

# The Invariant Measure for the Two-Dimensional Parry-Daniels Map

By

**Fritz Schweiger**

(Vorgelegt in der Sitzung der math.-nat. Klasse am 15. November 2007  
durch das k. M. I. Fritz Schweiger)

## Abstract

The Parry-Daniels map  $T$  has an exceptional set  $\Gamma$  which can be seen as a strange attractor for  $T$ . The density of the invariant measure is given. Some remarks on the exceptional set for the mixture of the Selmer algorithm and the fully subtractive algorithm are added.

*Mathematics Subject Classification (2000):* 11K55, 28D99.

*Key words:* Ergodic theory, invariant measures.

Let  $x = (x_0, x_1, x_2) \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^3$  and let  $\pi$  be a permutation of the indices such that  $x_{\pi 0} \leq x_{\pi 1} \leq x_{\pi 2}$ . The Poincaré map  $P$  is defined as

$$P(x_0, x_1, x_2) = (x_{\pi 0}, x_{\pi 1} - x_{\pi 0}, x_{\pi 2} - x_{\pi 1}).$$

We introduce

$$\Sigma^2 = \{x \in (\mathbb{R}^+)^3 : x_0 + x_1 + x_2 = 1\}.$$

Then the Parry-Daniels map  $T: \Sigma^2 \rightarrow \Sigma^2$  is defined as

$$T(x_0, x_1, x_2) = \left( \frac{x_{\pi 0}}{x_{\pi 2}}, \frac{x_{\pi 1} - x_{\pi 0}}{x_{\pi 2}}, \frac{x_{\pi 2} - x_{\pi 1}}{x_{\pi 2}} \right),$$
$$\pi \in \{\varepsilon, (01), (02), (12), (012), (021)\}.$$

We introduce the notation

$$x^{(k)} = (x_0^{(k)}, x_1^{(k)}, x_2^{(k)}) := P^k x.$$

We define

$$\sigma(x) := \sum_{k \geq 0} \max(x_0^{(k)}, x_1^{(k)}).$$

The following result could be proved (SCHWEIGER [2], NOGUEIRA [1]).

Let

$$\Gamma := \bigcap_{s=0}^{\infty} \bigcup_{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_s \in \{\varepsilon, (01)\}} B(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_s),$$

then  $\Gamma = \{x \in \Sigma^2: \sigma(x) \leq x_2\}$  and  $\lambda(\Gamma) > 0$ . Since  $T$  is ergodic with respect to Lebesgue measure, we obtain

$$\Sigma^2 = \bigcup_{j=0}^{\infty} T^{-j}\Gamma.$$

Note that  $\sigma(x)$  is convergent for almost all directions  $\theta = x_0/x_1$  or  $\theta = x_1/x_0$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ .

Since on  $\Sigma^2$  the relation  $x_2 = 1 - x_0 - x_1$  holds, we restrict our attention to the first coordinates, i.e. to the domain  $\{(x_0, x_1): 0 \leq x_0, 0 \leq x_1, 0 \leq x_0 + x_1 \leq 1\}$ .

**Theorem.** *The function*

$$h(x_0, x_1) = \frac{1}{x_0(x_0 + x_1)(1 - x_0 - x_1 - \sigma(x_0, x_1))}$$

*is an invariant density for  $T$  restricted to  $\Gamma$ .*

*Proof.* The map  $T$  restricted to  $\Gamma$  has only two inverse branches

$$V(\varepsilon)(x_0, x_1) = \left( \frac{x_0}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1}, \frac{x_0 + x_1}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1} \right),$$

$$V(01)(x_0, x_1) = \left( \frac{x_0 + x_1}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1}, \frac{x_0}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1} \right).$$

Then

$$h(V_0(\varepsilon)(x_0, x_1))\omega(\varepsilon, x_0, x_1) + h(V(01)(x_0, x_1))\omega(01; x_0, x_1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x_0(2x_0 + x_1) \left( 1 - (1 + 2x_0 + x_1)\sigma\left(\frac{x_0}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1}, \frac{x_0 + x_1}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1}\right) \right)}$$

$$+\frac{1}{x_0(2x_0+x_1)\left(1-(1+2x_0+x_1)\sigma\left(\frac{x_0}{1+2x_0+x_1},\frac{x_0+x_1}{1+2x_0+x_1}\right)\right)}.$$

We note the following properties of the function  $\sigma$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(\lambda y_0, \lambda y_1) &= \lambda \sigma(y_0, y_1), \\ \sigma(y_0, y_1) &= \sigma(y_1, y_0), \\ \sigma(x_0, x_0 + x_1) &= x_0 + x_1 + \sigma(x_0, x_1).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$(1 + 2x_0 + x_1)\sigma\left(\frac{x_0}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1}, \frac{x_0 + x_1}{1 + 2x_0 + x_1}\right) = x_0 + x_1 + \sigma(x_0, x_1).$$

Hence

$$h(V(\varepsilon)(x_0, x_1))\omega(\varepsilon; x_0, x_1) + h(V(01)(X_0, x_1))\omega(01; x_0, x_1) = h(x_0, x_1).$$

**Remark 1.** The set  $\Gamma$  can be described as consisting of all needles emanating from  $(0, 0)$  which are given by the equations

$$x_0 = \lambda, \quad x_1 = \lambda\theta, \quad 0 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{1 + \theta + S(\theta)}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned}x_0 = \lambda\theta, \quad x_1 = \lambda, \quad 0 \leq \lambda \leq \frac{1}{1 + \theta + S(\theta)}, \\ S(\theta) = \sigma(\theta, 1) = \sigma(1, \theta), \quad 0 \leq \theta \leq 1.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore the equation

$$x_0 + x_1 + \sigma(x_0, x_1) = 1$$

can be viewed as referring to the boundary of  $\Gamma$  in some sense (the other parts of the boundary are given by  $x_0 = 0$  and  $x_1 = 1$ ).

**Remark 2.** This remark concerns the paper SCHWEIGER [3]. In this paper the Selmer algorithm  $S$  and the Fully Subtractive algorithm  $T$  were considered. The following theorem was proved:

**Theorem.** Let  $\Gamma = (x_1, x_2) \in B^2: (S \circ T)^j x \in E, j \geq 0$ . Then  $\lambda(\Gamma) > 0$ .

The proof given was a modification of SCHWEIGER [2]. The essential idea is to show that

$$\frac{q_n}{A_n} \geq \gamma > 0, \quad \gamma = \gamma(u) \quad \text{a.e.}$$

However in contrast to the Parry-Daniels map it is easy to show that there is a constant  $\gamma > 0$  such that for all  $u$

$$\frac{q_n}{A_n} \geq \gamma > 0.$$

From

$$a_{n+1} \leq \frac{q_{n+1}}{q_n}$$

one sees by induction that

$$q_n \leq \left( 2 + \frac{1}{q_1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{q_{n-1}} \right) A_n$$

holds. This implies that the set  $\Gamma$  contains a triangle. Therefore the set  $\Gamma$  is less “exceptional” as explained in Remark 2. In fact,  $\Gamma$  contains the triangle with the vertices  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ ,  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ . But it is easy to see that  $\Gamma$  contains at least countably many segments which start at  $(0, 0)$  but go beyond the line  $2x_1 + x_2 = 1$ .

The restriction of  $S \circ T$  on  $\Gamma$  has the  $\sigma$ -finite invariant measure with density

$$h(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{x_1 x_2 (1 - 2x_1 - x_2)}.$$

### Acknowledgement

This paper was inspired by discussions on the dynamics of  $T$  on  $\Gamma$  during the Workshop on Dynamical Systems and Number Theory in Strobl (July 2007).

### References

- [1] NOGUEIRA, A. (1995) The three-dimensional Poincaré continued fraction algorithm. *Israel J. Math.* **90**: 373–401
- [2] SCHWEIGER, F. (1981) On the Parry-Daniels transformation. *Analysis* **1**: 171–175
- [3] SCHWEIGER, F. (2004) Ergodic and Diophantine properties of algorithms of Selmer type. *Acta Arithm.* **114**: 99–111

**Author’s address:** Prof. Dr. Fritz Schweiger, Department of Mathematics, University of Salzburg, Hellbrunner Strasse 34, 5020 Salzburg, Austria. E-Mail: fritz.schweiger@sbg.ac.at.