Markov Chains and Dynamical Systems, Spring 2026

Homework problem set #5 . Due on May 7, Thursday

1. Consider $T : [0, 1] \to [0, 1]$, $Tx = 4x(1-x)$ (the logistic map with $a = 4$) . Verify that T has an absolutely continuous invariant (probability) measure, with density $\rho(x) = C(x(1-x))^{-1/2}$. ($C =$?)

2. Let $T : \mathbb{T}^2 \to \mathbb{T}^2$ be a hyperbolic toral automorphism. Show that, for the matrix $A \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ associated to T, the eigenvalues are irrational numbers while the eigendirections, as lines on $\mathbb{R}^2$, have irrational slope.

3. Let $T : \mathbb{T}^2 \to \mathbb{T}^2$ be a hyperbolic toral automorphism. Show that $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{T}^2$ is a periodic point for T if and only if both of its coordinates are rational.

4. For some $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, that is, a 2×2 matrix with *real* entries a, b, c, d and determinant 1, consider the *one dimensional* map $T_A : \mathbb{R} \setminus \left\{ -\frac{d}{c} \right\} \to \mathbb{R}$, $T_A(x) = \dfrac{ax + b}{cx + d}$. Such maps are called *fractional linear transformations.*

   (a) Show that, for two such matrices, $A_1, A_2 \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, $A_i = \begin{pmatrix} a_i & b_i \\ c_i & d_i \end{pmatrix}$, $i = 1, 2$, we have $T_{A_2} \circ T_{A_1} = T_{A_2 \cdot A_1}$, where $\cdot$ is matrix multiplication. In particular, for $A \in SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, we have $(T_A)^n = T_{A^n}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

   (b) Check how many fixed points such a fractional linear transformation T_A can have. In particular, try to find conditions in terms of $Tr\, A$ that determine the number of fixed points. (Keep in mind that $det\, A = 1$.)

   Comment: Literally, fractional linear transformations cannot be regarded as dynamical systems acting on the phase space $\mathbb{R}$, as there is a singularity at $-\dfrac{d}{c}$. However, they can be regarded as acting on the phase space $M = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$, where ∞ is obtained by identifying $+\infty$ and $-\infty$. With this notation, $T\left(-\dfrac{d}{c}\right) = \infty$ while $T(\infty) = \dfrac{a}{c}$.

5. Continuation of the previous problem. For the matrices A below, sketch the graph of T_A. Find if there are any fixed points, and if you find some, check their stability properties (attracting or repelling). Furthermore, check if there are any period 2 or period 3 orbits.

$$(a)\ A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \qquad (b)\ A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}; \qquad (c)\ A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

   Comment: Some of these examples seem to violate Sharkovsky's theorem. Note, however, that fractional linear maps act on $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ instead of $\mathbb{R}$, see the comment for the previous problem.