OSCILLATORY CRITICAL AMPLITUDES IN HIERARCHICAL MODELS AND THE TAIL OF THE HARRIS RANDOM VARIABLE

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ABSTRACT. Oscillatory critical amplitudes have been repeatedly observed in hierarchical models and, in the cases that have been taken into consideration, these oscillations are so small to be hardly detectable. Hierarchical models are tightly related to iteration of maps and, in fact, very similar phenomena have been repeatedly reported in many fields of mathematics, like combinatorial evaluations and discrete branching processes. It is precisely in the context of branching processes with bounded off-spring that T. Harris, in 1948, first set forth the possibility that the logarithm of the moment generating function of the rescaled population size, in the super-critical regime, does not grow near infinity as a power, but it has an oscillatory prefactor. These oscillations have been observed numerically only much later and, while the origin is clearly tied to the discrete character of the iteration, the amplitude size is not so well understood. The purpose of this note is to reconsider the issue for hierarchical models and in what is arguably the most elementary setting – the pinning model – that actually just boils down to iteration of polynomial maps (and, notably, quadratic maps). In this note we show that the oscillatory critical amplitude for pinning models and the oscillating pre factor connected to the Harris random variable coincide. Moreover we make explicit the link between these oscillatory functions and the geometry of the Julia set of the map, making thus rigorous and quantitative some ideas set forth in [10].

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1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

1.1. Hierarchical models, Branching processes, and the main issue. It has been pointed out by several authors for a long time, see e.g. [19], that the discrete character of the renormalization group transformation may in principle give rise to a periodic modulation of the critical amplitude. This oscillation has been then observed in hierarchical models, see for example [7, 8, 10] that deal in particular with Ising and Potts models on diamond lattices. The modulation of the critical amplitude in these models turns out to be very small and the nature of this phenomenon has not been fully elucidated. Here we consider this phenomenon for a particular hierarchical model, the wetting or pinning hierarchical model [9], because it is arguably the easiest set-up and it makes a direct contact with a vast mathematical literature: iteration of polynomial maps.

In fact the partition function of a hierarchical model with pinning potential $h \in \mathbb{R}$ and volume size d^n if just $f_n(\exp(h))$, where $f_n = f \circ \ldots \circ f$ and

$$f(x) := \sum_{i=0}^{d} p_i x^i , \qquad (1.1)$$

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with $p_i \ge 0$, $\sum_{i=0}^d p_i = 1$ and $p_d > 0$. We set $w = \sum_i ip_i = f'(1)$ and $\gamma := \log d/\log w$: we assume the super-criticality condition w > 1, so that 1 is an unstable fixed point of f and the sequence $\{f_n(\exp(h))\}_{n=0,1,\dots}$ increases to infinity. Actually it is straightforward to see that the increase is super-exponentially fast and just a little more work leads to the existence of the free energy density of the model

$$F(h) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{d^n} \log f_n(\exp(h)).$$
(1.2)

We refer to [12, Appendix] for the existence of this limit as well as for various properties of F, such as the fact that F is a convex non-decreasing function. As a matter of fact, it is immediate to see that F(h) = 0 for $h \le 0$, while F(h) > 0 for h > 0. The origin is therefore necessarily a critical point and it is actually associated to a *localization transition* (see [9, 12] and references therein for details on the statistical mechanics context, about which we are particularly concise here).

One is then particularly interested in the free energy critical behavior, that is how F(h) behaves near 0, which, in this case, of course reduces to considering $h \searrow 0$. What is argued in the aforementioned physical literature is that the expected critical behavior must be of the form

$$\mathbf{F}(h) \stackrel{h \searrow 0}{\sim} h^{\gamma} A(\log h) \,, \tag{1.3}$$

where the amplitude $A : \mathbb{R} \to (0, \infty)$ is log *w*-periodic, which is of course compatible with $A(\cdot)$ being constant.

Remark 1.1. We point out that the hierarchical model in [9] has d = 2, $p_0 = (B-1)/B$, $p_1 = 0$ and $p_2 = 1/B$, with $B \in (1, 2)$ (to be precise in [9] the *dual* model with *h* replaced by $\log(B-1) + h$ and $B \in (2, \infty)$ is considered, see [12] for the equivalence of these two models). The restriction to d = 2 is just for the sake of simplicity, but the choice of $p_1 = 0$ reflects a symmetry of the model that has no particular impact on the issue we tackle in this note: [9, 12] deal with *disordered* hierarchical pinning and in the presence of disorder the fact that $p_1 > 0$ leads to a new phenomenon (but this is not not the case in absence of disorder).

In [7] and with a substantially more detailed analysis in [10] the authors tackle the issue of establishing whether $A(\cdot)$ is trivial or not and of understanding the origin and size of the fluctuations. In [10] an argument is presented, in the Ising and Potts models framework, that is expected to capture the size of the critical amplitude oscillations, but it yields an amplitude that is smaller than the true one, obtained numerically, by several orders of magnitude. The authors argue heuristically about the reason of such a mismatch between their arguments and numerics and they point out the role of the geometry of the Julia set of the map associated to this model. In this direction they actually provide a relatively precise estimate of the oscillation amplitude by exploiting empirical estimates on the Julia set, even if they admit that the precision of their computation is surprising and *presumably merely to be considered as a lucky circumstance* [10, p. 123]. Clarifying the relation between Julia set and oscillations is one of the main aims of this note.

An important observation at this point is that there is a probabilistic representation of the partition function of the hierarchical pinning model [13]. Consider in fact a random branching process, or Galton-Watson process, starting from one individual at time zero and with offspring distribution determined by the p_j 's weights. Therefore if one focuses on the number of individuals W_n that are present at time n, then, conditionally on $W_n = k$, W_{n+1} is the

sum of k independent and identically distributed random variables for which the probability of being equal to j is p_j . One directly verifies that

$$f_n(\exp(h)) = \mathbb{E}\left[\exp(hW_n)\right]. \tag{1.4}$$

1.2. Branching processes and the Harris random variable. It is a classical result that W_n/w^n converges almost surely to a non-degenerate limit random variable W (with a mass at zero if $p_0 > 0$). Moreover for every $s \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbf{E} \left[\exp(sW_n/w^n) \right] = \mathbf{E} \left[\exp(sW) \right] =: \psi(s) , \qquad (1.5)$$

and $\psi(\cdot)$ extends to the whole complex plane as an entire function. In his seminal paper [16], T. E. Harris pointed out (among several other facts) that

$$\log \psi(s) \stackrel{s \to \infty}{\sim} s^{\gamma} L(\log s) , \qquad (1.6)$$

where $L : \mathbb{R} \to (0, \infty)$ – the Harris function – is continuous and log w-periodic. Harris was unable to show that $L(\cdot)$ is not constant, even if he was able to compute numerically the value of L(s) for d = 2, $p_1 = 0.4$ and $p_2 = 0.6$ up to six decimal digits, a remarkable achievement considering the date at which the paper was published. Later it became clear that $L(\cdot)$ does oscillate and that the amplitude of the oscillation is extremely small with respect to its average value (see in particular [3], but also [1, 2, 17]). A full understanding of this nearconstant behavior is however still elusive. Actually analogous phenomena were recorded also in other mathematical fields like combinatorial enumeration, spectral properties of transition operators on fractals and more (see e.g. [20, 14, 21, 15]). Ultimately, this is not surprising because all these problems boil down to studying iterations of a map: in the Galton-Watson case for example (1.4) tells us that the generating function of the law of W_n is precisely f_n .

Certainly it has not escaped the reader that the qualitative properties of $L(\cdot)$ coincide with the (expected) qualitative properties of the critical amplitude $A(\cdot)$. However the quantitative connection between $L(\cdot)$ and $A(\cdot)$, beyond the common period w, is a priori not clear. In statistical mechanics terms, the Harris function $L(\cdot)$ emerges from the limit of the partition function in a particular vanishing limit of the pinning parameter s/w^n : $n \to \infty$ and then $s \to \infty$. $A(\cdot)$ comes also out of a limit of vanishing pinning parameter, but in this case $n \to \infty$ is taken at fixed pinning parameter h > 0, only the leading Laplace asymptotic term is kept, and then h is sent to zero.

Nevertheless, $L(\cdot)$ and $A(\cdot)$ coincide:

Proposition 1.2. Given $f(\cdot)$ as above, the asymptotic relation (1.3) holds with $A(\cdot)$ a log wperiodic analytic function. Moreover $L(\cdot) = A(\cdot)$ – from now on, they will be denoted by $\Omega(\cdot)$ – and, if we denote $c_n = \int_0^1 \exp(inx)\Omega(x \log w) dx$ the Fourier coefficients of $\Omega(\cdot \log w)$, there exists a positive constant ε such that $|c_n| \leq \exp(-\varepsilon n)$ for n sufficiently large.

The notation we use does not highlight the dependence of $\Omega(\cdot)$ on $f(\cdot)$, but we stress that Proposition 1.2 says that given f one obtains a function Ω .

Proposition 1.2 can be proven in a rather direct way by exploiting a number of relations that one can find in the large literature devoted to the subject, but we have been unable to find the statement in this literature. The proof is in Section 2 but let us anticipate one of the main tools that is going to be of help for the sequel of the introduction: for every x > 0

$$F(\log x) = \frac{\log p_d}{d-1} + \log x + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} d^{-(i+1)} Q(f_i(x)), \qquad (1.7)$$

with $Q(x) := \log(f(x)x^{-d}/p_d)$. This follows by observing that, if $F_0(y) = y$ and $F_n(\log x) := d^{-n}\log f_n(x)$ for $n = 1, 2, \ldots$ we have $F_n(\log x) = d^{-n}\log p_d + d^{-n}Q(f_n(x)) + F_{n-1}(\log x)$ [16].

To go beyond Proposition 1.2 we restrict to the d = 2 case. This restriction is made because we want to exploit directly the results in [4, 5, 6], that develop only the case d = 2. It is certainly possible to generalize these works, but this would not add much to the purpose of this note at the expense of rather lengthy arguments.

1.3. Julia set, Böttcher function and oscillations. If we set $\mathcal{B}(x) := \exp(\mathbb{F}(\log x))$ we directly verify that \mathcal{B} solves the Böttcher equation $\mathcal{B}(f(x)) = \mathcal{B}(x)^d$. This can be seen directly from (1.7), that is \mathcal{B} conjugates f and the monomial map $x \mapsto x^d$. \mathcal{B} is increasing on $[1, \infty)$ and it is real analytic on $(1, \infty)$ (see the proof of Proposition 1.2). We can therefore set $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{B}^{-1}$ and \mathcal{A} is analytic too.

The central point of our approach is the following theorem, in which we use the notation $\mathbb{D}_r := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < r\}$. In what follows $\log(\cdot)$ is the natural logarithm with the choice of the negative semi-axis as branch cut: $\log(r \exp(i\theta)) = \log r + i\theta$, for r > 0 and $\theta \in (-\pi, \pi]$. Let us recall [18] that the filled Julia set K = K(f) of the polynomial map f is the set $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : \sup_n |f_n(z)| < \infty\}$ and that the Julia set J = J(f) is the boundary of the filled Julia set.

It is immediate to see that $J = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ if $f(x) = x^d$, that is if $p_d = 1$ (recall (1.1)), but J is substantially more complicated if $p_d < 1$. However note also that, for d = 2, f is conjugated to the map $g(x) = x^2 + c$, $c = (1 - (p_2 - p_0)^2)/4$, via the affine transformation $h(x) = x/p_2 + (1 - p_0 - p_2)/2p_2$, that is $g = h^{-1} \circ f \circ h$ and that $c \in (0, 1/4)$: this implies that the Julia set is a simple closed curve (see for example [11, Ch. 3, Prop. 6.2]).

Set d = 2 and $0 < p_2 < 1$.

Theorem 1.3. The function \mathcal{A} extends analytically to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}_1$ and to $\partial \mathbb{D}_1$ as a continuous function. Moreover there exist an entire function g, with g(0) = 1 and g'(0) > 0, and a log 2-periodic function $\omega(\cdot)$, which is non-trivial (i.e. non-constant), positive and analytic on the strip $\{z : |\Im(z)| < \pi/2\}$, such that for |z| > 1 we have

$$\mathcal{A}(z) = g\left((\log z)^{1/\gamma} \omega(\log(\log z))\right) . \tag{1.8}$$

In addition:

- (1) the Julia set of f coincides with $\{\mathcal{A}(\exp(i\pi t): t \in (-1,1]\}$.
- (2) the function $x \mapsto x^{1/\gamma} \omega(\log(x))$, from the positive semi-axis to itself, is invertible and its inverse is $x \mapsto x^{\gamma} \alpha(\log(x))$, where α is $\log w$ -periodic and $\Omega(\cdot) = \mathbf{c}^{\gamma} \alpha(\cdot + \log(\mathbf{c}))$, with $\mathbf{c} := p_2/(2 - w)$. Moreover $\alpha(\cdot)$, and therefore $\Omega(\cdot)$, is analytic in the strip $\{z : |\Im(z)| < \pi/(2\gamma)\}$, which implies that $\int_0^{\log w} \exp(2\pi i n x/\log w) \Omega(x) dx = O(\exp(-n\pi^2/\gamma'))$, for every $\gamma' > \gamma$ and $n \to \infty$.

To keep the statement simple the explicit series expansion for $g(\cdot)$ is postponed to Section 3, starting from (3.4). In Section 3 one can also find an explicit construction for $\omega(\cdot)$. What we want to emphasize with Theorem 1.3 is the quantitative and explicit relation between oscillations and geometry of the Julia set.

Remark 1.4. A more general but very implicit relation between Julia set and oscillations can be established by using the notion of Green's function of the monic polynomial map \tilde{f} [18, P. 100-101], where monic means that $\tilde{f}(x) = x^d + O(x^{d-1})$. The Green's function $u(z) := \lim_{n\to\infty} d^{-n} \log |\tilde{f}_n(z)|$ is well defined and in $C^0(\mathbb{C}; \mathbb{R})$. It is actually harmonic $((\partial_x^2 +$ $\partial_y^2 u(x+iy) = 0$) except on the Julia set $J(\tilde{f})$ and it is of course identically zero on the filled Julia set $K(\tilde{f})$. Moreover u can be alternatively defined as the unique continuous function that vanishes on $K(\tilde{f})$, which is harmonic in $J(\tilde{f})^{\complement}$ and such that $\lim_{z\to\infty} u(z) - \log z = 0$. Note the remarkable fact that $u(\cdot)$ depends on $\tilde{f}(\cdot)$ only through $J(\tilde{f})$. If now we observe that f is conjugated to a monic \tilde{f} via the linear map $z \mapsto cz$, $c := p_d^{-1/(d-1)}$, we readily see that J is $cJ(\tilde{f})$ and $F(\log x) = u(x/c)$ for $x \in (0, \infty)$. Therefore the free energy is determined as unique the solution of a Dirichlet problem once J(f) (and the blowing up factor c) are given. As a consequence, the oscillatory function $\Omega(\cdot)$ is directly connected to the Julia set via the solution of this Dirichlet problem.

Theorem 1.3 asserts that $\Omega(\cdot)$ is not a constant: estimating the size of the oscillations is a challenging task. However, one does have *explicit* characterizations of ω and Ω that can be exploited to get precise numerical and also *computer-assisted* estimates on the Fourier coefficients of ω , with explicit error bounds. We address this issue in Section 3.



FIGURE 1. The Julia set of $f(x) = 1/4 + 3x^2/4$ plotted by using $J = \{\mathcal{A}(\exp(i\pi t) : t \in (-1, 1]\}$ and (1.8), after having determined $\mathcal{A}(\cdot)$ as explained in Remark 3.1: a priori the method determines $\mathcal{A}(\cdot)$ with precision in a neighborhood of 1 in the complex plane, as it is confirmed by the figure on the right, but the precision is quite satisfactory also far from 1. We have superposed to this curve the points obtained by iterating (seven times) the pre-image map f^{-1} , starting from the unstable fixed point 1.

2. Proofs

2.1. **Proof is Proposition 1.2.** We have the following representation of the Harris function [16, 3] $L(\cdot)$ given in (1.6): for s > 0

$$L(\log s) = s^{-\gamma} F(\log \psi(s)).$$
(2.1)



FIGURE 2. On the left the plot of $\Omega(\cdot) - \overline{\Omega}$, with $\overline{\Omega} := \frac{1}{\log w} \int_0^{\log w} \Omega(x) dx$ obtained by using $f(x) = 1/4 + 3x^2/4$, that is the same map as in Figure 1. In particular the period log w is 0.40546... and we have $\overline{\Omega} = 1.33381...$ and the oscillation is $8.86... \times 10^{-8}$. On the right we plot $\Omega(\cdot) - \overline{\Omega} - c_1 \sin(2\pi(\cdot - x_1)/\log w)$, with c_1 the first Fourier coefficient and x_1 the associated shift. This second plot makes clear the nearly sinusoidal character of $\Omega(\cdot)$ as well as the fact that the next Fourier coefficient is even much smaller: in fact the plot on the right is again nearly sinusoidal.

It is worth recalling that (2.1) follows by using the Poincaré relation $\psi(ws) = f(\psi(s))$, which is an immediate consequence of (1.5), and of $F(\log f(s)) = dF(\log(s))$ which is equivalent to the Böttcher functional relation (cf. § 1.3). In fact these two relations imply that if $\tilde{L}(\cdot)$ is the right-hand side of (2.1) then we have

$$\widetilde{L}(\log(ws)) = \frac{F(\log(\psi(ws)))}{w^{\gamma}s^{\gamma}} = \frac{F(\log f(\psi(s)))}{w^{\gamma}s^{\gamma}} = \frac{F(\log(s))}{s^{\gamma}} = \widetilde{L}(\log s).$$
(2.2)

But (1.7) directly implies that $F(h) \stackrel{h \nearrow \infty}{\sim} h$ and so

$$\widetilde{L}(\log s) = \frac{F(\log(\psi(w^n s)))}{\log(\psi(w^n s))} \frac{\log(\psi(w^n s))}{(w^n s)^{\gamma}} \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\sim} L(n \log w + \log s) = L(\log s), \quad (2.3)$$

where in taking the limit we have also used (1.6). Therefore (2.1) is proven.

Going back to the main argument, $\psi : [0, \infty) \to [1, \infty)$ is increasing and $\psi(s) = 1 + s + o(s)$, for s small, so $\psi^{-1}(\exp(h)) \sim h$ for h small. Therefore, since $L(\cdot)$ is continuous (and periodic), we obtain from (2.1)

$$\mathbf{F}(h) \stackrel{h \searrow 0}{\sim} h^{\gamma} L(\log h) \,, \tag{2.4}$$

which is (1.3) with $A(\cdot) = L(\cdot)$.

We are therefore left with the regularity properties of $A(\cdot) = L(\cdot)$ which we now call $\Omega(\cdot)$. For this we first claim that $x \mapsto F(\log(x))$ extends to an analytic function in a cone $C_{\delta} := \{z : |\arg(z-1)| < \delta \text{ and } \Re(z-1) > 0\}$, for a $\delta > 0$.

The claim follows from by (1.7) because one can find c > 1 such that both $|(f(z)z^{-d}/p_d) - 1| \le 1/2$ and $|f(z)| \ge c$ for $|z| \ge c$. Therefore no singularity comes from the series in (1.7) if $x \in C_{\delta}$, if δ is sufficiently small, because by elementary estimates we see that the argument of $f_n(x)$ remains bounded by a constant smaller than π for $n \le \min\{n : |f_n(x)| \ge c\}$.

Let us now look at the formula for $\Omega(\cdot)$ in (2.1) with $1 + s \in C_{\delta'}$ for $0 < \delta' < \delta(<\pi)$: by periodicity it suffices to consider $\Re(s)$ small, which guarantees that the (entire) function $\psi(s) = 1 + s + O(s^2)$ takes values in the cone C_{δ} and therefore $\Omega(\cdot)$ is analytic in the strip $\{z : |\Im(z)| < \delta\}$, which directly implies that the Fourier coefficients of $\Omega(\cdot)$ are smaller than $\exp(2\pi\delta'/\log w)$, for every $\delta' < \delta$ and *n* sufficiently large. This completes the proof of Proposition 1.2.

The argument we have just presented effectively uses the analyticity of $F(\log(z))$ for z in a truncated cone, that is for $z \in C_{\delta}$ and $\Re(z-1)$ small. In order to get a better (in fact, optimal) estimate on the decay of the Fourier coefficients a precise knowledge of the Julia set is needed, in the sense that it is necessary for the truncated cone to be in the complement of the filled Julia set. This of course guarantees that $f_n(z) \to \infty$, but this a priori is not sufficient because one has to ensure also that the absolute value of the argument of $f(z_n)z_n^{-d}/p_d$, $z_n := f_n(z)$, does not go beyond π for every $z = z_0$ in the truncated cone (recall (1.7)). We therefore restrict to d = 2 and attack the problem from a somewhat different angle.

2.2. **Proof of Theorem 1.3.** For the map f we consider ∞ is a super-attracting fixed point (see [18, p. 44-45]). It is practical and customary to map the fixed point at infinity to a fixed point at zero by conjugation. Let us make this explicit for d = 2, so that $f(x) = p_0 + p_1 x + p_2 x^2$ and $w = p_1 + 2p_2 \in (1, 2)$. The fixed points of f are 1 (unstable) and $p_0/p_2 < 1$ (stable). The affine transformation $x \mapsto l(x)$

$$l(x) := \frac{p_0}{2-w} - x \frac{p_2}{2-w}, \qquad (2.5)$$

sends $f(\cdot)$ into the standard logistic map:

$$l(f(l^{-1}(z))) = \lambda z(1-z), \quad \lambda := 2 - w \in (0,1).$$
(2.6)

The fixed points are mapped to $1 - 1/\lambda$ (unstable) and 0 (stable). We then map z to -1/z, so in the end we use the transformation q(x) := -1/l(x) $(q : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{p_0/p_2\} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\})$ to get to $\mathbf{f}(y) = q(f(q^{-1}(y)))$ and the new iteration

$$y_{n+1} = \mathbf{f}(y_n) = \frac{y_n^2}{\lambda(1+y_n)},$$
 (2.7)

and the unstable fixed point is now $\lambda/(1-\lambda)$, while 0 is stable (in fact, super-attracting). For later use, it is of help to note that $q(1) = \lambda/(1-\lambda)$ and that

$$\delta(h) := \frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} - q(\exp(h)) \stackrel{h \searrow 0}{\sim} c_{\lambda}h, \quad \text{with } c_{\lambda} := \frac{p_2\lambda}{(1-\lambda)^2}.$$
(2.8)

We are going to use the fact that there exists a unique function G, from \mathbb{D}_1 to the interior of $K(\mathbf{f})$, which is analytic and invertible, satisfying G(0) = 0 and $G'(0) = \lambda$ and

$$\mathbf{G}^{-1} \circ \mathbf{f} \circ \mathbf{G}(z) = z^2. \tag{2.9}$$

Actually, the existence and uniqueness of such a map in a small disk around the origin is a general result (Böttcher Theorem [18, § 9]). \mathbf{G}^{-1} is usually called Böttcher function for \mathbf{f} and it is uniquely determined once we require it to be analytic near zero, with $\mathbf{G}^{-1}(0) = 0$ and $(\mathbf{G}^{-1})'(0) = 1/\lambda$ (this is a classical result: see [5] and references therein). The fact that \mathbf{G} can be extended to the whole unit disk depends on the details of the map and, in our case, on the fact that $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ [5, p. 1312].

The argument that follows is based on [5, Theorem 1] which gives an expression for $\varphi(\cdot) := 1/\mathsf{G}(\cdot)$: there exists $\mathsf{g}(\cdot)$ entire, with $\mathsf{g}(0) = 0$ and $\mathsf{g}'(0) = 1$, and a non-trivial (non-constant!) periodic function $\omega(\cdot)$ of period log 2 (analytic on the strip $\{z : |\Im(z)| < \pi/2\}$) such that

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda} + g\left((-\log z)^{1/\gamma}\omega(\log(-\log z))\right), \qquad (2.10)$$

and we recall that $\gamma = \log 2/\log w > 1$. The properties of $\mathbf{G}(\cdot)$ directly imply that $\varphi(\cdot)$ is analytic in the punctured unit disc and that it is a conformal (and invertible) map. Actually, $\varphi(\cdot)$ extends by continuity to $\partial \mathbb{D}_1$ [5, p. 1313]. Moreover $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$ is invertible in the range of its argument in (2.10).

Let us point out that (2.10) implies (1.8). For this let us us go back to the (1.7), with which we have defined \mathcal{B} and then \mathcal{A} , see § 1.3. As we have already remarked in the proof of Proposition 1.2, $|f_n(z)| \geq |z|$ for |z| sufficiently large and this directly implies the analyticity of $\mathcal{B}(\cdot)$ in a neighborhood of infinity, as well as the existence of it inverse $\mathcal{A}(\cdot)$ in the same neighborhood, since $\mathcal{B}(z) \sim p_2 z$ for $|z| \to \infty$ (we remark that $\mathcal{B}(\cdot)$ coincides with the function $\widehat{\psi}$ in [18, p. 98]). Going (backward) through the conjugation that we have performed we see that $1/\mathcal{B}(q^{-1}(z)) \sim z/\lambda$ for |z| large and that $z \mapsto 1/\mathcal{B}(q^{-1}(z))$ solves the Böttcher equation (in the sense that it has the same property as G^{-1} in (2.9)). It must therefore coincide with G^{-1} and this extends the domain of analyticity, in fact bi-analyticity, of $\mathcal{A}(\cdot)$. Again, by going carefully through the backward conjugation we see that $g(\cdot) = 1 + (\lambda/p_2)\mathsf{g}(\cdot)$, so (1.8) is proven. The fact that $\mathcal{A}(\cdot)$ extends as a continuous function to $\partial \mathbb{D}_1$ follows from the analogous property for $\varphi(\cdot)$.

Point (1) of Theorem 1.3 follows from the general theory [18, Theorem 9.5]. In fact the Böttcher function $\mathcal{B}(\cdot)$ maps (in a bi-holomorphic fashion) $K(f)^{\complement}$ to $\mathbb{D}_{1}^{\complement}$ and $\mathcal{A}(\partial \mathbb{D}_{1}) = J(f)$.

Let us move to point (2) and let us start by remarking that

$$F(h) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \log f_n(\exp(h)) = -\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \log f_n(q(\exp(h))) .$$
 (2.11)

Therefore, in view of (2.8) we need to control $f_n((\lambda/(1-\lambda)) - \delta)$ for $n \to \infty$ and then δ small. But (2.9) tells us that for every n

$$\mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{G}(x)) = \mathbf{G}\left(x^{2^n}\right). \tag{2.12}$$

and therefore

$$\mathbf{f}_n\left(\frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda}-\delta\right) = \mathbf{G}\left(\mathbf{G}^{-1}\left(\frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda}-\delta\right)^{2^n}\right). \tag{2.13}$$

It is practical to set (in particular for $\delta > 0$)

$$\ell(\delta) := -\log \mathsf{G}^{-1}\left(\frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} - \delta\right) \,. \tag{2.14}$$

We claim the following:

Lemma 2.1. The map $x \mapsto x^{1/\gamma} \omega(\log x)$ is a bijection from $(0, \infty)$ to itself and its inverse can be written as $x \mapsto x^{\gamma} \alpha(\log(x))$, with $\alpha(\cdot) \log w$ -periodic. Moreover $\alpha(\cdot)$ is analytic in the strip $\{z : \Im(z) < \pi/(2\gamma)\}$. Finally for $c = ((1 - \lambda)/\lambda)^2$ we have

$$\ell(\delta) \stackrel{\delta \geq 0}{\sim} (\delta c)^{\gamma} \alpha \left(\log(\delta c) \right) \,. \tag{2.15}$$

Proof. We use the properties of $\varphi(\cdot)$ (or $G(\cdot)$) and (2.10). Therefore we see that if we set $z = \exp(-\ell(\delta))$ we have

$$\varphi\left(\exp\left(-\ell(\delta)\right)\right) = \frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda - (1-\lambda)\delta} =: \frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda} + v(\delta), \qquad (2.16)$$

and $v(\delta) \sim c \,\delta$, c given in the statement. Thus we have to solve

$$\ell(\delta)^{1/\gamma}\omega\left(\log(\ell(\delta))\right) = \mathbf{g}^{-1}\left(v(\delta)\right) \left(\stackrel{\delta \searrow 0}{\sim} c\,\delta\right),\tag{2.17}$$

at least for δ small. We see therefore that it is a matter of inverting $x \mapsto x^{1/\gamma} \omega(\log x) =: \beta(x)$. First, observe that $\beta : (0, \infty) \to (0, \infty)$ is invertible, because φ is invertible. Moreover $\beta(\cdot)$ is (real) analytic, hence $\beta^{-1}(\cdot)$ is too. Then set $\alpha(\log y) := \beta^{-1}(y)/y^{\gamma}$, so that $\alpha(\cdot)$ is real analytic and

$$\alpha\left(\frac{1}{\gamma}\log x + \log\omega(\log x)\right) = \frac{1}{\omega^{\gamma}(\log x)}.$$
(2.18)

From (2.18) we directly see that, since $\omega(\cdot)$ is log 2-periodic, $\alpha(\cdot)$ is $(\gamma^{-1} \log 2)$ -periodic (that, is log *w*-periodic) and, since $\omega(\cdot)$ is not constant, $\alpha(\cdot)$ is not a constant either . Therefore the statement is proven, except for the domain of analyticity. To this end note that the argument above was given by restricting to the real axis, but we do know that $\omega(\cdot)$ is analytic on the symmetric strip of half-width $\pi/2$ and therefore $\beta(\cdot)$ is analytic in the positive half-plane $\{z : \Re(z) > 0\}$: all we need to know is the fact that it is invertible in this domain. But since $\varphi(\cdot)$ is defined and invertible in the punctured unit disk, $z \mapsto \varphi(\exp(-z))$ is defined and invertible in the punctured unit disk, $z \mapsto \varphi(\exp(-z))$ is defined and invertible, at least if we restrict to the truncated cone of the points z such that $|\operatorname{Arg}(z)| \leq \pi/(1 + \varepsilon)$, for any choice of $\varepsilon > 0$, and $\Re(z) > 0$ sufficiently small. Once again, since $\alpha(\cdot)$ is periodic, analyticity on $\{z : |\Im(z)| < \pi/(2\gamma(1+\varepsilon))$ and $\Re(z) < -C\}$, for $\varepsilon > 0$ arbitrary and $C = C(\varepsilon)$ large, implies analyticity on the whole strip $\{z : |\Im(z)| < \pi/(2\gamma)\}$.

Let us complete the proof of (2) and for this let us go back to (2.11) and use (2.8) and (2.13) to see that

$$\mathbf{F}(h) = -\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \log \mathbf{G} \left(\mathbf{G}^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1 - \lambda} - \delta(h) \right)^{2^n} \right)$$
(2.19)

A direct consequence of Lemma 2.1 and of $\lim_{h\searrow 0} \delta(h) = 0$ is that $\mathbf{G}^{-1}((\lambda/1-\lambda)-\delta(h)) < 1$ for h sufficiently small and therefore, since $\mathbf{G}(0) = 0$ and $\mathbf{G}'(0) > 0$, for such values of h, we have

$$\mathbf{F}(h) = -\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \log \mathbf{G}^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} - \delta(h) \right)^{2^n} = -\log G^{-1} \left(\frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} - \delta(h) \right) = \ell(\delta(h)) \,. \tag{2.20}$$

We now recall once again (2.8) and apply Lemma 2.1 to obtain

$$\mathbf{F}(h) \stackrel{h \searrow 0}{\sim} (c_{\lambda} c h)^{\gamma} \alpha \left(\log(c_{\lambda} c h) \right) , \qquad (2.21)$$

and we compute $c_{\lambda}c = p_2/\lambda = c$, from which we identify $\Omega(\cdot)$ in terms of $\alpha(\cdot)$ and c.

Remark 2.2. Of course one can upgrade the proof we just completed to include Proposition 1.2, that is to deal with the asymptotic behavior of $\psi(\cdot)$. This is straightforward, albeit a bit lengthy: we sketch the main steps and make some comments. First of all we have

$$\psi(s) = \lim_{n \to \infty} q^{-1} \left(\mathbf{f}_n \left(q(\exp(s/w^n)) \right) \right) \,, \tag{2.22}$$

and we notice the analogy with (2.13) and we write

$$\mathbf{f}_n\left(q(\exp(s/w^n))\right) = \mathbf{G}\left(\mathbf{G}^{-1}\left(\frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} - \delta_n\right)^{2^n}\right), \qquad (2.23)$$

where

$$\delta_n := \delta \left(e^{\frac{s}{w^n}} - 1 \right) \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\sim} c_\lambda \frac{s}{w^n} \,. \tag{2.24}$$

It is now a matter of applying Lemma 2.1: the net result is the following representation for the generating function of the Harris random variable:

$$\psi(s) = q^{-1} \left(\mathsf{G} \left(\exp\left(-(s\mathsf{c})^{\gamma} \alpha(\log(s\mathsf{c})) \right) \right) \right), \qquad (2.25)$$

where we recall that $\mathbf{c} = p_2/\lambda$. Since $q^{-1} \circ \mathbf{G}(x)$ for $x \searrow 0$ behaves like a constant times 1/x, one readily recovers (1.6) (let us remark that in fact (2.25) is equivalent to (2.1)).

3. On quantitative estimates

3.1. Estimating $\Omega(\cdot)$. A detailed numerical approach to $\Omega(\cdot)$ can be found in [3] for $f(x) = \lambda x + (1-\lambda)x^2$, for $\lambda = 0.1, 0.2, \ldots, 0.9$, but without explicit error bounds. The (two) methods they employ however do allow an explicit control of the error, with a non-trivial amount of work. Notably, by using what they call *Böttcher method*, which is based on (2.1), one uses (1.7) for $F(\cdot)$, for which it is straightforward to control the error when one truncates the series, and one can easily set up an iterative procedure to get the Taylor coefficients of $\psi(\cdot)$ with a control on the remainder by fixed point arguments. Note that it is sufficient to control the error for $s \in [c, cw]$, for a conveniently chosen c. Similar ideas are developed in detail just below for $\omega(\cdot)$, on which we focus, and we recover $\Omega(\cdot)$ from $\omega(\cdot)$.

3.2. Estimating $\omega(\cdot)$. By recalling (2.10) and by the properties stated right after that formula we see that

$$\omega(\log s) = s^{-b} \mathsf{g}^{-1} \left(\varphi(\exp(-s)) - \frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda} \right) , \qquad (3.1)$$

where (see [5])

• $\mathbf{g}(\cdot)$ is the unique solution to

$$g(y) = A(g(y/w)), \text{ with } A(y) := wy + \lambda y^2, \ g(0) = 0, \ g'(0) = 1;$$
 (3.2)

• $\varphi(\cdot)$ is the unique solution of

$$\varphi(y^2) = P(\varphi(y)), \quad \text{with} \quad P(x) = \lambda x(1+x),$$
(3.3)

under the condition that $\varphi(\cdot)$ is analytic in the punctured unit disc and that $\varphi(z) \sim 1/(\lambda z)$ for z going to zero.

We recall the relation

$$g(\cdot) = 1 + \frac{p_2}{\lambda} \mathbf{g}(\cdot), \qquad (3.4)$$

and $g(\cdot)$ is the function appearing in Theorem 1.3.

In principle, it is now a matter of exploiting (3.2) and (3.3) to get enough terms in the power series of \mathbf{g} and φ and of controlling the remainder, to obtain a sufficiently good approximation of ω on $[x, x + \log 2]$, for some x, from which we can extract the Fourier coefficients of ω by controlled numerical integration. While in principle this whole procedure is straightforward, in practice it is quite non-trivial given the fast decay of the coefficients and the fact that even the first coefficients are extremely small.

Remark 3.1. Once $\omega(\cdot)$ is precisely estimated over an interval of length log 2 – the period – it is of course known with the same precision over \mathbb{R} . The plot of the Julia set in 1 is obtained by following the same principle: we will not perform explicit estimates for $\omega(\cdot)$ on \mathbb{C} and we content ourselves with remarking the somewhat surprising precision of such a procedure, see Fig. 1 and its caption. The graph in Fig. 1 has been obtained by keeping 250 terms in both the series for g and φ , and by performing three times the backward iteration procedure that we explain just below.

3.3. Approximating g and g^{-1} . From (3.2) we see that the power series for g has positive coefficients. One can obtain the first n coefficients by setting $g_{(n)}(x) := x + g_2 x^2 + \ldots + g_n x^n$, by computing the polynomial $g_{(n)}(wx) - A(g_{(n)}(x))$ and by setting to zero the coefficients of the terms of degree smaller than n + 1. This determines g_2, \ldots, g_n . Then we define q via $g(x) = g_{(n)}(x) + y^{n+1}q(x)$ and use (3.2) to obtain

$$q(x) = Q(x) + p(x)q(x/w) + \frac{\lambda}{w^{2(n+1)}}x^{n+1} (q(x/w))^2 , \qquad (3.5)$$

where Q is a polynomial of degree n-1 and $Q(0) \neq 0$, $p(x) := w^{-n} + 2\lambda w^{-n-1}g_{(n)}(x/w)$. With the notation $||q||_{\varepsilon} := \max_{x \in [0,\varepsilon]} |q(x)|$ we directly obtain that if we can exhibit a > 1 and $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$c_{\varepsilon} := 1 - \|p\|_{\varepsilon} - a \frac{\lambda}{w^{2(n+1)}} \varepsilon^{n+1} |Q(0)| > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \|Q\|_{\varepsilon} \le a c_{\varepsilon} |Q(0)|, \qquad (3.6)$$

then $|q(x)| \leq a|Q(0)|$ for $|x| \leq \varepsilon$. Therefore, by the positivity of the series coefficients, we have

$$g_{(n)}(x) \le g(x) \le g_{(n)}(x) + a|Q(0)|x^{n+1},$$
(3.7)

for $x \in [0, \varepsilon]$. By inverting the two polynomials that bound **g** from below and above, and by taking the Taylor expansion to order *n* of these two expressions one directly recovers the power series for \mathbf{g}^{-1} truncated at *n*, with an explicit control on the rest.

A performing way to improve this approximation of g^{-1} is the following: from (3.2) we obtain

$$g^{-1}(y) = w g^{-1} (A^{-1}(y)) ,$$
 (3.8)

where

$$A^{-1}(y) = \frac{\sqrt{4y\lambda + w^2} - w}{2\lambda}.$$
 (3.9)

 A^{-1} is concave, with slope 1/w at the origin and from this we get that if $\mathbf{g}^{-1}(y) = p(y) + r_0(y)$, with $p(\cdot) \ge 0$ and r_0 a remainder like above, we get

$$\left| \mathsf{g}^{-1}(y) - wp\left(A^{-1}(y) \right) \right| \le w \left| r_0\left(A^{-1}(y) \right) \right| \le Cw\left(\frac{y}{w} \right)^k$$
 (3.10)

Note that the new remainder is better both because it improves by a factor w^{1-k} the estimate in the interval in which we have the estimate for r_0 (with no a priori condition on the argument of r_0) and because it yields an explicit estimate on an interval that is w times larger. We sum up this argument:

Fact 3.2. If
$$g^{-1} = p + r_0$$
, with $p(x) \ge 0$, $|r_0(x)| \le Cx^k$ for $x \in [0, x_0]$ and if we set
 $r_n(y) := g^{-1}(y) - w^n p\left((A^{-1})^{\circ n}(y)\right)$, (3.11)

then $|r_n(y)| \leq w^n |r_0((A^{-1})^{\circ n}(y))| \leq Cy^k / w^{(k-1)n}$, for $y \in [0, w^n x_0]$ (actually, even on a much larger set, since $A^{\circ n}(y)$ becomes much larger than yw^n for n large).

3.4. Approximating φ . One starts by guessing the (Laurent) series coefficients for φ , by using (3.3), and it is not difficult to see that

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\lambda x} - \frac{1}{2} + p(x) + y^{2n+1} r(y), \qquad (3.12)$$

where r is analytic and p(x) is a polynomial of degree 2n - 1 that contains only odd powers of x. Again by using (3.3) we extract an equation for r:

$$r(x)p_1(x) + p_0(x) - \lambda x^{2n+2}r_n(x)^2 + r_n(x^2)x^{2n+2} = 0, \qquad (3.13)$$

where $p_1(x)$ is a polynomial of degree 2n, containing only even powers, with $p_1(0) = -2$; $p_0(x)$ contains also only even powers and it is a polynomial of degree 2n - 2. Then one can show that if one can exhibit a > 1 and $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

$$C_{\varepsilon} := 1 - \left\| \frac{1}{p_1} \right\|_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{2n+2} \left(a\lambda \left| \frac{p_0(0)}{p_1(0)} \right| + 1 \right) > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \left\| \frac{p_0}{p_1} \right\|_{\varepsilon} \le aC_{\varepsilon} \left| \frac{p_0(0)}{p_1(0)} \right| \,, \quad (3.14)$$

then

$$\left|\varphi(x) - \left(\frac{1}{\lambda x} - \frac{1}{2} + p(x)\right)\right| \le \frac{a}{2}|p_0(0)|y^{2n+1}, \qquad (3.15)$$

for $(0, \varepsilon]$.

The approximation of φ can be greatly improved by backward iteration, as for g^{-1} : from (3.3) it follows that

$$\varphi(y) = Q(\varphi(y^2)), \quad \text{where} \quad Q(x) = \frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{4x}{\lambda}} - 1}{2}.$$
 (3.16)

Note that $Q(\cdot)$ is concave, $Q'(0) = 1/\lambda$ and Q(x) = x implies x = 0 or $x = (1 - \lambda)/\lambda$. So if $\varphi = \tilde{\varphi} + r_0$, with $\tilde{\varphi}(x) \ge 0$ and $|r_0(x)| \le Cx^k$ for $x \in (0, x_0]$, then

$$\left|\varphi(y) - Q(\widetilde{\varphi}(y^2))\right| \le \frac{1}{\lambda} |r_0(y^2)| \le \frac{C}{\lambda} y^{2k}, \qquad (3.17)$$

for $y \in (0, \sqrt{x_0}]$. This can also be seen by using $\max_{x\geq 0} |Q'(x)| = 1/\lambda$. Note that (3.17) implies that $Q(\tilde{\varphi}(y^2))$ is better that $\tilde{\varphi}(y)$ in approximating $\varphi(y)$ in the sense that the new remainder $(r_1(y) := \varphi(y) - Q(\tilde{\varphi}(y^2)))$ is smaller than the previous one if y is in the original interval, that is $y \in (0, x_0]$, if $x_0 < \lambda^{1/k}$, and one has an explicit estimate for r_1 in a larger interval. To sum up:

Fact 3.3. If
$$\varphi = \widetilde{\varphi} + r_0$$
, with $\widetilde{\varphi}(x) \ge 0$ and $|r_0(x)| \le Cx^k$ for $x \in (0, x_0]$, then if we set
$$r_n(y) := \varphi(y) - Q^{\circ n} \left(\widetilde{\varphi} \left(y^{2^n} \right) \right) , \qquad (3.18)$$

we have $|r_n(y)| \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^n} |r_0(y^{2^n})| \leq C y^{2^n k} / \lambda^n$, for $y \in [0, x_0^{1/2^n}]$.

3.5. Example of computation. By applying the arguments of the previous subsection for $\lambda = 2 - w = 1/5$ we have

$$g(x) = x + \frac{(2-w)x^2}{(w-1)w} + \frac{2(2-w)^2x^3}{(w-1)^2w^2(1+w)} + \frac{(2-w)^3(5+w)x^4}{(w-1)^3w^3(1+w)(1+w+w^2)} + \frac{2(w-2)^4(7+w(3+2w))x^5}{(w-1)^4w^4(1+w)^2(1+w^2)(1+w+w^2)} + r_5(x), \quad (3.19)$$

with $|r_5(x)| \leq 5|x|^6/10^6$ for $|x| \leq 2.5$. From this we extract

$$g^{-1}(x) = x - \frac{\lambda x^2}{(-1+w)w} + \frac{2\lambda^2 x^3}{(-1+w)^2 w(1+w)} - \frac{\lambda^3 (1+5w^2) x^4}{(-1+w)^3 w^2 (1+w) (1+w+w^2)} + \frac{2\lambda^4 (3+2w+7w^3) x^5}{(-1+w)^4 w(1+w)^2 (1+w^2) (1+w+w^2)} + r_5^-(x), \quad (3.20)$$

with $|r_5^-(x)| \le 5|x|^6/10^4$ for $|x| \le 2$. Moreover

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\lambda x} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8}(-2+\lambda)x + \frac{1}{128}\left(-16+4\lambda+4\lambda^2-\lambda^3\right)x^3 + \frac{(-2+\lambda)\lambda\left(16-4\lambda-4\lambda^2+\lambda^3\right)x^5}{1024} + R_6(x), \quad (3.21)$$

where $|R_6(x)| \le x^7/10$ for $x \in (0, 9/10]$.



FIGURE 3. The plots of approximations of $\omega(\cdot) - \overline{\omega}$, cf. (3.22), for $\lambda = 1/5$ are obtained by using the expansion of \mathbf{g}^{-1} to 5th order and φ to 6th order, and by applying five times, on the left, and seven times, on the right, the backward iteration procedure. The case on the right is used for the quantitative estimates, and the interval $[-2 - \log 2, -2]$, in which we have good error estimates, is chosen.

Aiming at obtaining a good approximation of ω we choose $s \in [1/(2e^2), 1/e^2]$, so $\exp(-s) \in [0.873..., 0.934...]$. For this interval of values we obtain $\varphi(\exp(-s)) - (1-\lambda)/\lambda \in [0.48..., 0.92...]$ with an error of at most $(0.93)^{7 \times 2^{n_1}}/(10(0.2)^{n_1})$, where n_1 is the number of backward iterations employed, cf. (3.18). Similarly, the error on \mathbf{g}^{-1} in the range of values under consideration is uniformly bounded by $(5/10^4)(0.93)^6/(1.8)^{5n_2}$. Choosing $n_1 = 7$ makes the error on φ smaller than 10^{-23} and setting also $n_2 = 7$ leads to an error on ω that is uniformly bounded by 5×10^{-13} . This allows to estimate the average value of ω and the first Fourier coefficient with a precision of at least 10^{-11} : $\omega(x) = \overline{\omega} + g_1 \sin(2\pi(x-x_0)/\log 2) + \ldots$

$$\overline{\omega} := \frac{1}{\log 2} \int_{-2 - \log(2)}^{-2} \omega(y) \, \mathrm{d}y \approx 4.45140273002 \tag{3.22}$$

and $g_1 \approx 5.938 \times 10^{-8}$.

At this point if one wants to recover $\Omega(\cdot)$ one has to perform the inversion step in Theorem 1.3(2). It is not difficult to realize by considering (2.18) that, given the small size of the oscillations, a good approximation of $\alpha(y)$ (defined in Theorem 1.3(2)) is $1/\omega^{\gamma}(\gamma y - \gamma \log \overline{\omega})$). Of course a control of the error requires an attentive (but elementary) analysis. By performing explicitly the case under consideration and choosing for example $p_1 = 0$, $p_2 = w/2$ and $p_0 = 1 - p_2$ we obtain $\overline{\Omega} = 1.01288677326$ and the first Fourier coefficient is 1.59×10^{-8} .

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