

## Non-landing hairs in Sierpiński curve Julia sets of transcendental entire maps

by

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**Abstract.** We consider the family of transcendental entire maps given by  $f_a(z) = a(z - (1 - a)) \exp(z + a)$  where  $a$  is a complex parameter. Every map has a superattracting fixed point at  $z = -a$  and an asymptotic value at  $z = 0$ . For  $a > 1$  the Julia set of  $f_a$  is known to be homeomorphic to the Sierpiński universal curve, thus containing embedded copies of any one-dimensional plane continuum. In this paper we study subcontinua of the Julia set that can be defined in a combinatorial manner. In particular, we show the existence of non-landing hairs with prescribed combinatorics embedded in the Julia set for all parameters  $a \geq 3$ . We also study the relation between non-landing hairs and the immediate basin of attraction of  $z = -a$ . Even though each non-landing hair accumulates on the boundary of the immediate basin at a single point, its closure is an indecomposable subcontinuum of the Julia set.

**1. Introduction.** Let  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a transcendental entire map. The *Fatou set*  $\mathcal{F}(f)$  is the largest open set where iterates of  $f$  form a normal family. Its complement in  $\mathbb{C}$  is the *Julia set*  $\mathcal{J}(f)$  and it is a non-empty unbounded subset of the plane. When the set of singular values is bounded, we say  $f$  is of *bounded singular type* and denote this class of maps by  $\mathcal{B}$ . It has been shown in [Ba] and [R1] that the Julia set of a hyperbolic map in  $\mathcal{B}$  contains uncountably many unbounded curves, usually known as *hairs* [DT]. A hair is said to *land* if it is homeomorphic to the half-closed ray  $[0, +\infty)$ . The point corresponding to  $t = 0$  is known as the *endpoint* of the hair. In contrast, if its accumulation set is a non-trivial continuum, we obtain a *non-landing* hair.

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In this paper we study a particular class of non-landing hairs in the Julia set of transcendental entire maps given by

$$f_a(z) = a(z - (1 - a)) \exp(z + a),$$

when  $a$  is a real parameter. For all complex values of  $a$ , the map  $f_a$  has a superattracting fixed point at  $z = -a$  and an asymptotic value at the origin whose dynamics depends on the parameter  $a$ . If the orbit of the asymptotic value escapes to  $+\infty$ , we say  $a$  is an *escaping parameter*. For example, when  $a > 1$ , the orbit of the asymptotic value escapes to  $+\infty$  along the positive real axis.

To our knowledge, the family  $f_a$  was first introduced by Morosawa [M] as an example of a transcendental entire map whose Julia set is homeomorphic to the *Sierpiński curve* continuum when  $a > 1$ . Any planar set that is compact, connected, locally connected, nowhere dense, and has the property that any two complementary domains are bounded by disjoint simple closed curves is homeomorphic to the Sierpiński curve (Whyburn [W]). It is also a *universal* continuum, in the sense that it contains a homeomorphic copy of every one-dimensional plane continuum (Sierpiński [S]). We take advantage of this property to combinatorially construct subsets of  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$ ,  $a > 1$ , that in turn are *indecomposable continua*. An *indecomposable continuum* is a compact connected set that cannot be written as the union of two proper connected closed subsets. Observe that a landing hair together with the point at infinity is in fact a decomposable continuum.

Every known example in the literature of indecomposable subsets of Julia sets arises from a single family of maps, namely the exponential family  $E_\lambda(z) = \lambda \exp(z)$ . The first example was given by Devaney [D] when  $\lambda = 1$  so the asymptotic value escapes to infinity and the Julia set is the whole plane. Under the assumption that either the asymptotic value escapes to infinity or has a preperiodic orbit (thus again  $\mathcal{J}(E_\lambda) = \mathbb{C}$ ), several authors have been able to construct topologically distinct indecomposable continua embedded in  $\mathcal{J}(E_\lambda)$  (see, among other works, [DJ1], [DJM], and [R2], where a generalization of previous results for a large set of  $\lambda$ -parameters can be found).

Our work provides examples of indecomposable subcontinua of Julia sets outside the exponential family and without the assumption that  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$  equals  $\mathbb{C}$ , since  $f_a$  has a superattracting fixed point for all  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{A}(-a)$  the *basin of attraction* of  $-a$ , that is, the set of points with forward orbits converging to  $-a$ . Also denote by  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  the *immediate basin of attraction* of  $-a$ , which is the connected component of  $\mathcal{A}(-a)$  containing  $-a$ . In [M] Morosawa showed that all connected components of  $\mathcal{A}(-a)$  are bounded Jordan domains. Moreover, whenever  $a > 1$ , the orbit of the free asymptotic value escapes to infinity. Since there are no other singu-

lar values,  $\mathcal{F}(f_a)$  cannot contain another attracting basin, or a parabolic basin, or a Siegel disk, as these components must be associated with a non-escaping singular value. Maps with a finite number of singular values exhibit neither wandering domains ([EL, GK]) nor Baker domains ([EL]). Hence  $\mathcal{F}(f_a) = \mathcal{A}(-a)$ . In Figure 1, we display the dynamical plane of  $f_a$  for different values of  $a > 1$ . The basin of attraction of  $-a$  is black, while points in the Julia set are white.

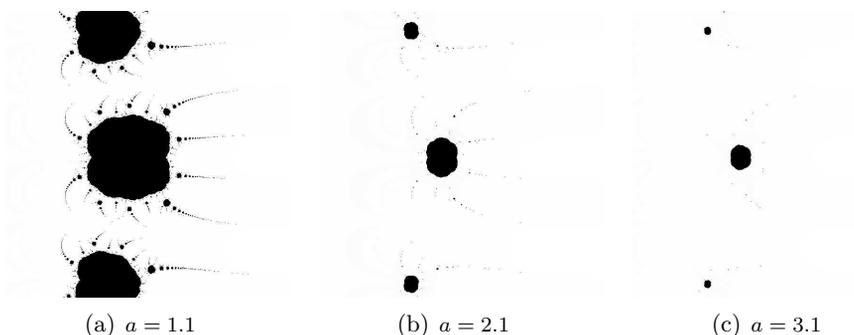


Fig. 1. The Julia set for  $f_a$  (and  $a$  an escaping parameter) is white, and the Fatou set is black.

Let us summarize our main results. Since  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$  is homeomorphic to the Sierpiński universal curve, it must contain embedded copies of planar indecomposable continua, so we obtain some of them in terms of its combinatorics. To do so, we first characterize the topology and dynamics of the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  by a polynomial-like construction (Proposition 2.4). Then, using general results on transcendental entire maps, we obtain curves in the Julia set contained in the far right plane and with specific combinatorics (Proposition 2.9). By a controlled process of consecutive pullbacks of some of these curves, we extend them into non-landing hairs that limit upon themselves at every point (Theorem 3.6). Using a result due to Curry [C], we show that the closures of such hairs are indecomposable continua (Theorem 4.2). Finally, we study the relation between each indecomposable continuum and the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ , showing that the intersection of these two sets reduces to a unique point (Theorem 4.4). As a consequence of these results, we show the existence of a dense set of points in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  that are landing points of a unique hair (in particular there are no *pinchings* that arise in other maps in the class  $\mathcal{B}$  having a superattracting basin), while there is a residual set of points in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  that, even though they belong to the accumulation set of a certain ray, are not landing points of hairs.

The outline of this paper is as follows: in §2 we describe the dynamical plane of  $f_a$  for  $a \geq 3$ . §3 contains most of our technical results, while in §4 we provide the proofs of our main results.

*Notation and terminology.*

- $B_\varepsilon(x) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z - x| < \varepsilon\}$ .
- $\overline{U}$  denotes the closure of a set  $U$ .
- Connected components will be referred to as components.
- A curve  $\gamma$  *cuts across* a
  1. line  $L$  if the intersection  $\gamma \cap L$  is not tangential,
  2. rectangle  $R$  if  $\gamma$  cuts across both vertical boundaries of  $R$  so  $\gamma \cap R$  contains a component (with endpoints) joining those sides,
  3. semi-annular region  $A$  if  $\gamma$  cuts across the inner and outer semi-circular boundaries of  $A$  so  $\gamma \cap A$  contains a connected component (with endpoints) joining those boundaries.

**2. Dynamical plane for escaping real parameters.** Consider escaping parameters of the form  $a > 1$  for the family of transcendental entire maps

$$f_a(z) = a(z - (1 - a)) \exp(z + a),$$

which have a unique asymptotic value at  $z = 0$  and a superattracting fixed point at  $z = -a$ . For  $a > 1$ , the asymptotic value escapes to infinity along the positive real line and the Fatou set reduces to the basin of attraction of  $-a$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(-a)$ . Our first aim in this section is to provide a partition of the complex plane that will allow us to combinatorially analyze the dynamics of points in the Julia set.

We start by taking preimages of the forward invariant set  $\mathbb{R}^+$ . Any point  $z = x + iy$  in the complex plane whose image under  $f_a$  is a real positive number must satisfy

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} (x - (1 - a)) \cos y - y \sin y &> 0, \\ (x - (1 - a)) \sin y + y \cos y &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

From these conditions, the preimages of  $\mathbb{R}^+$  are infinitely many analytic curves parametrized by  $(x, \zeta_j(x))$  with  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ . For  $j = 0$ ,  $\zeta_0(x)$  is 0 and is defined for all  $x \in (1 - a, +\infty)$ , while the other  $\zeta_j$ 's are strictly monotonic functions of  $x$  defined for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . When  $j \neq 0$ , each  $\zeta_j$  has two horizontal asymptotes, given by

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \zeta_j(x) = \text{sign}(j)(2|j| - 1)\pi i \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \zeta_j(x) = 2j\pi i.$$

For our purposes, we need to consider the preimage of the interval  $(-\infty, -a)$  inside the region bounded by  $\zeta_1$  and  $\zeta_{-1}$  (see Figure 2). We obtain two strictly monotonic curves  $\eta_1(x)$  and  $\eta_{-1}(x)$  defined for  $x \in [-a, +\infty)$ , satisfying

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -a^+} \eta_{\pm 1}(x) = 0, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \eta_1(x) = \pi i, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \eta_{-1}(x) = -\pi i.$$

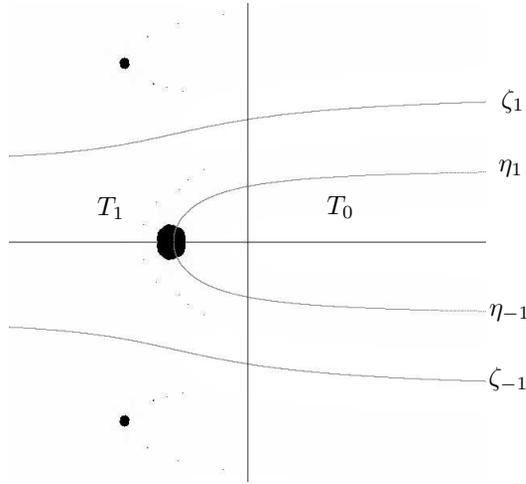


Fig. 2. The dynamical plane of  $f_{3.1}$  and the region  $T_0 \cup T_1$ . The boundary curves  $\zeta_1$  and  $\zeta_{-1}$  extend from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$  while the curves  $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_{-1}$  meet at  $-a = -3.1$  and extend to  $+\infty$ .

Let  $T_0$  denote the open connected set containing  $z = 0$  and bounded by  $\eta_1 \cup \eta_{-1}$ . Similarly, let  $T_1$  be the open connected set bounded by  $\zeta_{-1} \cup \eta_{-1} \cup \eta_1 \cup \zeta_1$ . Far to the right,  $T_1$  consists of two unbounded disjoint strips, one above and one below the positive real line. Since most of our results involve the dynamics of points in  $T_0 \cup T_1$ , we construct a refinement of this region. For  $j = 0, 1$ , denote by  $T_{j_1}$  and  $T_{j_2}$  the proper disjoint domains in  $T_j \setminus \mathbb{R}$  with negative and positive imaginary part, respectively. Finally, for each  $j \in \mathbb{Z}, j \neq 0, 1$ , denote by  $T_j$  the open connected strip bounded by the curves  $\zeta_{j-1}$  and  $\zeta_j$  as  $\text{Im}(z)$  increases. Then  $\{T_j \mid j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  defines the partition of the complex plane sought, while  $\{T_{j_i} \mid j = 0, 1, i = 1, 2\}$  defines a refinement of the region  $T_0 \cup T_1$ .

It is straightforward to verify that

$$f_a : T_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus (-\infty, -a] \quad \text{and} \quad f_a : T_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus ((-\infty, -a] \cup [0, +\infty))$$

are one-to-one maps. Denote by  $g_a^0 = f_a^{-1}|_{T_0}$  and  $g_a^1 = f_a^{-1}|_{T_1}$  the corresponding inverse branches of  $f_a$  taking values in  $T_0$  and  $T_1$ , respectively. As for the refinement of  $T_0 \cup T_1$ , we denote by  $g_a^{j_1}$  and  $g_a^{j_2}$  the appropriate restrictions of  $g_a^j$  mapping into  $T_{j_1}$  and  $T_{j_2}$ , respectively.

Assume  $z$  is a point of the Julia set whose orbit is entirely contained in  $\bigcup_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} T_j$ . We can naturally associate to  $z$  the *itinerary*  $s(z) = (s_0, s_1, \dots)$ , with  $s_j \in \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $f_a^{s_j}(z) \in T_{s_j}$ . Let us concentrate on the space  $\Sigma_B = \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$  of *binary sequences* (or *B-sequences*). With respect to the refinement of  $T_0 \cup T_1$ , consider the space of *extended sequences* given by  $\Sigma_E =$

$\{0_1, 0_2, 1_1, 1_2\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Since  $f_a$  is a one-to-one map in  $T_0$  and  $T_1$ , not all extended sequences are *allowable*, because  $f_a$  behaves as a subshift of finite type over the set of points with full orbits inside  $T_{0_1} \cup T_{0_2} \cup T_{1_1} \cup T_{1_2}$ . Its transition matrix is given by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and determines the space of *allowable extended sequences* (or *A-sequences*) given by

$$\Sigma_A = \{(s_0, s_1, \dots) \in \Sigma_E \mid s_i \in \{0_1, 0_2, 1_1, 1_2\}, a_{s_i s_{i+1}} = 1, \forall i\}.$$

Denote by  $\pi : \Sigma_A \rightarrow \Sigma_B$  the *projection map* that transforms an *A*-sequence into a *B*-sequence by erasing all subscripts. The form of the matrix  $A$  makes it evident that  $\pi$  is a 2-to-1 map. For a given *B*-sequence  $t$ , denote by  $t^1$  and  $t^2$  the unique *A*-sequences so that  $\pi(t^j) = t$ . Observe that by interchanging all subscripts in  $t^1$  we obtain  $t^2$ , and conversely.

REMARK 2.1. It is important to observe that points on the real line (or on any of its preimages) do not have well defined *A*-sequences. However, since  $\mathbb{R}$  is forward invariant under  $f_a$ , its dynamics and combinatorics are completely understood. Based on the next result, from now on we will only consider *B*-sequences (and the associated two *A*-sequences) that do not end in all zeros.

LEMMA 2.2. *Assume  $a > 1$  and let  $w \in \mathcal{J}(f_a)$  be such that  $f_a^k(w) \in T_0 \cup T_1$  for all  $k \geq 0$ . Then  $w \in \mathbb{R} \cap T_j$  if and only if  $s(w) = (j, 0, 0, \dots)$  for  $j = 0, 1$ .*

*Proof.* The direct implication follows easily by analyzing the action of  $f_a$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Whenever  $a > 1$ , the set  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  intersects the real line in an open interval  $(q_a, p_a)$ , where  $p_a$  is a repelling fixed point and  $q_a$  is its only preimage in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Moreover  $(-\infty, q_a) \cup (p_a, +\infty)$  consists of points that escape to  $+\infty$  along  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , and hence belong to  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$ . Since  $f_a$  maps  $(-\infty, q_a]$  onto  $[p_a, +\infty)$  and this second interval is fixed by  $f_a$ , it follows that  $w$  has a well defined itinerary given by  $s(w) = (1, 0, 0, \dots)$  if  $w \in (-\infty, q_a] \subset T_1$ , or  $s(w) = (0, 0, \dots)$  if  $w \in [p_a, +\infty) \subset T_0$ .

To see the converse, it is enough to show that the interval  $[p_a, +\infty)$  represents the only set of points in the Julia set that remain inside  $T_0$  for all positive iterates. To do so, we analyze the preimages of  $\eta_1$  inside  $T_{0_2}$  (the case of  $\eta_{-1}$  and  $T_{0_1}$  is analogous). Since  $f_a$  maps  $T_{0_2}$  onto the upper half-plane  $\text{Im}(z) > 0$ , for each  $k \geq 1$ , the  $k$ th preimage of  $\eta_1$  in  $T_{0_2}$ , namely  $\eta_1^k = (g_a^{0_2})^k(\eta_1)$ , lies inside  $T_{0_2}$  (except for its endpoint at  $z = -a$ ) and

extends towards infinity into the right half-plane. In particular, it lies in the strip bounded by  $[-a, +\infty)$  and  $\eta_1^{k-1}$  (from bottom to top). Also, note that  $\eta_1^k$  and  $\eta_1^j$  meet only at  $z = -a$  whenever  $k \neq j$ . We claim that  $\eta_1^k$  accumulates on  $[p_a, +\infty)$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Indeed, otherwise we can find a point  $x \in [-a, +\infty)$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $B_\varepsilon(x) \cap \eta_1^k = \emptyset$  for all  $k \geq 1$ . However, since  $x$  belongs to the Julia set, Montel's Theorem yields an integer  $N > 0$  for which  $f_a^N(B_\varepsilon(x)) \cap \eta_1 \neq \emptyset$ . Hence,  $B_\varepsilon(x) \cap \eta_1^N \neq \emptyset$ , a contradiction.

Finally, for any given point  $w \in T_{0_2}$  such that  $s(w) = (0, 0, \dots)$ , there exists an integer  $m > 0$  for which either  $w \in \eta_1^m$ , or  $w$  lies in the interior of the strip bounded by  $\eta_1^{m+1}$  and  $\eta_1^m$  (from bottom to top). In both situations,  $f_a^{m+1}(w)$  lies outside  $T_0$ . This finishes the proof. ■

The rest of this section is devoted to a combinatorial description of the dynamics of points with forward orbits contained in  $T_0 \cup T_1$  using  $A$ - and  $B$ -sequences. First, we focus on the set  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  and then analyze points in the Julia set that lie far to the right in  $T_0 \cup T_1$ . Using known results in complex dynamics we will prove that points with forward orbits completely contained in a given right hand plane are organized into continuous curves and their combinatorics is governed by the transition matrix  $A$ . For future reference, we compute the image of a vertical segment bounded above and below by  $\zeta_1$  and  $\zeta_{-1}$ , respectively.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  be fixed and consider the vertical segment  $L[x] = \{x + iy \mid \zeta_{-1}(x) \leq y \leq \zeta_1(x)\}$ . Then  $f_a(L[x])$  lies inside the closed round annulus  $f_a(x) \leq |z| \leq f_a(x + \zeta_1(x))$ .*

*Proof.* From the definition of the map  $f_a$  we have

$$|f_a(x + iy)| = a \exp(x + a) \sqrt{(x - (1 - a))^2 + y^2}.$$

Evidently, when restricted to  $L[x]$  for a fixed  $x$ , the above expression reaches its minimum value at  $y = 0$  and maximum value at  $y = \zeta_1(x) = \zeta_{-1}(x)$ . ■

**2.1. Dynamics near  $z = -a$ .** In [M] it was shown that for  $a > 1$ , each Fatou domain of  $f_a$  is a bounded connected component of  $\mathcal{A}(-a)$  whose boundary is a Jordan curve. Here we show that  $\overline{\mathcal{A}^*(-a)}$  is in fact a quasiconformal image of the closed unit disk. Precisely, we describe a set of points with bounded orbits inside  $T_0 \cup T_1$  through a polynomial-like construction (see [DH]) around the unique and simple critical point  $z = -a$ . For technical reasons, we restrict to parameters  $a \geq 3$  from now on.

PROPOSITION 2.4. *For any  $a \geq 3$ , there exist open, bounded, simply connected domains  $U_a$  and  $V_a$  with  $-a \in \overline{U_a} \subset V_a$  such that  $(f_a, U_a, V_a)$  is a quadratic-like mapping. Furthermore, the filled Julia set of  $(f_a, U_a, V_a)$  is the image under a quasiconformal mapping of the closed unit disk and coincides with  $\overline{\mathcal{A}^*(-a)}$ .*

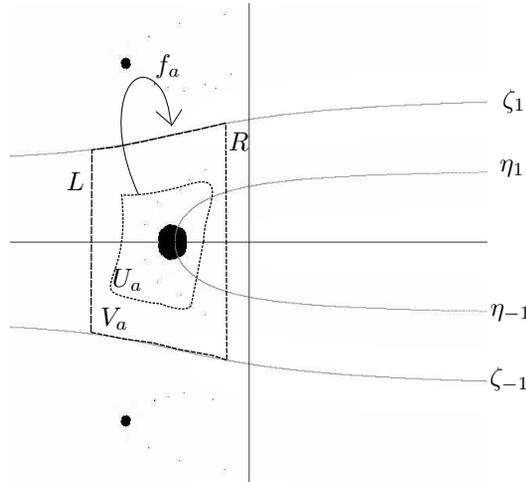


Fig. 3. A sketch of the domains  $U_a$  and  $V_a$  found in Proposition 2.4

*Proof.* Define  $V_a$  as the open, simply connected pseudo-rectangle given by

$$V_a = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid -a - 6 \ln a < \operatorname{Re}(z) < (1 - a)/2, \\ \zeta_{-1}(\operatorname{Re}(z)) < \operatorname{Im}(z) < \zeta_1(\operatorname{Re}(z))\}.$$

First, we show that  $V_a$  maps outside itself. Indeed, the top and bottom boundaries of  $V_a$  map into a segment lying on the positive real line, thus outside  $V_a$  as  $(1 - a)/2 \leq -1$ . Also, note that  $V_a$  lies in the interior of the annulus

$$|1 - a|/2 \leq |z| \leq |-a - 6 \ln a + i2\pi|.$$

Following the notation in Lemma 2.3,  $L = L[-a - 6 \ln a]$  and  $R = L[(1 - a)/2]$  are the left and right boundaries of  $V_a$ . We show next that the images of  $L$  and  $R$  lie in different components of the complement of the annulus. First, for  $z \in L$  we have

$$|f_a(z)| = \frac{1}{a^5} \sqrt{(1 + 6 \ln a)^2 + y^2} < \frac{1}{a^5} \sqrt{(1 + 6 \ln a)^2 + 4\pi^2} < \frac{1}{2} < \frac{|1 - a|}{2}.$$

Similarly, if  $z \in R$  then

$$|f_a(z)| = ae^{(a+1)/2} \sqrt{\left(\frac{1 - a}{2}\right)^2 + y^2} \\ > ae^{(a+1)/2} \frac{|1 - a|}{2} > \sqrt{(a + 6 \ln a)^2 + 4\pi^2}$$

for all  $a \geq 3$ , thus proving that  $V_a$  is mapped outside itself under  $f_a$ .

Now, we define  $U_a$  to be the connected component of  $f_a^{-1}(V_a)$  containing  $-a$ . Since  $-a$  is a superattracting fixed point with multiplicity one, and there are no other critical points, it follows that  $\bar{U}_a \subset V_a$  and the map

$f_a : U_a \rightarrow V_a$  sends  $\partial U_a$  to  $\partial V_a$  with degree 2, as  $-a$  is a simple critical point. We conclude that  $(f_a, U_a, V_a)$  is a quadratic-like mapping.

What is left to verify is that the filled Julia set of  $(f_a, U_a, V_a)$  is a quasidisk. Recall that the filled Julia set of a polynomial-like mapping is defined as the set  $\{z \in U_a \mid f_a^n(z) \in U_a \text{ for all } n \geq 0\}$ . As  $(f_a, U_a, V_a)$  is a quadratic-like mapping, it is quasiconformally conjugate to a polynomial of degree two that has a superattracting fixed point. Thus, the polynomial must be  $z \mapsto z^2$  after a holomorphic change of variables, if necessary. So the filled Julia set of  $(f_a, U_a, V_a)$  is the image under a quasiconformal mapping of the closed unit disk. ■

PROPOSITION 2.5. *Let  $a \geq 3$ . The following statements hold.*

- (a) *The map  $f_a$  restricted to the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  is conjugate to the map  $\theta \mapsto 2\theta$  on the unit circle.*
- (b) *Let  $t \in \Sigma_E$  be an extended sequence that does not end in  $0_i$ 's. Then  $t$  is an  $A$ -sequence if and only if there exists a unique point  $z \in \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  with itinerary  $t$ .*

*Proof.* Statement (a) is a direct consequence of the previous proposition since  $f_a$  is conjugate in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  to  $z \mapsto z^2$  acting on the unit circle.

We prove (b) by defining a partition of the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  that coincides with the refinement of the partition  $T_0 \cup T_1$  discussed before. For simplicity, angles are measured by  $[0, 1]$ . Denote by  $z(0)$ ,  $z(1/4)$ ,  $z(1/2)$  and  $z(3/4)$  the points in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  corresponding under the conjugacy between  $f_a$  and  $z \mapsto z^2$  to points in  $S^1$  of angle  $\theta = 0, 1/4, 1/2$  and  $3/4$ . Now label points in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  in the following way: traveling along  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  in a clockwise direction, associate the symbols  $0_1, 1_1, 1_2, 0_2$  to the arcs joining  $z(0)$  and  $z(3/4)$ ,  $z(3/4)$  and  $z(1/2)$ ,  $z(1/2)$  and  $z(1/4)$ , and  $z(1/4)$  and  $z(0)$  respectively. We leave it to the reader to verify that the transition matrix for this partition under the action of  $f_a$  is exactly  $A$  and the labeling is consistent with the one defined by the  $T_{j_i}$ 's. ■

THEOREM 2.6. *Let  $z$  be a point such that  $f_a^n(z) \in \overline{T_0 \cup T_1}$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . If  $z$  belongs to the Julia set and has bounded orbit, then  $z \in \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $z \in \mathcal{J}(f_a)$  satisfies the hypotheses, we can find  $m < 0 < M$  such that  $m < \text{Re}(f_a^n(z)) < M$  for all  $n \geq 0$ .

Choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough and denote  $B_\varepsilon = \overline{B_\varepsilon(0)}$ . Since the orbit of the origin escapes monotonically along the positive real line, redefining  $M$  if necessary, there exists an integer  $N = N(M) > 0$  for which  $B_\varepsilon, f_a(B_\varepsilon), \dots, f_a^N(B_\varepsilon)$  are pairwise disjoint compact domains such that for all  $0 \leq j \leq N - 1$ ,

$$f_a^j(B_\varepsilon) \subset T_0 \cap \{z \mid \text{Re}(z) < M\}, \quad f_a^N(B_\varepsilon) \subset T_0 \cap \{z \mid \text{Re}(z) > M\}.$$

Moreover, we may choose  $\varepsilon$  so small that  $B_\varepsilon, f_a(B_\varepsilon), \dots, f_a^N(B_\varepsilon)$  are all compact domains contained in  $T_0$ . Finally, select  $m' \leq m < 0$  so that the subset  $\{z \in T_1 \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq m'\}$  maps inside  $B_\varepsilon$ .

Denote by  $\Phi_a : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  the Böttcher coordinates tangent to the identity at the origin. For  $0 < r < 1$  let  $\Delta_r = \Phi_a(B_r(0))$ . Clearly  $\Delta_r \subset \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  and  $\Delta_r$  maps compactly into its own interior. Moreover, we can choose  $r$  small enough that for  $j = 0, 1, T_j \setminus \Delta_r$  is a connected set and the intersection of  $\Delta_r$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  is an open interval  $(c, d)$ , since  $\Phi_a$  has been chosen to be tangent to the identity at the origin. We can now define the set  $E$ , illustrated in Figure 4, as follows:

$$E = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid m' < \operatorname{Re}(z) < M, \zeta_{-1}(\operatorname{Re}(z)) < \operatorname{Im}(z) < \zeta_1(\operatorname{Re}(z))\} \setminus \Omega$$

where  $\Omega = \bigcup_{k=0}^{N-1} f_a^k(B_\varepsilon) \cup \Delta_r \cup [c, M]$ . It is easy to verify that  $E$  is an open, bounded, connected and simply connected set, and  $\partial \mathcal{A}^*(-a) \subset E$ . Moreover,  $E \subset f_a(E)$  although some boundary components map into  $\partial E$ . Indeed,  $f_a(\partial E) \cap \partial E$  consists of segments along the real line and  $f_a^j(\partial B_\varepsilon)$  belong to  $\partial E$  for  $j = 1, \dots, N - 1$ . So after  $N$  iterations, the only boundary points mapping into  $\partial E$  are points over the real line, thus having  $B$ -itineraries  $(1, 0, \dots)$  or  $(0, 0, \dots)$ . We show next that for  $\ell > 0$  sufficiently large,  $f_a^{-\ell}|_E$  becomes a strict contraction.

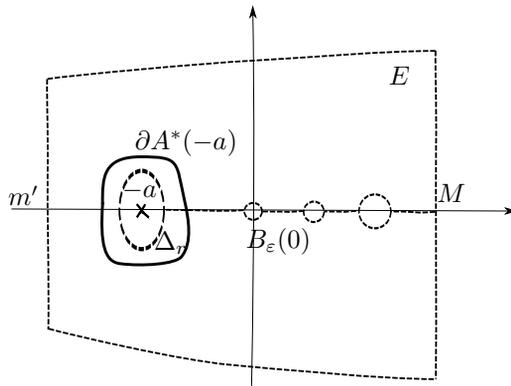


Fig. 4. A schematic representation of the set  $E$  described in Theorem 2.6

Let  $s = (s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots)$  be the  $A$ -sequence associated to  $z$ . If  $s$  has finitely many  $1_i$ 's, then its  $B$ -sequence ends with 0's, and since  $z$  has bounded orbit inside  $\overline{T_0 \cup T_1}$ , we have  $z \in \partial \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  by Lemma 2.2.

If  $s$  has infinitely many  $1_i$ 's, there exists a first integer  $n > N$  for which  $s_n \in \{1_1, 1_2\}$ , and thus  $\overline{E} \cap T_{s_n} \subset f^n(E)$ , as points in  $f^n(\partial E)$  mapping into  $\partial E$  now have itinerary  $(0, 0, \dots)$ .

For each  $k \in \{0_1, 0_2, 1_1, 1_2\}$ ,  $E \cap T_k$  is an open, connected and simply connected set with a Riemann mapping given by  $\psi_k : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow E \cap T_k$ . Consider

the mapping  $\Psi_\ell : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  with  $\ell > n$ , given by

$$\Psi_\ell = \psi_{s_0}^{-1} \circ (g_a^{s_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{s_{\ell-1}}) \circ \psi_{s_\ell}.$$

It follows that  $\Psi_\ell(\mathbb{D})$  is compactly contained in  $\mathbb{D}$ , that is, for  $\ell > n$ ,  $\Psi_\ell$  is a strict contraction with respect to the Poincaré metric on the unit disk. Consequently, the sets  $\overline{\Psi_\ell(\mathbb{D})}$  form a nested sequence of compact sets with diameters converging to zero as  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ . This implies that for any  $w \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $\lim_{\ell \rightarrow \infty} \Psi_\ell(w)$  exists and is independent of the point  $w$ . Therefore, by construction,  $\psi_{s_0}(\lim_{\ell \rightarrow \infty} \Psi_\ell(0)) = z$  is the unique point in  $E$  with itinerary  $s$ . From Proposition 2.5(b) we conclude  $z \in \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ . ■

**2.2. Dynamics near infinity.** Our first aim is to prove that for  $R > 0$  sufficiently large and the region

$$H_R = \{z \in T_0 \cup T_1 \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) \geq R\},$$

there exist continuous curves in  $\mathcal{J}(f_a) \cap H_R$  consisting of points whose orbits escape to  $+\infty$  with increasing real part. These curves are usually known as *tails*. The existence of tails as disjoint components of the Julia set was first observed by Devaney and Tangerman [DT] for certain entire transcendental maps and by Schleicher and Zimmer [SZ] for the exponential family  $E_\lambda(z) = \lambda \exp(z)$  and all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . In greater generality, Barański [Ba] and Rempe [R1] have shown the existence of tails for hyperbolic maps in the class  $\mathcal{B}$ .

For completeness, we analyze in detail some of their results in the setting of our work to obtain tails in  $\mathcal{J}(f_a) \cap H_R$ . Once each tail has been assigned an  $A$ -sequence, we describe a pullback process to compute the full set of points in  $T_0 \cup T_1$  associated to that  $A$ -sequence. In the final section, we study the topological properties of that set.

Consider an entire transcendental map  $f$  in the class  $\mathcal{B}$ . The *escaping set* of  $f$ , denoted by  $I(f)$ , is the set of points whose orbits under  $f$  tend to infinity. For an entire transcendental map, Erëmenko [E] has shown that the Julia set coincides with the boundary of  $I(f)$ . We say that two maps  $f, g \in \mathcal{B}$  are *quasiconformally equivalent near infinity* if there exist quasiconformal maps  $\phi_1, \phi_2 : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  that satisfy  $\phi_1 \circ f = g \circ \phi_2$  in a neighborhood of infinity.

**THEOREM 2.7** (Rempe, 2009). *Let  $f, g \in \mathcal{B}$  be two entire transcendental maps which are quasiconformally equivalent near infinity. Then there exist  $\rho > 0$  and a quasiconformal map  $\theta : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\theta \circ f = g \circ \theta$  on*

$$A_\rho = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |f^n(z)| > \rho, \forall n \geq 1\}.$$

*Furthermore, the complex dilatation of  $\theta$  on  $I(f) \cap A_\rho$  is zero.*

A straightforward computation shows that  $f_a(z)$  is conjugate to the function  $\tilde{f}_a(z) = az \exp(z + 1) - (1 - a)$  under the conformal isomorphism  $\varphi_a(z) = z - (1 - a)$ . Since  $\tilde{f}_a(z) = \varphi_a \circ f_a \circ \varphi_a^{-1}(z)$ , it is easily verified that  $\tilde{f}_a$  has a free asymptotic value at  $z = a - 1$  and a fixed critical point at

$z = -1$ . In turn,  $\tilde{f}_a$  is (globally) conformally equivalent to  $g_b(z) = bz \exp(z)$  via  $\phi_1(z) = \alpha z + \alpha(1 - a)$  and  $\phi_2(z) = z$ . Indeed, it is easy to see that  $\phi_1 \circ \tilde{f}_a = g_b \circ \phi_2$ , where  $b = ea\alpha$ .

For small values of  $b$ , the Fatou set of  $g_b$  consists solely of the completely invariant basin of attraction of the fixed point (and asymptotic value)  $z = 0$ . Thus, we can describe the Julia set of  $g_b$  by applying the following result found in [Ba].

**THEOREM 2.8** (Barański, 2007). *Let  $g$  be an entire transcendental function of finite order such that all critical and asymptotic values are contained in a compact subset of a completely invariant attracting basin of a fixed point. Then  $\mathcal{J}(g)$  consists of disjoint curves (hairs) homeomorphic to the half-line  $[0, +\infty)$ . Moreover, the hairs without endpoints are contained in the escaping set  $I(g)$ .*

These disjoint curves are usually known as hairs or *dynamic rays*. Several consequences are derived from the above theorem. Firstly, if  $\gamma$  denotes a hair, it can be parametrized by a continuous function  $h(t)$ ,  $t \in [0, +\infty)$ , such that  $\gamma = h([0, +\infty))$ . The point  $h(0)$  is called the *endpoint* of the hair. Secondly, each hair is a curve that extends to infinity and, for  $r > 0$ , we say that  $\omega = h((r, +\infty))$  is the *tail of the hair*. Moreover, all points in a given hair share the same symbolic itinerary defined by a dynamical partition of the plane with respect to  $f$ , and for every point  $z \in \gamma$  that is not the endpoint, we have  $f^n(z) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Finally, if  $f$  and  $g$  are as in Theorem 2.7 and in addition,  $g$  satisfies the hypotheses in Theorem 2.8, then near infinity the topological structure of the escaping set of  $f$  is also given by disjoint curves extending to infinity. We refer to [BJR] for a topological description of the Julia set in terms of what is known as *Cantor bouquets*. Furthermore, the dynamics of  $f$  on those curves is quasiconformally conjugate to the dynamics of  $g$  on the corresponding curves near infinity. We deduce the following result based on the previous theorems and the specific expression of  $f_a$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.9.** *Let  $f_a(z) = a(z - (1 - a)) \exp(z + a)$ ,  $g_b(z) = bz \exp(z)$ ,  $a \geq 3$ , and  $b$  a complex parameter.*

- (a) *If  $|b|$  is small enough, the Julia set of  $g_b$  is the union of disjoint hairs. Each hair lands at a distinguished endpoint. Moreover, hairs without endpoints are contained in  $I(g_b)$ .*
- (b) *Let  $R > 0$  be large enough. The set of points with forward  $f_a$ -orbits that are contained in  $H_R$  is the union of disjoint curves extending to infinity to the right. All points of those curves belong to  $I(f_a)$ . Precisely, these curves are quasiconformal copies of connected components of hairs described in (a).*

- (c) To each curve in (b) that does not coincide with  $\mathbb{R}$  or one of its preimages, we can assign a unique sequence  $t$  in  $\Sigma_A$ . We denote this curve by  $\omega_t$ . All points in  $\omega_t$  escape to infinity under the action of  $f_a$  following the itinerary  $t$ .
- (d) For any  $t \in \Sigma_A$ , if  $R > 0$  is large enough, there exists a unique curve  $\omega_t$  in  $H_R$ . Moreover, for each  $r \geq R$ ,  $\omega_t \cap \{z \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) = r\}$  is a unique point. In particular  $\omega_t$  is the graph of a Lipschitz function.
- (e)  $\omega_t$  is a tail, i.e., a quasiconformal copy of a tail in (a).

*Proof.* Statement (a) follows directly from Theorem 2.8. To see (b) note that for any  $a \neq 0$  and  $b$ , there exists  $\alpha = b/(ea)$  so  $f_a$  and  $g_b$  are (globally) conformally equivalent. By Theorem 2.7, there exists  $\rho > 0$  such that  $f_a$  and  $g_b$  are conjugate on the set  $A_\rho = \{z \mid |f_a^n(z)| > \rho, \forall n \geq 1\}$ . Let  $R > \rho$ . Denote by  $S$  the set of points in  $H_R$  with forward  $f_a$ -orbits contained in  $H_R$ . Clearly, each point in  $S$  must lie in  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$  (since a point in the Fatou set eventually maps into  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ ), and in particular  $S \subset \mathcal{J}(f_a) \cap A_R$ . Moreover, far enough to the right, a point  $z \in H_R$  whose forward orbit is in  $H_R$  must satisfy  $\operatorname{Re}(f_a^{k+1}(z)) > \operatorname{Re}(f_a^k(z))$  for all  $k > 0$  (see Lemma 2.3). Hence from Theorems 2.7 and 2.8 we know that  $S$  is the union of disjoint curves extending to infinity (that is, quasiconformal copies of components of the hairs in (a)) contained in the escaping set.

To prove (c) we start by assigning to each curve  $\omega$  in  $H_R$  a unique sequence in  $\Sigma_A$ . Let  $z_0 \in \omega$  and let  $s(z_0)$  be its itinerary in  $\Sigma_A$  in terms of the partition  $T_{0_1}, T_{0_2}, T_{1_1}, T_{1_2}$ . By assumption this itinerary is well defined since  $\omega$  is not  $\mathbb{R}$  or one of its preimages. Let  $z_1$  be another point in  $\omega$ . We claim that  $s(z_1) = s(z_0)$  and proceed by contradiction. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be the connected component of  $\omega$  joining  $z_0$  and  $z_1$ . If  $s(z_1) \neq s(z_0)$ , there exists a first integer  $k \geq 0$  for which the  $k$ th entries in both itineraries differ.

Hence there is a point  $q \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $f_a^k(q)$  belongs to either  $[R, \infty)$ ,  $\eta_1$  or  $\eta_{-1}$ . Clearly  $f_a^k(q)$  cannot belong to  $\eta_{\pm 1}$ , since otherwise  $f_a^{k+1}(q) \in \mathbb{R}^-$  and by hypothesis the forward orbit of  $q$  lies in  $H_R$ . On the other hand  $f_a^k(q)$  cannot belong to  $\mathbb{R}$  since by (b),  $f_a^k(\omega)$  and  $\mathbb{R}$  are disjoint curves in the escaping set.

Finally, there cannot be two curves having the same itinerary as this will imply the existence of an open set of points following the same itinerary, which is impossible. Thus, we may now denote by  $\omega_t$  the unique curve in  $H_R$  formed by escaping points with itinerary  $t$ .

To prove (d) fix  $t = (t_0, t_1, \dots) \in \Sigma_A$  and  $R$  large enough. Let  $r \geq R$  and let  $L[r] = \{r + iy \mid \zeta_{-1}(r) \leq y \leq \zeta_1(r)\}$ . We set  $I_{t_0}(r) = L[r] \cap \overline{T_{s_0}}$ . We know that the image of the vertical segment  $L[r]$  cuts across  $H_R$  in two almost vertical lines (see Lemma 2.3). Recall that when  $f_a$  is restricted to the set of points with forward orbits in  $H_r$ , it behaves as a subshift of finite type

governed by the matrix  $A$ , and when restricted to  $T_0$  or  $T_1$  it is a one-to-one map. Using these facts, we can find a unique subinterval  $I_{t_0 t_1}(r) \subset I_{t_0}(r)$  formed by points with forward orbits inside  $H_r$  and itineraries starting with  $(t_0, t_1, \dots)$ . Inductively, for each  $n > 0$ ,  $I_{t_0 t_1 \dots t_n}(r)$  is the unique subinterval of  $I_{t_0 t_1 \dots t_{n-1}}(r)$  formed by points with forward orbits inside  $H_r$  and itineraries starting with  $(t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n, \dots)$ . Clearly,

$$I_{t_0 t_1 \dots t_n}(r) \subset I_{t_0 t_1 \dots t_{n-1}}(r) \subset \dots \subset I_{t_0 t_1}(r) \subset I_{t_0}(r).$$

Due to the expansiveness of  $f_a$  in  $H_R$  we find that  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} I_{t_0 t_1 \dots t_n}(r)$  is a single point, say  $q = q(r)$ . By construction,  $q$  has itinerary  $t$  and  $f_a^k(q) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , so  $q$  must belong to the unique curve  $\omega_t$  described in (c). The above arguments imply that  $\omega_t$  intersects  $\text{Re}(z) = r$  in a unique point, thus  $q(r)$  gives a parametrization of  $\omega_t$  on the interval  $[r, +\infty)$ .

In fact,  $\omega_t$  can be shown to be Lipschitz. Since the upper and lower boundaries of  $H_R$  are asymptotically bounded by  $\text{Im}(z) = \pm 2\pi$ , we have  $|\text{Im}(f_a^j(z))| < 2\pi$  for all  $j \geq 0$ . If the orbit of  $z \in H_R$  is entirely contained in  $H_R$  one can check that  $\text{Re}(f_a(z)) > c \text{Re}(z) e^{\text{Re}(z)} > cR$  with  $c > 1$ . Using induction it is easy to see that

$$\text{Re}(f_a^k(z)) > c \text{Re}(f_a^{k-1}(z)) \exp(\text{Re}(f_a^{k-1}(z))) > c^k R^k.$$

Let  $\theta_k(z) := \arg(f_a^k(z))$ . Then, given  $\epsilon > 0$  small, for each  $k$  we have  $|\tan \theta_k(z)| \leq 2\pi(cR)^{-k} < \epsilon$  for  $R$  sufficiently large. In particular, we may adjust  $R$  so that  $\sum_{k \geq 0} |\theta_k(z)| < \epsilon$  whenever  $z \in \omega_t(R)$ .

Finally, let  $\Gamma_{\pm}^k$  be the upper and lower horizontal boundaries of  $f_a^{-k}(T_{t_k} \cap H_R)$ , where the inverses are chosen according to the itinerary  $t$ . Applying the above estimates we find that  $\Gamma_{\pm}^k$  can be parametrized by  $t \mapsto (t, \mu_{\pm}^k(t))$  for  $t \geq R$  with  $\mu_{\pm}^k$  analytic. As the vertical width of  $f_a^{-k}(T_{t_k} \cap H_R)$  tends to zero, we have  $\Gamma_{\pm}^k \rightarrow \omega_t(R)$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . And since  $|(\mu_{\pm}^k)'(t)| < \epsilon$ , we conclude that  $\omega_t(R)$  is the graph of a Lipschitz function with Lipschitz constant  $\epsilon$ .

Finally, to see (e) we observe that there are no endpoints associated to bounded itineraries in  $H_R$ , implying that each  $\omega_t$  is a quasiconformal copy of the tail of some hair in (a). On one hand, the only points in  $T_0 \cup T_1$  with bounded orbit belong to  $\partial \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ , so they are not in  $H_R$ . On the other hand if there were an endpoint of a hair with orbit escaping to infinity in  $H_R$ , it should have an itinerary, say  $t$ . But from (d) there is a (unique) curve  $\omega_t$  going from  $\text{Re}(z) = R$  to infinity with itinerary  $t$ , a contradiction. ■

**DEFINITION 2.10.** Given any  $A$ -sequence  $t$ , each curve described in Proposition 2.9 will be denoted by  $\omega_t = \omega_t(R)$  and called the *tail with itinerary t* contained in the half-plane  $\text{Re}(z) \geq R$ .

The component of  $\omega_t$  that cuts across

$$F_R = \{z \in H_R \mid |z| < f_a(R + i\zeta_1(R))\}$$

is called the *base* of the tail, and will be denoted by  $\alpha_t = \alpha_t(R)$ . See Figure 5.

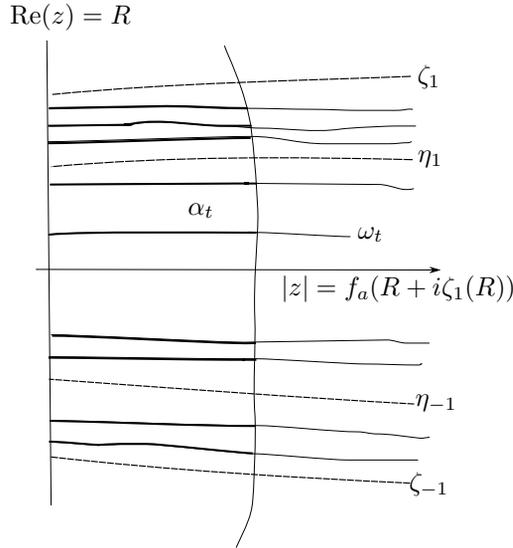


Fig. 5. The set  $H_R$ , the tail  $\omega_t$  and its base  $\alpha_t$  for some  $t \in \Sigma_A$ . Bases are depicted as bold lines.

We now describe a pullback construction to extend the tail  $\omega_t$  to a longer curve. Recall  $g_a^{j_i} = f_a^{-1}|T_{j_i}$ ,  $j_i \in \{0_1, 0_2, 1_1, 1_2\}$ , and consider the shift map  $\sigma : \Sigma_A \rightarrow \Sigma_A$  acting on the space of  $A$ -sequences. Let  $t = (t_0, t_1, \dots) \in \Sigma_A$ . By the conjugacy of  $f_a|_{\bigcup_{t \in \Sigma_A} \omega_t}$  with  $\sigma|_{\Sigma_A}$ , it follows that  $\omega_{\sigma(t)}$  properly contains  $f_a(\omega_t)$  since  $\omega_{\sigma(t)}$  lies in  $H_R \setminus F_R$  (see Proposition 2.9). Hence  $f_a(\omega_t)$  is a curve that misses the base  $\alpha_{\sigma(t)}$ . Consequently,  $g_a^{t_0}(\omega_{\sigma(t)})$  is a continuous curve that lies in  $T_{t_0}$  and extends  $\omega_t$  to the left of  $\text{Re}(z) = R$ . Clearly, any point of this extended curve has itinerary  $t$ . Inductively, consider

$$g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{n-1}}(\omega_{\sigma^n(t)}), \quad n \geq 1.$$

This pullback iteration is always defined as long as the extended curve does not meet  $z = 0$ , which is the case since  $\mathbb{R}$  is forward invariant. We thus obtain a curve of points with itinerary  $t$ , and each pullback iteration extends its predecessor.

DEFINITION 2.11. Let

$$(2.2) \quad \gamma(t) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{n-1}}(\omega_{\sigma^n(t)}).$$

We call  $\gamma(t)$  the *hair* associated to  $t$ .

Note that the pullback process described above may or may not produce an endpoint. In Section 4 we show that in some cases,  $\gamma(t)$  is a hair with an endpoint in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ , and in some other cases  $\gamma(t)$  is a non-landing hair and accumulates everywhere upon itself. By the following theorem found in [C], we will conclude that  $\overline{\gamma(t)}$  is an indecomposable continuum.

**THEOREM 2.12** (Curry, 1991). *Suppose that  $X$  is a one-dimensional nonseparating plane continuum which is the closure of a ray that limits on itself. Then  $X$  is either an indecomposable continuum or the union of two indecomposable continua.*

**REMARK 2.13.** A *ray* is defined as the image of  $[0, +\infty)$  under a continuous, one-to-one map. Given any positive number  $\alpha$ , the image of  $[\alpha, +\infty)$  under the same map is known as a *final segment* of the ray. The ray *limits on itself* if it is contained in the closure of any final segment of itself.

**3. Targets in  $H_R$ .** The main result in this section is Theorem 3.6, where we construct  $B$ -sequences whose associated  $A$ -sequences produce hairs that accumulate everywhere on themselves.

We now set up *targets* around the  $n$ th *image of the base*  $\alpha_t$  of each tail  $\omega_t$ . The construction is very similar to the one presented in Devaney and Jarque [DJ2] and Devaney, Jarque and Moreno Rocha [DJM], although the existence of a critical point in the present case requires some modifications.

Let  $t$  be a given  $A$ -sequence. We first enlarge the base  $\alpha_t$  inductively along  $\omega_t$ . Set  $\alpha_{t,0} = \alpha_t$  and consider the two bases  $\alpha_{\sigma^{-1}(t)}$ . The set  $f_a(\alpha_{\sigma^{-1}(t)})$  (taking the two possible bases) is a subset of  $\omega_t$ . Thus, the set

$$\alpha_{t,1} = \alpha_{t,0} \cup f_a(\alpha_{\sigma^{-1}(t)})$$

is an extension of  $\alpha_{t,0}$  along  $\omega_t$ . Inductively, define the  $n$ th image of the base  $\alpha_t$  as

$$\alpha_{t,n} = \alpha_{t,n-1} \cup f_a^n(\alpha_{\sigma^{-n}(t)}).$$

It is easy to verify that  $\{\alpha_{t,n}\}_{n \geq 0}$  is a sequence of curves satisfying the following three conditions:

- (i)  $\alpha_{t,0} = \alpha_t$ ,
- (ii)  $\alpha_{t,n} \subset \alpha_{t,n+1}$ , and
- (iii)  $\bigcup_{n \geq 0} \alpha_{t,n} = \omega_t$ .

In order to define a target around each  $\alpha_{t,n}$ , consider  $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and let

$$V(\xi, \eta) = \{z \in H_R \mid \xi - 1 < \operatorname{Re}(z) < \eta + 1\}.$$

By definition  $V(\xi, \eta)$  is a rectangular region bounded above and below by components of  $\zeta_{-1}$  and  $\zeta_1$ , respectively.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let  $R > 0$  be large enough. For all  $n \geq 0$  there exist positive real numbers  $\xi_n$  and  $\eta_n$  such that the following statements hold:*

- (a) *For every  $t \in \Sigma_A$ , the  $n$ th iterate of  $\alpha_t$  belongs to the interior of  $V(\xi_n, \eta_n)$ .*
- (b) *For every  $\ell \geq 0$ , the region  $V(\xi_{n+1}, \eta_{n+\ell+1})$  is compactly contained in  $f_a(V(\xi_n, \eta_{n+\ell}))$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $\eta_0 = f_a(R + i\zeta_1(R))$ ,  $\eta_{n+1} = f_a(\eta_n + i\zeta_1(\eta_n))$  and  $\xi_n = f_a^n(R)$  for  $n \geq 0$ . It remains to verify that these values satisfy (a) and (b). Observe that for  $R$  large enough, the image of every vertical segment  $L[R]$  cuts across  $T_0 \cup T_1$  in two almost vertical lines: one near  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = f_a(R)$  and the other near  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = f_a(R + i\zeta_1(R))$  (see Lemma 2.3).

Statement (a) follows directly from the definition of  $\xi_n$  and  $\eta_n$ , since at each step we choose  $\xi_n$  and  $\eta_n$  to be respectively the smallest and largest possible values of  $\operatorname{Re}(f_a^n(\alpha_t))$  for all  $t \in \Sigma_A$ , and moreover it is easy to check that  $\xi_n < \eta_{n-1}$ .

We prove (b) when  $\ell = 0$ . The case  $\ell > 0$  follows similarly. The proof proceeds in two steps. The first one is to verify that

$$f_a(\xi_n - 1 + i\zeta_1(\xi_n - 1)) < \xi_{n+1} - 1.$$

From the definition of  $f_a$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f_a(\xi_n - 1 + i\zeta_1(\xi_n - 1)) &< ae^{a+\xi_n-1} \sqrt{(\xi_n - 1 - (1-a))^2 + 4\pi^2} \\ &< ae^{a+\xi_n}(\xi_n - (1-a)) - 1 = \xi_{n+1} - 1, \end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality is satisfied if  $R$  is large enough. The second step is to verify the inequality

$$f_a(\eta_n + 1) > \eta_{n+1} + 1 = f_a(\eta_n + i\zeta_1(\eta_n)) + 1.$$

By evaluating both sides we obtain

$$ae^{a+\eta_n+1}(\eta_n + a) > ae^{a+\eta_n} \sqrt{(\eta_n + a - 1)^2 + (\zeta_1(\eta_n))^2} + 1.$$

Consequently, the image of  $V(\xi_n, \eta_n)$  contains  $\overline{V(\xi_{n+1}, \eta_{n+1})}$  as desired. ■

DEFINITION 3.2. The set  $V(\xi_n, \eta_n)$  will be called the  $n$ th target of  $f_a$ .

Targets provide a useful tool in the proof of Theorem 3.6 below. Before getting into details, we briefly explain why targets are so important in our construction. For large values of  $n$ , an  $n$ th target corresponds to a rectangular region with arbitrarily large real part, and imaginary part bounded, in absolute value, by  $2\pi$ . Then, we may pullback the  $n$ th target using suitable branches of  $f_a^{-1}$  to obtain two sequences of nested subsets inside  $V(\xi_0, \eta_0)$ . We intend to prove that each nested sequence contains not only a base  $\alpha_{t^i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , but also other components of  $\gamma(t^i)$  accumulating on the base.

As observed before, each target  $V(\xi_n, \eta_{n+\ell})$  intersects the fundamental domains  $T_0$  and  $T_1$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Denote by  $W_{n,\ell}^{0_i}$  and  $W_{n,\ell}^{1_i}$  the domains given by  $V(\xi_n, \eta_{n+\ell}) \cap T_{0_i}$  and  $V(\xi_n, \eta_{n+\ell}) \cap T_{1_i}$ , respectively. The next step is to show that, by considering appropriate preimages of these  $W$ -sets, we obtain a nested sequence of neighborhoods around two particular bases of tails.

In what follows, we will work solely with  $B$ -sequences and the respective  $A$ -sequences. We may also assume that every  $B$ -sequence has infinitely many 1's to avoid taking a preimage of the positive real line. The next result is a restatement of Lemma 4.3 in [DJM] following our notation.

LEMMA 3.3. *Let  $\ell \geq 0$  and let  $t = (\tau_0, 1, \tau_1, 1, \tau_2, 1, \dots)$  be a  $B$ -sequence, where each  $\tau_k = (\tau_k^1, \dots, \tau_k^{n_k})$  denotes a finite block of binary symbols  $\{0, 1\}$  of length  $n_k$ . Let  $m_j = j + 1 + n_0 + n_1 + \dots + n_j$ ,  $j \geq 0$ . Then for each  $m_j$  the sets*

$$(3.1) \quad g_a^{\tau_0^1} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{\tau_j^{n_j}} (W_{m_j, \ell}^{1_i}), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

*form two nested sequences of subsets of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$ . Moreover, if we denote by  $t^1$  and  $t^2$  the two allowable  $A$ -sequences satisfying  $\pi(t^1) = \pi(t^2) = t$ , then  $\alpha_{t^1, \ell}$  and  $\alpha_{t^2, \ell}$  are each contained in a nested sequence of subsets of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$  given by (3.1).*

*Proof.* Due to Lemma 3.1, for each  $m_j$  and  $i = 1, 2$ , the sets  $W_{m_j, \ell}^{1_i} \subset V(\xi_{m_j}, \eta_{m_j+\ell})$  can be pulled back following  $(\tau_0, 1, \tau_1, 1, \dots, \tau_j)$ . These preimages yield two nested sequences of subsets in  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$ ; one sequence corresponds to preimages of  $W_{m_j, \ell}^{1_1}$  and the other to preimages of  $W_{m_j, \ell}^{1_2}$ . Notice that there is a unique way of pulling back each  $W_{m_j, \ell}^{1_i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , following the  $B$ -sequence  $t$ , since  $f_a|_{T_k}$ ,  $k = 0, 1$ , are one-to-one maps. Also, at each step of the construction, the points belonging to these nested subsets are points of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$  with  $B$ -itinerary  $t = (\tau_0, 1, \tau_1, 1, \dots, \tau_j, \dots)$ . So,  $\alpha_{t^1, \ell}$  and  $\alpha_{t^2, \ell}$  must be inside all of these subsets. ■

The next step in the construction is to show that in each of the nested subsets of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$  given by the previous lemma we will have not only the bases  $\alpha_{t^1, \ell}$  and  $\alpha_{t^2, \ell}$ , but also other components of  $\gamma(t)$ . We split this step into two lemmas. The first lemma shows that for suitable choices of  $A$ -sequences the extended tails cut twice across the line  $\text{Re}(z) = -\mu$  for  $\mu > 0$  arbitrarily large.

A finite block of 0's (respectively  $0_1$ 's or  $0_2$ 's) of length  $k$  will be denoted by  $0^k$  (respectively  $0_1^k$  or  $0_2^k$ ).

LEMMA 3.4. *Let  $t$  be any  $B$ -sequence, and let  $t^1, t^2 \in \Sigma_A$  with  $\pi(t^1) = \pi(t^2) = t$ . Assume also that  $0_1 t^1$  and  $0_2 t^2$  are allowable. Given any  $\mu > 0$ , there exists  $K > 0$  such that for all  $k > K$ , there exist two continuous*

curves, denoted by  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^k t^1}$  and  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_1 0_2^k t^2}$ , that extend to infinity to the right and satisfy:

- (a)  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^k t^1}$  and  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_1 0_2^k t^2}$  are enlargements (to the left) of the tails with itineraries  $1_2 0_1^k t^1$  and  $1_1 0_2^k t^2$ , respectively; and
- (b)  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^k t^1}$  and  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_1 0_2^k t^2}$  each cut twice across  $\text{Re } z = -\mu$ .

*Proof.* Consider any  $A$ -sequence of the form  $0_1^m t^1$  with  $m > 0$  large enough so the unique tail  $\omega_{0_1^m t^1}$  is parametrized by  $z = (x, h(x))$ ,  $x > R$  (see Proposition 2.9). Lemma 2.2 and its proof imply that  $\omega_{0_1^m t^1}$  is  $\varepsilon$ -close to  $z = (x, 0)$ ,  $x > R$  (that is,  $|h(x)| < \varepsilon$  for all  $x > R$ ).

By pulling back  $\omega_{0_1^m t^1}$  using  $g_a^0$ , we obtain a new curve which is precisely the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{0_1^{m+1} t^1}$ . Moreover, since the positive real line is repelling, we observe that  $\tilde{\omega}_{0_1^{m+1} t^1}$  is also  $\varepsilon$ -close to  $z = (x, 0)$  with  $x > g_a^0(R)$ . Successive pullbacks via  $g_a^0$  allow us to find a first positive integer  $r$  such that the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{0_1^{m+r} t^1}$  will be  $\varepsilon$ -close to  $z = (x, 0)$ ,  $x > p_a$ , where  $p_a$  is the real fixed point in the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ .

At this stage we pull back  $\tilde{\omega}_{0_1^{m+r} t^1}$  again using  $g_a^1$ . The resulting curve must coincide with the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^{m+r} t^1}$ . By construction it is a curve extending to infinity to the right, extends far into the left half-plane (since  $\tilde{\omega}_{0_1^{m+r} t^1}$  is close to  $z = 0$ ) and lies close to  $q_a$  (the preimage of  $p_a$  in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ ) since  $\tilde{\omega}_{0_1^{m+r} t^1}$  gets arbitrarily close to  $z = p_a$ . For a given  $\mu$ , if we choose  $m$  large enough, this pullback construction guarantees that  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^{m+r} t^1}$  cuts across  $\text{Re}(z) = -\mu$  twice, as desired.

Analogously, if we start the construction with  $0_2^m t^2$ ,  $m > 0$ , we get a similar result for the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_1 0_2^{m+r} t^2}$ . ■

**PROPOSITION 3.5.** *Fix  $\ell \geq 0$ . Let  $t$  be any  $B$ -sequence with  $t^1$  and  $t^2$  its associated  $A$ -sequences. Let  $\tau$  be any finite block of binary symbols of length  $n$ , set  $s = \tau 110^k t$ , and denote by  $s^1, s^2$  the associated  $A$ -sequences. Then there exists  $K > 0$  such that for all  $k > K$ , the following statements hold:*

- (a) *The forward image of  $W_{n,\ell}^{1_1}$  cuts across the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^k t^1}$  three times (twice far to the left and once far to the right). In other words, the hair  $\gamma(1_1 1_2 0_1^k t^1)$  cuts across  $W_{n,\ell}^{1_1}$  three times.*
- (b) *The hair  $\gamma(s^1)$  cuts across*

$$g_a^{\tau_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{\tau_{n-1}}(W_{n,\ell}^{1_1})$$

*three times. Moreover one of the connected components of  $\gamma(s^1)$  in the above expression contains  $\alpha_{s^1, \ell}$ .*

*Analogous results hold for  $s^2$ .*

*Proof.* The set  $f_a(W_{n,\ell}^{1_1})$  is a large semi-annulus in the upper half-plane and intersects  $T_0 \cup T_1$  far to the right and far to the left. From Lemma 3.4 we can choose  $K$  such that for all  $k > K$ , the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^k t^1}$  cuts across the semi-annulus  $f_a(W_{n,\ell}^{1_1})$  three times: twice far to the left and once far to the right. Consequently, there must be three components of  $\gamma(1_1 1_2 0_1^k t^1)$  in  $W_{n,\ell}^{1_1}$  that map into three components of the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^k t^1}$  in  $f_a(W_{n,\ell}^{1_1})$ .

By taking suitable pullbacks of  $W_{n,\ell}^{1_1}$  that follow the string of symbols  $\tau = (\tau_0, \dots, \tau_{n-1})$  and applying Lemma 3.3, we can now deduce statement (b) of the present proposition. ■

**THEOREM 3.6.** *Let  $\tau$  be a finite block of binary symbols of length  $n$ . There exists an increasing sequence of integers  $k_j, j \geq 1$ , such that for the  $B$ -sequence*

$$(3.2) \quad \mathfrak{T} = \tau 110^{k_1} 110^{k_2} \dots,$$

*the associated  $A$ -sequences  $\mathfrak{T}^1$  and  $\mathfrak{T}^2$  determine two distinct hairs  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  and  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^2)$  that limit upon themselves, thus becoming non-landing hairs.*

*Proof.* Let  $\ell > 0, p_0 = n + 1$  and for each  $i \geq 1$ , set

$$p_i = n + 1 + \sum_{j=1}^i k_j + 2i.$$

The symbol at the  $p_i$ th position in (yet to be constructed)  $\mathfrak{T}$  is equal to 1. In general, the symbol at position  $p_i$  in the  $A$ -sequence  $\mathfrak{T}^j, j = 1, 2$ , can be either  $1_1$  or  $1_2$ , depending on the previous entry in  $\mathfrak{T}^j$ . In what follows we assume that all symbols at the  $p_i$ th position in  $\mathfrak{T}^1$  are equal to  $1_1$  (hence, all symbols at position  $p_i$ th in  $\mathfrak{T}^2$  are  $1_2$ ). It will become clear from the proof that this assumption does not restrict generality. Moreover, we shall prove only that  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  limits upon itself since the case of  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^2)$  follows in the same way.

Let  $s$  be any  $B$ -sequence not ending in all 0's, and let  $s^1$  and  $s^2$  be its associated  $A$ -sequences. For each  $j \geq 1$  we aim to construct inductively  $B$ -sequences of the form

$$(3.3) \quad u_j = \tau 110^{k_1} \dots 110^{k_j} \sigma^{p_j}(s),$$

so that, by carefully selecting longer blocks of zeros, the  $u_j$  will converge to the  $B$ -sequence  $\mathfrak{T}$  with the desired properties. Note that for all  $j, u_j$  will be a concatenation of the first  $p_j$  symbols in  $\mathfrak{T} = (\mathfrak{t}_0, \mathfrak{t}_1, \dots)$  with  $\sigma^{p_j}(s)$ . In other words,

$$(3.4) \quad u_j = (\mathfrak{t}_0, \mathfrak{t}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{t}_{p_j-1}, s_{p_j}, s_{p_j+1}, \dots).$$

As before,  $u_j^1$  and  $u_j^2$  will denote the  $A$ -sequences that project to  $u_j$ .

We first show how to define  $u_1$ . Applying Proposition 3.5(a), we can choose an integer  $k_1 > 0$  so that the forward image of  $W_{p_0-1,\ell}^{1_1}$  is cut across by the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^{k_1} \sigma^{p_1}(s^1)}$  three times (twice far to the left and once far to the right). Thus the hair  $\gamma(1_1 1_2 0_1^{k_1} \sigma^{p_1}(s^1))$  cuts across  $W_{p_0-1,\ell}^{1_1}$  three times. For the given block  $\tau$ , denote by  $\tau_1$  the corresponding  $A$ -block that makes  $u_1^1 = \tau_1 1_1 1_2 0_1^{k_1} \sigma^{p_1}(s^1)$  an allowable  $A$ -sequence. Thus Proposition 3.5(b) implies that

$$g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_0-2}}(W_{p_0-1,\ell}^{1_1})$$

is a subset of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$  that contains  $\alpha_{u_1^1, \ell}$  and (at least) two other components of the hair  $\gamma(u_1^1)$ .

For  $j > 1$  we again apply Proposition 3.5(a) to the sequence

$$\tilde{\tau} 110^{k_j} \sigma^{p_j}(s),$$

where  $\tilde{\tau} = \tau 110^{k_1} \dots 110^{k_{j-1}}$  and with  $k_j > 0$  large enough so that the forward image of  $W_{p_j-1,\ell}^{1_1}$  is cut across by the extended tail  $\tilde{\omega}_{1_2 0_1^{k_j} \sigma^{p_j}(s^1)}$  three times (twice far to the left and once far to the right). Thus the hair  $\gamma(1_1 1_2 0_1^{k_j} \sigma^{p_j}(s^1))$  cuts across  $W_{p_j-1,\ell}^{1_1}$  three times. Pulling back  $W_{p_j-1,\ell}^{1_1}$  through the finite block of binary symbols given by  $\tilde{\tau}$ , we deduce from Proposition 3.5(b) that

$$g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_j-2}}(W_{p_j-1,\ell}^{1_1})$$

is a subset of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$  that contains  $\alpha_{u_j^1, \ell}$  and (at least) two other components of the hair  $\gamma(u_j^1)$ .

As  $j$  tends to infinity, the sequence  $u_j$  converges to the desired sequence  $\mathfrak{T}$ . Indeed, from Proposition 3.5(b), the sets  $g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_j-2}}(W_{p_j-1,\ell}^{1_1})$  form a nested sequence of subsets of  $V(\xi_0, \eta_\ell)$  that contains  $\alpha_{u_j, \ell}$  and two further components of the hair  $\gamma(u_j)$ . Since  $\ell \geq 0$  was selected in an arbitrary manner, as  $j \rightarrow \infty$  we find that  $V(\xi_0, \infty)$  contains  $\omega_{\mathfrak{T}^1}$  and infinitely many distinct components of the hair  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  accumulating on it. To see this, let  $z \in \omega_{\mathfrak{T}^1}$  be given and select  $\ell_z > 0$  large enough so that  $z$  lies in  $\alpha_{\mathfrak{T}^1, \ell_z}$ . As before, this base lies in the target  $V(\xi_0, \eta_{\ell_z})$ . Since  $\mathfrak{T}$  has already been constructed, we may now apply Proposition 3.5 to  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  itself. There exists an integer  $N > 0$  sufficiently large such that for all  $n > N$ ,  $\gamma(\sigma^{p_n+1}(\mathfrak{T}^1))$  cuts across  $W_{p_n-1,\ell_z}^{1_1}$  in (at least) three components, say  $A_1^n, A_2^n$  and  $A_3^n$ , with one of them being the component of the tail  $\omega_{\sigma^{p_n+1}(\mathfrak{T}^1)}$ .

As  $n$  increases, the diameter of  $g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_n}}(W_{p_n-1,\ell_z}^{1_1})$  decreases, nonetheless, Proposition 3.5 implies that for each  $j = 1, 2, 3,$

$$g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_n}}(A_j^n) \text{ cuts across } g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_n}}(W_{p_n-1,\ell_z}^{1_1}).$$

Since  $g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{p_n}}(A_j^n) = \alpha_{\mathfrak{T}^1, \ell_z}$  for some  $j$ , the pullback images of the remaining  $A_j^n$ 's accumulate lengthwise over  $\alpha_{\mathfrak{T}^1, \ell_z}$  (and thus along  $z$ ) for each  $n > N$ .

To see that  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  accumulates to each of its points and not only on its tail portion, we may perform the same construction for the sequences

$$110^{k_i} 110^{k_{i+1}} \dots,$$

for  $i \geq 1$ . Then we may pull back the corresponding hairs and their accumulations by the appropriate inverse branches of  $f_a$  to show that  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  must accumulate to any point in the hair  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$ . ■

**4. Geometry of hairs.** This last section will focus on the geometry of the sets  $\gamma(t)$  when  $t$  is a  $B$ -sequence that is either periodic or as constructed in Theorem 3.6. We show that in the former case, the closure of the hair has a landing point in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ , while in the latter case,  $\overline{\gamma(t^i)}$  is an indecomposable continuum for each  $i = 1, 2$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *Let  $t$  be a periodic  $B$ -sequence and  $t^1, t^2$  the associated periodic  $A$ -sequences. Then the hairs  $\gamma(t^1)$  and  $\gamma(t^2)$  land at two (repelling periodic) points  $p_1, p_2 \in \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $t = \overline{t_0 \dots t_{n-1}}$ , so every block of 0's in  $t$  has bounded length. We work only with  $t^1$  since the other case follows similarly.

There exists  $\delta > 0$  such that the orbit of  $\overline{\gamma(t^1)}$  stays outside  $\overline{B_\delta(0)}$ . Analogously, we can find a real  $m$  such that the orbit of  $\overline{\gamma(t^1)}$  does not intersect the half-plane  $\text{Re}(z) < m < 0$ .

Let  $R > 0$  be as in Proposition 2.9. Then there exists  $M \geq R$  for which the intersection of the tail  $\omega_{t^1}$  with the line  $\text{Re}(z) = M$  is a single point. Since the orbit of the origin escapes along the positive real line, there exists an integer  $N = N(M) > 0$  for which  $f_a^{N-1}(0) < M \leq f_a^N(0)$ . Select  $0 < \epsilon \leq \delta$  so small that  $B_\epsilon = \overline{B_\epsilon(0)}$  and  $f_a(B_\epsilon), \dots, f_a^N(B_\epsilon)$  are compact domains contained in  $T_0$ . Finally, select  $m' \leq m < 0$  so that the left half-plane  $\text{Re}(z) \leq m'$  maps completely inside  $B_\epsilon$ .

With these constants we can define an open, connected, simply connected region  $E$  as in the proof of Theorem 2.6. Then the pullback process that defines the hair  $\gamma(t^1)$  together with the contracting map  $\Psi_\ell = \psi_{t_0}^{-1} \circ (g_a^{t_0} \circ \dots \circ g_a^{t_{n-1}})^\ell \circ \psi_{t_0^1}$  (where  $(\cdot)^\ell$  denotes  $\ell$ -fold iteration) shows that  $\overline{\gamma(t^1)} \setminus \gamma(t^1)$  is a unique periodic point in  $E$  with itinerary  $t^1$ . By Theorem 2.6, this periodic point lies in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ . ■

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Let  $\mathfrak{T}$  be a  $B$ -sequence as in Theorem 3.6,  $\mathfrak{T}^1, \mathfrak{T}^2$  the associated  $A$ -sequences that project onto  $\mathfrak{T}$ , and  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1), \gamma(\mathfrak{T}^2)$  the associated hairs. Then the closure of each of these hairs is an indecomposable continuum.*

*Proof.* As before, we restrict the proof to the  $A$ -sequence

$$\mathfrak{T}^1 = \tau_1 1_1 1_2 0_1^{k_1} 1_1 1_2 0_1^{k_2} \dots$$

Let  $\Gamma^1$  be the closure of the hair  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$ . In order to apply Theorem 2.12, we must verify first that  $\Gamma^1$  does not separate the plane, as from Theorem 3.6,  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  is a curve that accumulates upon itself.

First observe that  $\Gamma^1$  is a set with bounded negative real part. Indeed, the first block of  $0_i$ 's in  $\mathfrak{T}^1$  has finite length and this implies that  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  (and thus  $\Gamma^1$ ) lies to the right of the line  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = m$  for some  $m < 0$ . For simplicity, denote by  $k_0 \in \{0_1, 0_2, 1_1, 1_2\}$  the first entry in  $\tau_1$ , so  $\Gamma^1$  lies inside  $T_{k_0}$  and to the right of  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = m$ . Hence

$$\mathbb{C} \setminus (T_{k_0} \cap \{z \mid \operatorname{Re}(z) > m\}) \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \Gamma^1,$$

and since the boundaries of  $T_0$  and  $T_1$  are the graphs of strictly monotonic functions, the set on the left hand side is in fact a single component with unbounded imaginary part. This implies the existence of a single complementary component  $U \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \Gamma^1$  with unbounded imaginary part, while all other complementary components must have bounded imaginary parts. Also, note that  $-a \in U$ , and since  $-a$  is a fixed point, we have  $-a \in f_a^k(U)$  for all  $k > 0$ .

Let  $V \neq \emptyset$  be a component of  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \Gamma^1$  with bounded imaginary part. Firstly, we assume that  $V \cap \mathcal{J}(f_a) \neq \emptyset$ . Then, by Montel's Theorem, there exists  $N > 0$  such that  $-a \notin f_a^k(V)$  for  $0 \leq k < N$  while  $-a \in f_a^N(V)$ , since  $-a$  is not an exceptional value (indeed,  $-a$  has infinitely many preimages). But this implies that  $f_a^{N-1}(V)$  is a component with bounded imaginary part inside  $T_0 \cup T_1$  that must contain a point in  $f_a^{-1}(-a)$ , a contradiction since in  $T_0 \cup T_1$  there are no preimages of  $-a$  different from  $-a$  itself. Secondly, we assume that  $V$  does not contain points in  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$  and thus is a Fatou component. Since the Fatou set coincides with the basin of attraction of  $-a$ , there exists an integer  $N > 0$  such that  $f_a^N(V) = \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  and thus  $\partial \mathcal{A}^*(-a) \subset f_a^N(\Gamma^1)$ , which contradicts Proposition 2.5(b), as only one point in  $\partial \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  has itinerary  $\sigma^N(\mathfrak{T}^1)$ .

We conclude that  $\Gamma^1$  does not separate the plane and by Theorem 2.12, it is either an indecomposable continuum or the union of two indecomposable continua. However,  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  has a unique tail extending to infinity so it cannot be the union of two indecomposable continua. ■

REMARK 4.3. The above two results describe an interesting relationship between the combinatorics of an itinerary  $s$  and the landing properties of the curve  $\gamma(s)$ . Indeed, if  $s$  is an  $A$ -sequence whose blocks of  $0_i$ 's have bounded length, the same arguments as in Proposition 4.1 can be applied to show that the accumulation set of the hair is none other than the unique point  $p(s) \in \partial \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  that follows the given itinerary. The key step is to ensure

that pullbacks of the tail are always bounded away from the postcritical and asymptotic orbits (see, for instance, Proposition 3.6 in [F]), and this is always the case for  $A$ -sequences whose blocks of  $0_i$ 's have bounded length.

In contrast, whenever  $s = \mathfrak{T}$  is a  $B$ -sequence as in Theorem 3.6, then the corresponding point  $p(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  is an accumulation point of  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$ , but not its endpoint.

**THEOREM 4.4.** *Consider  $\mathfrak{T}$  and  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  as in Theorem 3.6, and set  $\Gamma^1 = \overline{\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)}$ . Then there exists a unique point  $p_1 \in \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  such that  $p_1 \in \Gamma^1$  and  $p_1$  has itinerary  $\mathfrak{T}^1$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that  $\mathfrak{T} = \tau 110^{k_1} 110^{k_2} \dots$ . For each  $n \geq 1$  define two preperiodic sequences given by

$$s_n = \overline{\tau 110^{k_1} \dots 110^{k_n} 0}, \quad r_n = \overline{\tau 110^{k_1} \dots 110^{k_n} 1}.$$

Clearly, the associated  $A$ -sequences satisfy  $s_n^1 < \mathfrak{T}^1 < r_n^1$  for all  $n \geq 1$  with respect to the distance induced by the usual order in  $\Sigma_B$ . Moreover, if  $p(s_n^1)$  and  $q(r_n^1)$  denote the endpoints of the corresponding preperiodic hairs associated to  $s_n^1$  and  $r_n^1$ , then it follows from Proposition 4.1 that  $p(s_n^1), q(r_n^1) \in \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ . Let  $p(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  be the unique point in  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  following the itinerary  $\mathfrak{T}^1$  under the action of  $f_a|_{\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)}$ .

In the Euclidean distance restricted to  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  we obtain  $|p(s_n^1) - q(r_n^1)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  and clearly  $p(s_n^1) < p(\mathfrak{T}^1) < q(r_n^1)$  with the order inherited by  $S^1$  under the continuous extension of the Böttcher mapping  $\Phi_a : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ .

For each  $n$ ,  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  belongs to the region bounded above and below by  $\gamma(r_n^1)$  and  $\gamma(s_n^1)$ , and the arc  $[p(s_n^1), q(r_n^1)] \subset \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  containing  $p(\mathfrak{T}^1)$ . Thus, if  $\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)$  accumulates on  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ , then it must accumulate to the point  $p(\mathfrak{T}^1)$ .

In order to show that  $\overline{\gamma(\mathfrak{T}^1)}$  accumulates on the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$ , we employ the polynomial-like construction and the symbolics of  $\mathfrak{T}^1$ . Let  $m > 0$  and consider the hair associated to the itinerary

$$t_m = 0_{k_m} 110_{k_{m+1}} 11 \dots$$

Note that  $t_m$  is the image of  $\mathfrak{T}^1$  under some iterates of the shift  $\sigma|_{\Sigma_A}$ . By Proposition 3.5, the hair  $\gamma(t_m)$  is clearly close to the origin and also the hair  $\gamma(1t_m)$  intersects a left half-plane. Hence, a portion of  $\gamma(1t_m)$  must intersect  $V_a$ , and its preimages under  $f_a|_{V_a}$  following  $\tau 110^{k_1} \dots 0^{k_m-1} 1$  must accumulate on  $\partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a)$  since by Proposition 2.4,

$$\bigcap_{n \geq 0} f_a^{-n}(V_a) = \partial\mathcal{A}^*(-a),$$

and  $m > 0$  has been taken arbitrarily large. ■

We end this section by briefly discussing the set of points in the Julia set that follow non-binary sequences. Note first that Proposition 2.9 can be easily modified to show the existence of tails with itineraries corresponding to the partition  $\bigcup_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} T_j$ . If  $s = (s_0, s_1, \dots)$  is a sequence that contains infinitely many non-binary symbols and  $T_{s_j} \subset f_a(T_{s_{j+1}})$  for all  $j \geq 0$ , let  $\omega_s$  be the tail associated to  $s$  that lies in the right half-plane  $\operatorname{Re}(z) > R$ . If in addition  $s$  has (if any) blocks of 0's with bounded length, then the pullbacks of  $\omega_s$  are always bounded away from the postcritical and asymptotic orbits, hence  $\gamma(s)$  is a landing hair with an endpoint  $p(s)$ . By Proposition 2.5,  $p(s)$  (and in fact  $\bar{\gamma}(s)$ ) cannot lie on the boundary of any Fatou component, as otherwise,  $s$  will have to end in a binary sequence. This establishes

**COROLLARY 4.5.** *If  $s = (s_0, s_1, \dots) \in \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is realizable by  $f_a$ , contains infinitely many non-binary symbols and its blocks of 0's have bounded length, then  $\gamma(s)$  is a landing hair and a buried component of  $\mathcal{J}(f_a)$ .*

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