

Conformal measures for multidimensional piecewise invertible maps

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Abstract

Given a piecewise invertible map $T : X \rightarrow X$ and a weight $g : X \rightarrow]0, \infty[$, a conformal measure ν is a probability measure on X such that, for all measurable $A \subset X$ with $T : A \rightarrow TA$ invertible,

$$\nu(TA) = \lambda \int_A \frac{1}{g} d\nu$$

with $\lambda > 0$. Such a measure is an essential tool for the study of equilibrium states. Assuming that the topological pressure of the boundary is small, that $\log g$ has bounded distortion and an irreducibility condition, we build such a conformal measure.

1 Introduction

Consider a weighted dynamical system, i.e., a self-map T of some space X together with a positively valued function $g : X \rightarrow]0, \infty[$. The purpose of thermodynamical formalism is to study *equilibrium states* and their properties. An equilibrium state is a T -invariant probability measure on X , characterized by the following variational principle:

$$P_g(\mu_e, T) = \sup_{\mu} P_g(\mu, T) \text{ where } P_g(\mu, T) = h(\mu, T) - \int_X \log g d\mu.$$

$P_g(\mu, T)$ is called the *pressure* and $h(\mu, T)$ is the entropy — see [4] for background on thermodynamical formalism.

An indication of the importance of this notion is that if X is a manifold, T differentiable and g is the inverse of the Jacobian of T w.r.t. Lebesgue measure, then (in many settings) the equilibrium states are exactly the *a.c.i.m.*'s, i.e., the absolutely continuous (w.r.t. Lebesgue measure) invariant probability measures.

For general weight g , the equilibrium states are singular w.r.t. Lebesgue measure. But it turns out that (in many setting), they are again characterized by their absolute continuity w.r.t. to a special, not invariant, probability measure, *the conformal measure*, i.e., a probability measure with Jacobian $1/g$ w.r.t. T . Such results for the setting considered in this paper were proved in [2], but the existence of a conformal measure was proved only in the piecewise affine case (and assumed in the other cases).

In this paper we *build such conformal measures* for general, multi-dimensional and non-Markov piecewise invertible maps, completing the study of thermodynamical formalism of such systems done in [2], [3]. Our assumptions are natural generalizations of those encountered in

the one-dimensional case (see, e.g., [7] and the references therein) and they are satisfied in many higher dimensional cases, see below.

To state our results we need some definitions.

Definition 1.1 *A piecewise invertible dynamical system is a triple (X, \mathcal{Z}, T) with:*

- X a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^d .
- \mathcal{Z} a finite collection of pairwise disjoint, open subsets of \mathbb{R}^d such that $Y := \bigcup_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}} Z$ is dense in X .
- $T : Y \rightarrow X$ such that for each $Z \in \mathcal{Z}$, $T|_Z$ is the restriction of a homeomorphism T_Z between neighborhoods of \bar{Z} and \overline{TZ} .

A weight for (X, \mathcal{Z}, T) is a continuous function $g : Y \rightarrow]0, \infty[$. We write $g_n(x) = g(x) \cdot g(Tx) \dots g(T^{n-1}x)$ where this is well-defined, that is to say, on $\bigcap_{k=0}^{n-1} T^{-k}Y$.

Let \mathcal{Z}_n be the set of n -cylinders associated to the collection \mathcal{Z} , i.e, for $n \geq 1$:

$$\mathcal{Z}_n = \{A_0 \cap T^{-1}A_1 \cap \dots \cap T^{-(n-1)}A_{n-1} \neq \emptyset : A_0 \dots A_{n-1} \in \mathcal{Z}\}.$$

The n -cylinder $A_0 \cap T^{-1}A_1 \cap \dots \cap T^{n-1}A_{n-1}$ will be written $[A_0, \dots, A_{n-1}]$. ∂Z denotes the topological boundary of Z as a subset of \mathbb{R}^d . We will use the following notation:

$$\partial \mathcal{Z}_n = \bigcup_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n} \partial Z.$$

The *topological pressure* of $S \subset X$ (w.r.t. the weight g) is

$$P_g(S, T) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \sum_{\substack{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n \\ \bar{Z} \cap S \neq \emptyset}} \sup_Z g_n.$$

A *conformal measure* is a probability measure ν on X such that, for some number $\lambda > 0$,

$$\frac{d\nu \circ T}{d\nu} = \lambda \frac{1}{g} \nu\text{-a.e.}$$

Observe that this is equivalent to: $\nu(TA) = \lambda \int_A g^{-1} d\nu$ for all measurable A on which T is injective. It is also equivalent to requiring ν to be an eigenfunctional of \mathcal{L}^* for a positive eigenvalue (see section 2 for definitions).

Main Theorem *Let (X, \mathcal{Z}, T) be a piecewise invertible system with weight g . Assume that:*

- (a) $P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T) < P_g(X, T)$.
- (b) g has bounded distortion under T in the following sense:

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_{n+m}} \sup_{x, y \in Z} \log \frac{g_n(x)}{g_n(y)} = 0.$$

- (c) \mathcal{Z} generates, i.e., $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n} \text{diam}(Z) = 0$.
- (d) $T(Y) \supset Y$ and $\inf_Y g > 0$.
- (e) each $Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n$, $n \geq 1$, has finitely many connected components.
- (f) for every non-empty open set $U \subset X$, there is $n < \infty$ such that $T^n(U \cap Y) \supset Y$.

Then there exists a conformal measure ν . Moreover the associated eigenvalue is $\lambda = e^{P_g(X, T)}$.

Remark 1.1

- The conditions above are satisfied for instance, if T is piecewise C^1 , expanding and generic, in the sense that (see [2, Prop. 5.2]):

$$h_{\text{mult}}(\mathcal{Z}, T) = 0$$

and if g has a summable modulus of continuity (a weaker condition than Hölder continuity) with

$$\frac{\sup g}{\inf g} < \Lambda_- \left(\frac{\Lambda_-}{\Lambda_+} \right)^{d-1},$$

Λ_+ and Λ_- being the maximum and the minimum of the rate of expansion.

- Condition (d) could be replaced by the (very slightly) weaker condition:

$$\inf_{y \in Y} \sum_{x \in T^{-1}y} g(y) > 0.$$

- Condition (b) is used only in Section 3 to prove that:

– $\prod_{k \geq 1} \frac{g(y_k)}{g(x_k)}$ converges for every sequences $(x_k), (y_k)$ such that $Tx_{k+1} = x_k$, $Ty_{k+1} = y_k$ and x_k, y_k are in the same element of \mathcal{Z} for every k .

– the measurability of $m(\cdot, x)$ (see Section 3 for the definition).

Elsewhere only $\sup_Y g < \infty$ is needed.

As it was pointed in the introduction, the existence of conformal measures is motivated by the study of *equilibrium states*. Recall that these are the invariant probability measures μ_e such that:

$$h(\mu_e, T) + \int_X \log g d\mu_e = \sup_{\mu} h(\mu, T) + \int_X \log g d\mu = P_g(X, T).$$

Applying [2], we get:

Corollary 1.1 *Assume that (X, \mathcal{Z}, T, g) satisfies the requirements of the theorem. Then there exists exactly one ergodic equilibrium state μ_e .*

Moreover it is ergodic and coincides with the unique invariant probability measure absolutely continuous with respect to the conformal measure ν .

[3] then gives an estimate of the rate of mixing depending on the smoothness of (T, g) . For instance,

Corollary 1.2 *If T is piecewise uniformly expanding and g is piecewise Hölder continuous, then (T, μ_e) has exponential mixing w.r.t. Hölder continuous observables, i.e.,*

$$\int_X f \cdot h \circ T^n d\mu_e \rightarrow \int_X f d\mu_e \cdot \int_X h d\mu_e \quad \text{exponentially fast.}$$

for f Hölder continuous and h bounded and measurable.

(In non-Hölder situations, [3] gives sub-exponential speeds.)

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2 Construction of a positive eigenfunctional.

Let (X, \mathcal{Z}, T, g) be as in the Main Theorem. A standard, key tool is the *transfer operator* associated to (T, g) . It is the map \mathcal{L} acting on functions according to:

$$(\mathcal{L}f)(x) = \sum_{y \in T^{-1}x} g(y) \cdot f(y)$$

which also can be written:

$$\mathcal{L}f = \sum_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}} (gf) \circ T_Z^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{1}_{TZ}.$$

Under condition (b) of the Main Theorem, $\sup_Y g < \infty$ so that $\sup_X \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X < \infty$: \mathcal{L} acts on the Banach space \mathcal{B} of bounded functions. Finally let \mathcal{B}' be the topological dual \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{L}^* be the dual operator of \mathcal{L} , i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}^* \alpha(f) = \alpha(\mathcal{L}f)$$

for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}'$ and $f \in \mathcal{B}$.

Observe that a probability measure belongs to \mathcal{B}' and that being conformal is the same as being an eigenfunctional for \mathcal{L}^* and some positive eigenvalue. Hence the first step of the proof of the Main Theorem is the

Proposition 2.1 *There exists a positive functional $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}'$ with $\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_X) = \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_Y) = 1$ such that*

$$\mathcal{L}^* \Lambda = \lambda \Lambda$$

for some number $0 < \lambda < \infty$.

Remark 2.1 Any such Λ has full support: $\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_U) > 0$ for all non-empty, open subsets $U \subset X$. This is an immediate consequence of conditions (d) and (f). Namely, take U a non-empty open set and n such that $T^n(U \cap Y) \supset Y$ then:

$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_U) &= \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{U \cap Y}) \geq \frac{1}{\lambda^n} \mathcal{L}^n \mathbf{1}_{U \cap Y} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\lambda^n} (\inf_Y \mathcal{L}^n \mathbf{1}_{U \cap Y}) \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_Y) \geq \frac{(\inf g)^n}{\lambda^n} > 0.\end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.2 Any such Λ doesn't give mass to the boundary because $\mathcal{L}^n \mathbf{1}_{\partial Z_n} = 0$ and:

$$\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{\partial Z_n}) = \frac{1}{\lambda^n} \Lambda(\mathcal{L}^n \mathbf{1}_{\partial Z_n}) = 0.$$

Since we are looking for a probability measure, we will restrict the action of \mathcal{L}^* to the following subset \mathcal{C} of \mathcal{B}' :

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{B}', \alpha(\mathbf{1}_X) = \alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y) = 1, \text{ and } \alpha(f) \geq 0 \text{ for all } f \geq 0\}.$$

We shall consider the *weak star topology* on \mathcal{B}' and its subset \mathcal{C} without further notice.

The normalized operator $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is defined by:

$$\mathcal{N}\alpha = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^* \alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y)} \mathcal{L}^* \alpha \quad \text{for all } \alpha \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Thus we are looking for fixed points of $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$. To find them, we are going to apply the Schauder-Tychonoff theorem [5, V.10.5]. To begin with, remark that \mathcal{C} is obviously a convex subset of the topological vector space \mathcal{B}' , which is locally convex. Also \mathcal{C} is non-empty as it contains for instance δ_x ($\delta_x(f) = f(x)$, $x \in X$ is given). Thus it remains to check the following hypothesis:

1. $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is well defined.
2. \mathcal{C} is compact.
3. $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is continuous.

Condition 1: $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is well-defined.

To check this condition, take $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$.

First we claim that $\mathcal{N}(\alpha) = (\mathcal{L}^* \alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y))^{-1} \mathcal{L}^* \alpha$ is well defined as an element of \mathcal{B}' . Indeed, $\mathcal{L}^* \alpha \in \mathcal{B}'$ by construction and $\mathcal{L}^* \alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y) > 0$: using that $\alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y) = 1$ and the positivity of α

$$\alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y) \geq (\inf_Y \mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y) \alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y) = \inf_Y \mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y > 0$$

by condition (d) of the Main Theorem.

Second, $\mathcal{N}\alpha$ is positive, $(\mathcal{N}\alpha)(\mathbf{1}_Y) = 1$ by construction and

$$\mathcal{N}\alpha(\mathbf{1}_X) = \frac{1}{\alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y)} \alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_X) = \frac{\alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_{X \setminus Y}) + \alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y)}{\alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y)} = \frac{\alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y)}{\alpha(\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_Y)} = 1$$

as $\mathcal{L} \mathbf{1}_{X \setminus Y} = 0$ (only points in Y have an image).

Thus, condition 1 is satisfied.

Recall the

Theorem 2.2 (*Banach-Alaoglu [5, V.4.2]*): *The unit ball of the dual of any normed vector space is weakly* compact.*

Thus, $B_1 = \{\alpha \in \mathcal{B}' : \|\alpha\| \leq 1\}$, the unit ball of \mathcal{B}' , is compact and it is enough to check that \mathcal{C} is a closed subset of B_1 to establish

Condition 2: \mathcal{C} is compact.

To check it, let $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}$ and $f \in \mathcal{B}$ with $\sup_X |f| < 1$:

$$0 \leq \sup_X |f| - f \leq 1 - f$$

so that $\alpha(1 - f) \geq 0$ and, since $\alpha(1 - f) = 1 - \alpha(f)$, $\alpha(f) \leq 1$. In the same way: $-\alpha(f) \leq 1$. Therefore $\alpha \in B_1$ and we have shown $\mathcal{C} \subset B_1$.

Recall that for any $f \in \mathcal{B}$, $\alpha \mapsto \alpha(f)$ is continuous by definition of the weak* topology. Hence \mathcal{C} , which is defined by a collection of inequalities of the type $\alpha(f) \leq \text{const}$, is closed and therefore compact.

Condition 3: $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ is continuous.

Recall that a basis for the weak* topology of \mathcal{B}' is given by the sets:

$$V(\alpha_0, \varepsilon, f_1, \dots, f_n) := \{\alpha \in \mathcal{B}' : \forall i = 1, \dots, n \ |\alpha(f_i) - \alpha_0(f_i)| < \varepsilon\}$$

with $\alpha_0 \in \mathcal{B}'$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and $f_1, \dots, f_n \in \mathcal{B}$. Thus to establish condition 3, i.e., continuity, we have to find, for every $V(\mathcal{N}\alpha_0, \varepsilon, f_1, \dots, f_n)$, a number $\eta > 0$ and $g_1, \dots, g_m \in \mathcal{B}$ such that:

$$\mathcal{N}V(\alpha_0, \eta, g_1, \dots, g_m) \subset V(\mathcal{N}\alpha_0, \varepsilon, f_1, \dots, f_n).$$

We claim that one can take $m = n + 1$ and:

$$\eta = \varepsilon \left(\frac{(\inf_Y \mathcal{L}1_Y)^2}{\inf_Y \mathcal{L}1_Y + (\sup_X \mathcal{L}1_Y) \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sup_X |f_i|} \right) \text{ and } g_1 = \mathcal{L}f_1, \dots, g_n = \mathcal{L}f_n, g_{n+1} = \mathcal{L}1_Y.$$

Note that for all $j = 1, \dots, n + 1$, $g_j \in \mathcal{B}$.

To prove the claim assume $\alpha \in V(\alpha_0, \varepsilon, g_1, \dots, g_{n+1})$. By definition, we have for all $j = 1, \dots, n + 1$:

$$|\alpha(g_j) - \alpha_0(g_j)| \leq \eta.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{N}\alpha(f_i) - \mathcal{N}\alpha_0(f_i)| &\leq \left| \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^*\alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y)} \mathcal{L}^*\alpha(f_i) - \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^*\alpha_0(\mathbf{1}_Y)} \mathcal{L}^*\alpha_0(f_i) \right| \\ &\quad + \left| \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^*\alpha(\mathbf{1}_Y)} - \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}^*\alpha_0(\mathbf{1}_Y)} \right| |\mathcal{L}^*\alpha_0(f_i)| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\inf_Y \mathcal{L}1_Y} |\alpha(\mathcal{L}f_i) - \alpha_0(\mathcal{L}f_i)| \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{(\inf_Y \mathcal{L}1_Y)^2} |\alpha(\mathcal{L}1_Y) - \alpha_0(\mathcal{L}1_Y)| |\alpha_0(\mathcal{L}f_i)| \\ &\leq \frac{\eta}{\inf_Y \mathcal{L}1_Y} + \frac{\eta}{(\inf_Y \mathcal{L}1_Y)^2} |\alpha_0(\mathcal{L}f_i)|. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$|\alpha_0(\mathcal{L}f_i)| \leq \sup_X |\mathcal{L}f_i| \leq \sup_X |\mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X| \sup_X |f_i|$$

which gives:

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathcal{N}\alpha(f_i) - \mathcal{N}\alpha_0(f_i)| &\leq \frac{\eta}{\inf_Y \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_Y} + \frac{\eta \sup_x \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_Y \max_{i \in I} \sup_X |f_i|}{(\inf_Y \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_Y)^2} \\ &\leq \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

This proves condition 3.

We are now in position to apply the Schauder-Tychonoff theorem: there exists $\Lambda \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $\mathcal{N}(\Lambda) = \Lambda$, i.e.:

$$\mathcal{L}^* \Lambda = \lambda \Lambda$$

with $\lambda = \Lambda(\mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_Y) \in]0, \infty[$. This ends the proof of the proposition (2.1).

3 Computing the positive eigenvalue.

A prerequisite for proving that Λ obtained above is indeed a measure is the following

Proposition 3.1 *Let Λ be an eigenfunctional for \mathcal{L}^* . Assume that Λ is positive, satisfies $\Lambda(\mathbf{1}) = 1$ and $\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_U) > 0$ for every non-empty open subset U .*

Then the eigenvalue associated to Λ is $\lambda = \exp P_g(X, T)$.

The inequality $\lambda \leq \exp P_g(X, T)$ follows directly from the conformality of Λ and the definition of the pressure as

$$1 = \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_X) = \lambda^{-n} \Lambda(\mathcal{L}^n \mathbf{1}_X) \leq \lambda^{-n} \sum_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n} \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{T^n Z}) \sup_Z g_n \leq \lambda^{-n} \sum_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n} \sup_Z g_n.$$

The proof of the converse inequality is more delicate and will make heavy use of the condition $P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T) < P_g(X, T)$. We proceed pretty much like in the proof of Proposition E in [2], except that Λ not being a measure, we shall have to check a measurability property (Lemma (3.2) below) “by hand”.

Recall that the *measure-theoretic pressure* of μ is:

$$P_g(\mu, T) = h(\mu, T) - \int_X \log g \, d\mu.$$

We have the *variational principle*, i.e., the topological pressure is the supremum of the measure-theoretic pressures: this follows from paragraph 3.2 of [2] using that $P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T) < P_g(T)$ and that \mathcal{Z} generates. This is easy to see as for ergodic measures with pressure strictly greater than $P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T)$, the symbolic dynamics can be identified with (X, T) , and the variational principle holds for the symbolic dynamics by a classical result (see for instance [4, chap.18].)

To conclude we will prove that the measure-theoretic pressures are bounded by $\log \lambda$, using the approach of [2] which combines a result of Ledrappier [6] and “shadowing” estimates.

Fix an ergodic invariant probability measure μ . We can assume that: $P_g(\mu, T) > P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T)$ (otherwise there is nothing to prove, as $P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T) < P_g(X, T)$).

Let $p : (\tilde{X}, \tilde{T}, \tilde{\mu}) \rightarrow (X, T, \mu)$ be the natural extension. We realize it as

$$\tilde{X} = \{\tilde{x} = (A, x) \in \mathcal{Z}^{\mathbb{Z}^-} \times X : x \in \bigcap_{n \geq 0} T^n[A_{-n} \dots A_0]\}$$

with the topology induced by that of $\mathcal{Z}^{\mathbb{Z}^-} \times X$.

The dynamics is given by the (partially-defined) map: $\tilde{T} : (\dots A_{-1}A_0, x) \mapsto (\dots A_{-1}A_0B, Tx)$ if B is the element of \mathcal{Z} containing Tx .

Let ξ be the finite partition $p^{-1}\mathcal{Z}$. Let η be the measurable partition $\bigvee_{n \geq 0} \tilde{T}^n \xi$, i.e., two points are in the same element of η iff they have the same past by \tilde{T} . Observe that $\eta(\tilde{x}) = \{A\} \times W(\tilde{x})$ with

$$\tilde{x} = (A, x) \text{ and } W(\tilde{x}) := \bigcap_{n \geq 0} T^n[A_{-n} \dots A_0].$$

The assumption that each cylinder has finitely many connected components is used for the proof of the following lemma:

Lemma 3.2 *If $P_g(\mu, T) > P_g(\partial\mathcal{Z}, T)$ then there exists a countable measurable partition \tilde{P} of \tilde{X} modulo $\tilde{\mu}$ such that $W(\tilde{x})$ is constant and equal to a non-empty open subset on each element of \tilde{P} .*

The proof is based on the notion of the *shadowing* of a measure by a set introduced in [1]. We recall it for the convenience of the reader.

A measure $\tilde{\mu}$ is shadowed by $S \subset X$ if for every $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\tilde{\mu}$ -a.e. $\tilde{x} \in \tilde{X}$ there exists $n > \varepsilon^{-1}$ and $s \in S$ such that:

$$d(T^k(p(\tilde{T}^{-n}\tilde{x})), T^k(s)) < \varepsilon \quad \forall 0 \leq k \leq n.$$

i.e., the orbit is made of arbitrarily long beginnings of orbits starting in S .

The main consequence of shadowing is that it implies that $P_g(\tilde{\mu}, \tilde{T}) \leq P_g(S, T)$ [2, Theorem S].

Proof : (of lemma 3.2) The assumption on the pressure of μ ensures that it is not shadowed by $\partial\mathcal{Z}$ by the above. We claim that this implies that for $\tilde{\mu}$ -a.e. $(A, x) \in \tilde{X}$, there exists $N < \infty$ such that, for all $n \geq 0$,

$$(\partial T^n[A_{-N-n} \dots A_{-N-1}]) \cap [A_{-N} \dots A_0] = \emptyset.$$

Let M be such that $\text{diam}(\mathcal{Z}^M) < \varepsilon$. Contradicting the above claim gives, for a.e. $\tilde{x} \in \tilde{X}$, an infinite sequence $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$ such that:

$$(\partial T^{n_{k+1}-n_k}[A_{-n_{k+1}} \dots A_{-n_k-1}]) \cap [A_{-n_k} \dots A_0] \neq \emptyset.$$

We may assume n_{k+1} to be minimal for the given n_k . Then, we must have that $(\partial T A_{-n_{k+1}}) \cap [A_{-n_{k+1}+1} \dots A_0] \neq \emptyset$. Thus the itinerary of $\tilde{T}^{-n_{k+1}}\tilde{x}$ is the same as that of some point of $\partial\mathcal{Z}$. Using that $\text{diam}(\mathcal{Z}^M) < \varepsilon$ and shifting by \tilde{T}^{-M} , we get that $\tilde{\mu}$ is shadowed by $\partial\mathcal{Z}$, a contradiction which proves the claim.

Now the claim implies that $T^{N+n}[A_{-N-n} \dots A_0]$, which by construction is a subset of $T^N[A_{-N} \dots A_0]$, is in fact a union of connected components of $T^N[A_{-N} \dots A_0]$. By assumption (e) of the Main Theorem, there are only finitely many such components. Hence, there exists $M < \infty$ such that

$$W(A, x) = T^M[A_{-M} \dots A_0].$$

In particular, $W(\cdot)$ is a.e. a non-empty, open subset of X , and takes only countably many distinct values. Finally, observe that the sets where the value of W is fixed are measurable, being of the form:

$$\{(B, x) \in \tilde{X} : B_{-M} \dots B_0 = A_{-M} \dots A_0\} \setminus \{(B, x) \in \tilde{X} : \forall m > M, B_{-m} \dots B_0 \in \mathcal{A}\}$$

where \mathcal{A} is the set of words $B_{-m} \dots B_0$ defining a strictly smaller W -set than $B_{-M} \dots B_0$. \square

We are going to compare $\tilde{\mu}$ with the function (tentatively) defined on measurable subsets S of X by:

$$m(S) := \int_{\tilde{X}} m(\tilde{x}, S) \tilde{\mu}(d\tilde{x})$$

where

$$m(\tilde{x}, S) := \frac{\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot) \cdot \mathbf{1}_S)}{\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot))}$$

and $\rho(\tilde{x}, y) := \prod_{k \geq 1} \frac{g(T_{A_{-k}}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ T_{A_{-1}}^{-1} y)}{g(\tilde{T}^{-k} \tilde{x})}$ if $\tilde{x} \in \tilde{X}$, $\tilde{x} = (A, x)$ and $y \in W(\tilde{x})$. We have set $g(A, x) := g(x)$.

We first check that the form m is well-defined, i.e., that $\tilde{x} \mapsto m(\tilde{x}, S)$ is measurable. Observe that by assumption (b) of the Main Theorem, ρ is uniformly continuous on its domain of definition. Thus we can extend it to a continuous function defined on the whole of $\tilde{X} \times \tilde{X}$. It is then routine to check that, if W is any given measurable subset of X , the following is measurable:

$$\tilde{x} \mapsto \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_W \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot) \cdot \mathbf{1}_S).$$

Now, use the previous Lemma to write: $\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})} = \sum_{E \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}} \mathbf{1}_E \mathbf{1}_{W(E)}$. The measurability of $m(\cdot, S)$ follows. In particular, $m(S)$ is well-defined.

We follow closely Ledrappier [6] for the rest of the proof of Proposition 3.1.

Let

$$Q(\tilde{x}) = \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot))$$

(remark that the function to which we apply Λ is indeed a function over X , not \tilde{X}). A crucial observation is that the previous Lemma implies:

$$0 < Q(\tilde{x}) < \infty \text{ for } \tilde{\mu}\text{-a.e. } \tilde{x}.$$

Indeed, $\rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot) > 0$ on $W(\tilde{x})$ which is a non-empty open subset and which therefore satisfies $\Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})}) > 0$.

Let $\mathcal{Z}' = T^{-1}\mathcal{Z}$. Compute:

$$\begin{aligned} m(\tilde{x}, \mathcal{Z}'(x)) &= \frac{1}{Q(\tilde{x})} \cdot \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{Z}'(x)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{Q(\tilde{x})} \lambda^{-1} \Lambda(\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, \cdot) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{Z}'(x)})) \\ &= \frac{1}{Q(\tilde{x})} \lambda^{-1} \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{\mathcal{Z}(Tx) \cap TW(\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{x}, T_{\mathcal{Z}(x)}^{-1}(\cdot)) \cdot g \circ T_{\mathcal{Z}(x)}^{-1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{Q(\tilde{x})} \lambda^{-1} \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_{W(\tilde{T}\tilde{x})} \cdot \rho(\tilde{T}\tilde{x}, \cdot) \cdot g(x)) \\ &= \lambda^{-1} \frac{Q(\tilde{T}\tilde{x})}{Q(\tilde{x})} g(x) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

using that $\mathcal{Z}(Tx) \cap TW(\tilde{x}) = W(\tilde{T}\tilde{x})$ and $\rho(\tilde{T}\tilde{x}, z) = \rho(\tilde{x}, y) \cdot \frac{g(y)}{g(x)}$ where $y = T_{\mathcal{Z}(x)}^{-1}(z)$.

We claim that:

$$\int_{\tilde{X}} \log m(\tilde{x}, \mathcal{Z}'(x)) d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) = \int_{\tilde{X}} \log g d\tilde{\mu} - \log \lambda.$$

Remark that if $\log Q$ was integrable, this equality would be an immediate consequence of the above computation. But we only know that $\log Q$ is a.e. finite, so we use the subtler argument of [6].

To begin with, remark that as $m(\tilde{x}, \mathcal{Z}'(x)) \leq 1$, $\int_{\tilde{X}} \log m(\tilde{x}, \mathcal{Z}'(x)) d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x})$ is well-defined in $[-\infty, 0]$ and the Birkhoff ergodic theorem gives:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \log m(\tilde{T}^k \tilde{x}, \mathcal{Z}'(T^k x)) \text{ exists a.e. and is } \int_{\tilde{X}} \log m(\tilde{x}, \mathcal{Z}'(x)) d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}).$$

Convergence a.e. implies convergence in probability. Now the above computation shows that the Birkhoff average in the previous equation is equal to

$$\frac{1}{n} \left(\log Q \circ \tilde{T}^n - \log Q \right) + \int_{\tilde{X}} \log g d\tilde{\mu} - \log \lambda.$$

As $\log Q$ is almost everywhere finite, this average must converge in probability to $\int_{\tilde{X}} \log g d\tilde{\mu} - \log \lambda$. The claim follows.

Recalling that $\eta = \bigvee_{k \geq 0} \tilde{T}^{-k} \xi$ and that ξ generates, it is easy to see that η generates and that η is finer than $\tilde{T}\eta$, hence the entropy of μ can be computed as:

$$\begin{aligned} h(\mu, T) &= h(\tilde{\mu}, \tilde{T}) = h(\tilde{\mu}, \tilde{T}^{-1}) = H_{\tilde{\mu}}(\eta | \bigvee_{k \geq 1} \tilde{T}^k \eta) = H_{\tilde{\mu}}(\tilde{T}^{-1} \eta | \bigvee_{k \geq 0} \tilde{T}^k \eta) \\ &= H_{\tilde{\mu}}(\tilde{T}^{-1} \eta | \eta) = H_{\tilde{\mu}}(\tilde{T}^{-1} \xi | \eta) = - \int_{\tilde{X}} \sum_{Z' \in \tilde{T}^{-1} \xi} \mathbf{1}_{Z'}(\tilde{x}) \log \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}}(\mathbf{1}_{Z'} | \eta) d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} P_g(\mu, T) - \log \lambda &= h(\tilde{\mu}, \tilde{T}) + \int_{\tilde{X}} \log g d\tilde{\mu} - \log \lambda \\ &= \int_{\tilde{X}} \sum_{Z' \in \tilde{T}^{-1} \xi} \mathbf{1}_{Z'}(\tilde{x}) \log \frac{m(\tilde{x}, pZ')}{\mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}}(\mathbf{1}_{Z'} | \eta)} d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) \\ &\leq \log \int_{\tilde{X}} \sum_{Z' \in \tilde{T}^{-1} \xi} \mathbf{1}_{Z'}(\tilde{x}) \frac{m(\tilde{x}, pZ')}{\mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}}(\mathbf{1}_{Z'} | \eta)} d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) \\ &= \log \int_{\tilde{X}} \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}} \left(\sum_{Z' \in \tilde{T}^{-1} \xi} \mathbf{1}_{Z'}(\tilde{x}) \frac{m(\tilde{x}, pZ')}{\mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}}(\mathbf{1}_{Z'} | \eta)} \middle| \eta \right) d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) \\ &= \log \int_{\tilde{X}} \sum_{Z' \in \tilde{T}^{-1} \xi} \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}}(\mathbf{1}_{Z'} | \eta) \frac{m(\tilde{x}, pZ')}{\mathbb{E}_{\tilde{\mu}}(\mathbf{1}_{Z'} | \eta)} d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) \\ &= \log \int_{\tilde{X}} \sum_{Z' \in \mathcal{Z}'} m(\tilde{x}, Z') d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) \\ &= \log \int_{\tilde{X}} m(\tilde{x}, 1) d\tilde{\mu}(\tilde{x}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

using the concavity of the log and that $m(\cdot, pZ')$ is η -measurable: a simple computation shows that $m(\tilde{x}, S) = m(\tilde{y}, S)$ if $\eta(\tilde{x}) = \eta(\tilde{y})$.

This concludes the proof of Proposition (2.1).

4 Λ defines a conformal measure.

We are going to prove that Λ defines a conformal measure and this will conclude the proof of our Main Theorem.

Let $C_c(S)$ be the set of continuous functions with compact support contained in S . Of course $C_c(X) = C(X)$, as X is compact.

Since $\Lambda|_{C(X)}$ is a positive linear form on $C(X)$, the Riesz representation theorem implies that there exists ν , a positive Borel measure, such that:

$$\forall f \in C(X) : \Lambda(f) = \nu(f).$$

In particular, $\nu(\mathbf{1}_X) = \Lambda(\mathbf{1}_X) = 1$ so that ν is a probability measure.

For all $f \in C(X)$, $\Lambda(\mathcal{L}f) = \lambda\Lambda(f) = \lambda\nu(f)$. But $\mathcal{L}f$ is not necessarily continuous at points of $\partial T\mathcal{Z} := \bigcup_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}} \partial TZ$, so it is not clear that $\nu(\mathcal{L}f) = \Lambda(\mathcal{L}f)$.

We claim the following:

Lemma 4.1

$$\nu(\partial T\mathcal{Z}) = 0.$$

Let us see how this claim implies the conformality of ν . Fix $f \in C(X)$, non-negative. We prove that $\nu(\mathcal{L}f) = \Lambda(\mathcal{L}f)$:

Since the probability ν is a regular measure (as a Borel measure on a compact set), we have the following property: For each $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists U_ε open neighbourhood of $\partial T\mathcal{Z}$, such that $\nu(U_\varepsilon) < \varepsilon$.

As usual, we consider $f_\varepsilon \in C_c(X \setminus \partial T\mathcal{Z})$ such that:

$$\begin{cases} f_\varepsilon = f & \text{in } X \setminus U_\varepsilon \\ f_\varepsilon \leq f & \text{in } U_\varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} |\nu(\mathcal{L}f) - \lambda\nu(f)| &= |\nu(\mathcal{L}f_\varepsilon) + \nu(\mathcal{L}(f - f_\varepsilon)) - \lambda\nu(f)| \\ &\leq |\lambda\nu(f_\varepsilon) + 2 \sup_X \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X \sup_X f \nu(U_\varepsilon) - \lambda\nu(f)| \\ &\leq |2 \sup_X f (\sup_X \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X + \lambda) \nu(U_\varepsilon)| \\ &\leq (2 \sup_X f (\sup_X \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X + \lambda)) \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

The conformality of ν follows using the following approximations: Let A be a Borel set such that $T : A \rightarrow TA$ is invertible and let $\varepsilon > 0$. Since ν is regular, there exist K_ε compact and O_ε open such that $K_\varepsilon \subset A \subset O_\varepsilon$ and:

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(A) - \nu(K_\varepsilon) &< \varepsilon \\ \nu(O_\varepsilon) - \nu(A) &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

As usual, we consider g_ε continuous with compact support such that:

$$\begin{cases} g_\varepsilon = 1/g & \text{in } K_\varepsilon \\ g_\varepsilon = 0 & \text{in } O_\varepsilon^c \\ g_\varepsilon \leq 1/g & \text{in } O \setminus K_\varepsilon \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\nu(\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g)) - \lambda\nu(\mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g)| &\leq |\nu(\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g)) - \nu(\mathcal{L}g_\varepsilon) + \lambda\nu(g_\varepsilon - \mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g)| \\ &\leq |\nu(\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g - g_\varepsilon))| + \lambda|\nu(g_\varepsilon - \mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g)| \\ &\leq 2\frac{\sup_X \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X}{\inf_X g} \nu(O_\varepsilon \setminus K_\varepsilon) + 2\frac{\lambda}{\inf_X g} \nu(O_\varepsilon \setminus K_\varepsilon) \\ &\leq 4\varepsilon \left(\frac{\sup_X \mathcal{L}\mathbf{1}_X + \lambda}{\inf_X g} \right) \end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\lambda \int_A \frac{1}{g} d\nu = \lambda\nu(\mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g) = \nu(\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{1}_A \cdot 1/g)) = \nu(TA).$$

We turn to the proof of the lemma (4.1). We shall need the following two lemmas:

Lemma 4.2

$$P_g(\partial T\mathcal{Z}, T) \leq P_g(\partial\mathcal{Z}, T).$$

Lemma 4.3 For all Borel sets B :

$$\nu(B) \leq \inf\{\Lambda(O), O \text{ open}, O \supset B\}.$$

Proof : (of Lemma 4.2). By definition:

$$P_g(\partial T\mathcal{Z}, T) = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \sum_{\substack{B \in \mathcal{Z}_n \\ \bar{B} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset}} \sup_B g_n.$$

Let $B \in \mathcal{Z}_n$ such that $\bar{B} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset$, there exists $Z \in \mathcal{Z}$ such that $\overline{Z \cap T_Z^{-1}B} \cap \partial\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset$. Moreover, let $x \in B$:

$$g_n(x) \leq \frac{g_{n+1}(T_Z^{-1}(x))}{g(T_Z^{-1}(x))} \leq \frac{1}{\inf g} \sup_{Z \cap T_Z^{-1}B} g_{n+1}.$$

Hence $\sup_B g_n \leq \frac{1}{\inf g} \sup_{B'} g_{n+1}$ with $B' = Z \cap T_Z^{-1}B \in \mathcal{Z}_{n+1}$. Recall that $\inf g > 0$ by assumption (b) of the Main Theorem. We have:

$$\sum_{\substack{B \in \mathcal{Z}_n \\ \bar{B} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset}} \sup_B g_n \leq \frac{1}{\inf g} \sum_{\substack{B' \in \mathcal{Z}_{n+1} \\ \bar{B}' \cap \partial\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset}} \sup_{B'} g_{n+1}$$

and thus:

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \sum_{\substack{B \in \mathcal{Z}_n \\ \bar{B} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset}} \sup_B g_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \frac{1}{\inf g} + \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \log \sum_{\substack{B' \in \mathcal{Z}_{n+1} \\ \bar{B}' \cap \partial\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset}} \sup_{B'} g_{n+1}.$$

□

Proof : (of Lemma 4.3) Since ν is regular:

$$\nu(B) = \inf\{\nu(O), O \text{ open}, O \supset B\}.$$

Let us fix an open set O and show that: $\nu(O) \leq \Lambda(O)$, this will prove the lemma. Take $\varepsilon > 0$. Using again the regularity of ν , there exists K_ε , a compact subset of O , such that:

$$\nu(O) < \nu(K_\varepsilon) + \varepsilon.$$

Let $g_\varepsilon : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be continuous and such that:

$$\begin{cases} g_\varepsilon = 1 & \text{in } K_\varepsilon \\ g_\varepsilon = 0 & \text{in } O^c \\ g_\varepsilon \leq 1 & \text{in } O \setminus K_\varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

On the one hand, $g_\varepsilon \leq \mathbf{1}_O$ so that

$$\nu(g_\varepsilon) = \Lambda(g_\varepsilon) \leq \Lambda(O) \text{ and } \sup_{\varepsilon > 0} \nu(g_\varepsilon) \leq \Lambda(O).$$

On the other hand, $\nu(g_\varepsilon) \geq \nu(K_\varepsilon) > \nu(O) - \varepsilon$ so that:

$$\nu(O) < \nu(K_\varepsilon) + \varepsilon \leq \nu(g_\varepsilon) + \varepsilon$$

and $\nu(O) \leq \sup_{\varepsilon > 0} \nu(g_\varepsilon) \leq \Lambda(O)$. □

Proof : (of Lemma 4.1). The claim will follow from the above Lemma if we can find neighborhoods O of $\partial T\mathcal{Z}$ with $\Lambda(O)$ arbitrarily small.

Let \mathcal{A}_n be $\{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n, \bar{Z} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset\}$. Using the conformality, we get, for any $\delta > 0$, $N(\delta)$ such that, for all $n > N(\delta)$:

$$\Lambda\left(\bigcup \mathcal{A}_n\right) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^n} \sum_{\substack{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n \\ \bar{Z} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} \neq \emptyset}} \sup g_n \leq \left(\frac{e^{P_g(\partial T\mathcal{Z}, T) + \delta}}{e^{P_g(X, T)}}\right)^n \leq \left(\frac{e^{P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T) + \delta}}{e^{P_g(X, T)}}\right)^n$$

by Lemma 4.2. Taking $\delta = (P_g(X, T) - P_g(\partial \mathcal{Z}, T))/2$, which is positive by assumption (a) of the Main Theorem, we get:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda\left(\bigcup \mathcal{A}_n\right) = 0 \quad (2)$$

If $Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n \setminus \mathcal{A}_n$, then $\bar{Z} \cap \partial T\mathcal{Z} = \emptyset$, and since both sets are compact: $d(\bar{Z}, \partial T\mathcal{Z}) > 0$.

As the set $\mathcal{Z}_n \setminus \mathcal{A}_n$ is finite, $\inf_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n \setminus \mathcal{A}_n} d(\bar{Z}, \partial T\mathcal{Z}) > 0$. Thus the following set is a neighborhood of $\partial T\mathcal{Z}$:

$$O_n = \{x \in X, d(x, \partial T\mathcal{Z}) < \inf_{Z \in \mathcal{Z}_n \setminus \mathcal{A}_n} d(\bar{Z}, \partial T\mathcal{Z})\}.$$

and it is included in $\bigcup_{Z \in \mathcal{A}_n} \bar{Z}$. Because of the remark 2.2, $\Lambda(\bigcup_{Z \in \mathcal{A}_n} \bar{Z}) = \Lambda(\bigcup \mathcal{A}_n)$; we deduce $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda(O_n) = 0$, concluding the proof of the lemma 4.1 and therefore the proof of the Main Theorem. □

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