbit of Q is displayed.

We notice that we could compute, analytically, a very large number of iterates of Q without finding a period. This is because, for this case $\lambda = \exp(i8\pi/5) = \exp(-i2\pi/5) = (\varphi - 1)/2 - i\sqrt{\varphi + 2}/2$. Hence, by using the relation $\varphi^2 = \varphi + 1$, and setting $Q = -\varphi \in \mathbb{C}$, we obtain that:

$$Q_n = F_\lambda^n(Q) = a_n + b_n\varphi + i(c_n + d_n\varphi)\sqrt{2 + \varphi},$$

with $a_n, b_n, c_n, d_n \in \mathbb{Q}$, hence we could work with rational arithmetic. For instance, the first 10 iterates are:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_0 &= -\varphi, Q_1 = -\frac{\varphi}{2} + i\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varphi}{2}\right)\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_2 = 1 + \frac{\varphi}{2} + i\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varphi}{2}\right)\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_3 = 1 + \varphi, \\ Q_4 &= \frac{1}{2} - i\frac{\varphi}{2}\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_5 = -1 - i\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_6 = -1 - \frac{\varphi}{2} + i\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\varphi}{2}\right)\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, \\ Q_7 &= -\frac{\varphi}{2} + i\left(\frac{\varphi}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\right)\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_8 = i\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_9 = \frac{3}{2} + i\frac{\varphi}{2}\sqrt{2 + \varphi}, Q_{10} = \varphi. \end{aligned}$$

Interestingly, the points of the sequence that return to the critical line seem to have the form $a_n + b_n\varphi$ where $a_n, b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$. For instance the returns in the first 220 iterates are: $Q_0 = -\varphi, Q_3 = 1 + \varphi, Q_{10} = \varphi, Q_{15} = -2 + \varphi, Q_{38} = -3 + \varphi, Q_{48} = -3 + 3\varphi, Q_{53} = -5 + 3\varphi, Q_{78} = -7 + 5\varphi, Q_{83} = -9 + 5\varphi, Q_{93} = -9 + 7\varphi, Q_{220} = -10 + 7\varphi$.

Acknowledgements

The first, second and fourth authors are supported by Ministry of Science and Innovation–State Research Agency of the Spanish Government through grants PID2019-104658GB-I00 (first and second authors) and MTM2017-86795-C3-1-P (fourth autor). They are also supported by the grant 2021-SGR-00113 from AGAUR. The second author is supported by grant Severo Ochoa and María de Maeztu Program for Centers and Units of Excellence in R&D (CEX2020-001084-M). The third author acknowledges the group research recognition 2021-SGR-01039 from AGAUR. We thank our colleague Roser Guardia for the indications regarding the scale factor of the critical set that we mentioned in Section 4.

References

- [1] G. I. Bischi, L. Gardini, C. Mira. *Maps with denominator. Part 1: some generic properties*. Int. J. Bifurcation & Chaos 9 (1999), 119–153.

- [2] M. Boshernitzan, A. Goetz. *A dichotomy for a two-parameter piecewise rotation*. Ergod. Th. & Dynam. Sys. 23 (2003), 759–770.
- [3] Y. C. Chang, S. S. Cheng. *Complete periodicity analysis for a discontinuous recurrence equation*. Int. J. Bifurcations and Chaos 23 (2013), 1330012 (34 pages).
- [4] Y. C. Chang, S. S. Cheng. *Complete periodic behaviours of real and complex bang bang dynamical systems*. J. Difference Equations and Appl. 20 (2014), 765–810.
- [5] Y. C. Chang, S. S. Cheng, Y. C. Yeh. *Abundant periodic and aperiodic solutions of a discontinuous three-term recurrence relation*. J. Difference Equations and Appl. 25 (2019), 1082–1106.
- [6] Y. C. Chang, G. Q. Wang, S. S. Cheng. *Complete set of periodic solutions of a discontinuous recurrence equation*. J. Difference Equations and Appl. 18 (2012), 1133–1162.
- [7] Y. Cheung, A. Goetz, A. Quas. *Piecewise isometries, uniform distribution and $3 \log 2 + \pi^2/8$* . Ergod. Th. & Dynam. Sys. 32 (2012), 1862–1888
- [8] A. Cima, A. Gasull, V. Mañosa, F. Mañosas. *Pointwise periodic maps with quantized first integrals*. Commun. Nonlinear Sci. Numer. Simulat. 108 (2022), 106150 (26 pages)
- [9] F. Dogru, S. Tabachnikov. *Dual billiards*. Math. Intelligencer 27 (2005), 18–25.
- [10] A. Goetz, A. Quas. *Global properties of a family of piecewise isometries*. Ergod. Th. & Dynam. Sys. 29 (2009), 545–568.
- [11] E. Gutkin, N. Simanyi. *Dual polygonal billiards and necklace dynamics*. Commun. Math. Phys. 143 (1992), 431–449.
- [12] C. Mira, L. Gardini, A. Barugola, J. C. Cathala. *Chaotic Dynamics in Two-Dimensional Noninvertible Maps*. World Scientific, Singapore 1996.
- [13] L. A. Santaló. *Integral Geometry and Geometric Probability*, 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2004.
- [14] F. Vivaldi, A. V. Shaidenko. *Global stability of a class of discontinuous dual billiards*. Commun. Math. Phys. 110 (1987), 625–640.