

# Com serien els Sistemes Dinàmics si no coneguéssim el Teorema de Sharkovskii

Lluís Alsedà

Departament de Matemàtiques  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
<http://www.mat.uab.cat/~alseda>

23 d'octubre de 2024  
7a Jornada de Sistemes Dinàmics a Catalunya

- L'enunciat del Teorema de Sharkovskii és bonic, elegant i curiós. Però serveix d'alguna cosa?
- Certament les conseqüències directes del seu enunciat valen per situacions restringides.
- Però introduceix la noció d'estructura periòdica útil en situacions insospitades.
- Pel que fa a la tecnologia (moderna) de la seva demostració, introduceix nocions fonamentals:
  - Patterns que són l'esquelet de la dinàmica combinatòria en dimensió 1 i en homeos de superfícies (Thurston, Bestvina-Handel, ....)
  - Dinàmica combinatòria que caracteritza completament la dinàmica a tots nivells: Estructura periòdica, dinàmica topologica (transitivitat), dinàmica estadística (entropia topològica), ...

We start by introducing

The Sharkovskii Ordering  $\text{Sh} \geq$ :

$$\begin{aligned}3_{\text{Sh}} &> 5_{\text{Sh}} > 7_{\text{Sh}} > \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > 2 \cdot 3_{\text{Sh}} > 2 \cdot 5_{\text{Sh}} > 2 \cdot 7_{\text{Sh}} > \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > \\4 \cdot 3_{\text{Sh}} &> 4 \cdot 5_{\text{Sh}} > 4 \cdot 7_{\text{Sh}} > \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > \\2^n \cdot 3_{\text{Sh}} &> 2^n \cdot 5_{\text{Sh}} > 2^n \cdot 7_{\text{Sh}} > \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > 2^\infty_{\text{Sh}} > \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > \\2^n_{\text{Sh}} &> \cdots_{\text{Sh}} > 16_{\text{Sh}} > 8_{\text{Sh}} > 4_{\text{Sh}} > 2_{\text{Sh}} > 1.\end{aligned}$$

is defined on the set  $\mathbb{N}_{\text{Sh}} = \mathbb{N} \cup \{2^\infty\}$

(we have to include the symbol  $2^\infty$  to assure the existence of supremum for certain sets).

In the ordering  $\text{Sh} >$  the least element is 1 and the largest is 3.

The supremum of the set  $\{1, 2, 4, \dots, 2^n, \dots\}$  is  $2^\infty$ .

# The Sharkovskii Ordering formal definition

If  $k = k' \cdot 2^p$  where  $p$  is non negative and  $k'$  is odd:

- ①  $k_{\text{Sh}} > 2^\infty$  if  $k' > 1$ ,
- ②  $2^\infty_{\text{Sh}} > k$  if  $k' = 1$ ,

and if  $n = n' \cdot 2^q$  where  $q$  is non negative and  $n'$  is odd, then  $n_{\text{Sh}} > k$  if and only if one of the following next statements holds:

- ③  $k' > 1, n' > 1$  and  $p > q$ ,
- ④  $k' > n' > 1$  and  $p = q$ ,
- ⑤  $k' = 1$  and  $n' > 1$ ,
- ⑥  $k' = 1, n' = 1$  and  $p < q$ .

# Initial segments for the Sharkovskii Ordering

For  $s \in \mathbb{N}_{\text{Sh}}$ ,  $S_{\text{sh}}(s)$  denotes the set  $\{k \in \mathbb{N} : s_{\text{Sh}} \geq k\}$ .

Examples of sets of the form  $S_{\text{sh}}(s)$  are:

- $S_{\text{sh}}(2^\infty) = \{1, 2, 4, \dots, 2^n, \dots\}$ ,
- $S_{\text{sh}}(3) = \mathbb{N}$ ,
- $S_{\text{sh}}(6)$  is the set of all positive even numbers union  $\{1\}$ , and
- $S_{\text{sh}}(16) = \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16\}$ .

## Remark

$S_{\text{sh}}(s)$  is finite if and only if  $s \in S_{\text{sh}}(2^\infty)$ .

## Theorem (Sharkovskii)

*For each continuous map  $g$  from a closed interval of the real line into itself, there exists  $s \in \mathbb{N}_{\text{Sh}}$  such that  $\text{Per}(g) = S_{\text{sh}}(s)$ .*

*Conversely, for each  $s \in \mathbb{N}_{\text{Sh}}$  there exists a continuous map  $g_s$  from a closed interval of the real line into itself such that*

$\text{Per}(g_s) = S_{\text{sh}}(s)$ .

Per( $g$ ) denotes the set of (least) periods of all periodic points of  $g$ .

# A consequence of Sharkovskii Theorem Statement: Triangular maps

A triangular map on an  $n$ -dimensional rectangle  $\mathcal{Q}$  is defined as

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} f_1(x_1) \\ f_2(x_1, x_2) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

## Theorem (Kolyada)

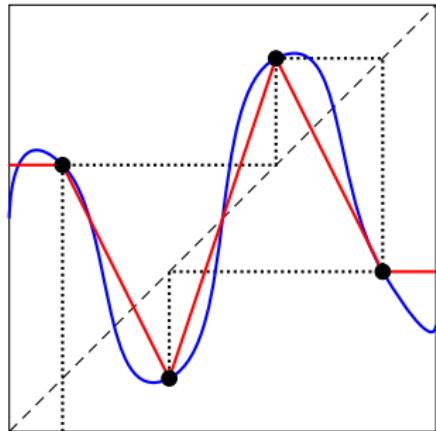
*Sharkovskii Theorem holds for triangular maps on an  $n$ -dimensional rectangles.*

# A philosophical consequence of Sharkovskii Theorem

## Statement: The periodic structure

- If a map has period three it has periodic points of all periods (*Period three implies chaos*).
- If a map has no period 2 (and this is easy to check) then only has fixed points.
- More general example: If 3-star map has no periods 2 and 3, then only has fixed points.
- And many more .....

# Idea of the proof of Sharkovskii's Theorem



The **red map** is called the *connect the dots map*. One has

$$\text{Per}(\text{of blue map}) \supset \text{Per}(\text{red map}).$$



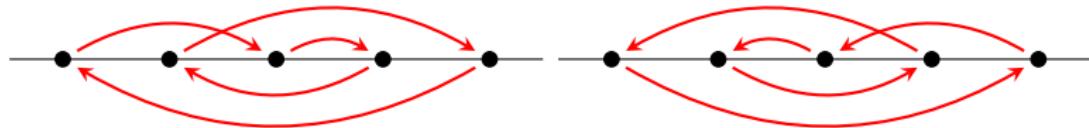
# A crucial idea: the permutation aka *pattern*

Let us suppose, *for example*, that  $P$  is an orbit of **Stefan type** of period  $n$ . That is, of the following type:

$$p_n < p_{n-2} < \cdots < p_5 < p_3 < p_1 < p_2 < p_4 < \cdots < p_{n-3} < p_{n-1},$$

or

$$p_{n-1} < p_{n-3} < \cdots < p_4 < p_2 < p_1 < p_3 < p_5 < \cdots < p_{n-2} < p_n.$$



## Lemma

*The vertices of the  $f_P$ - (combinatorial) Markov graph of  $f$  associated to  $P$  can be labelled so that their arrows are*

- ①  $I_1 \rightarrow I_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow I_{s-1} \rightarrow I_1,$
- ②  $I_1 \rightarrow I_1,$
- ③  $I_{s-1} \rightarrow I_1, \quad I_{s-1} \rightarrow I_3, \quad I_{s-1} \rightarrow I_5, \quad \dots, \quad I_{s-1} \rightarrow I_{s-2}.$

It is easy to see that the previous Markov Graph gives loops of length equals to any positive integer contained in  $S(n)$ . Consequently,  $S(n) \subset \text{Per}(f_P)$ , since:

## Lemma

Let  $f \in \mathcal{C}^0(I, I)$ , let  $P \subset I$  be a finite set and let  $\alpha = I_1 \rightarrow I_2 \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow I_{s-1} \rightarrow I_1$  be a loop in the  $f$ -Markov graph associated to  $P$ . Then, there exists a fixed point  $x$  of  $f^n$ , such that  $f^i(x) \in I_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ . By choosing the loop in an appropriate way one can show that  $I_1$  contains a point  $x$  whose (least) period is precisely  $n$ . Consequently,  $n \in \text{Per}(f)$ .

# A philosophical consequence of the proof of Sharkovskii Theorem: Symbolic Dynamics; a rich world

- The symbolic dynamics associated to the markov graph of a connect the dots map characterises completely the dynamics of the maps.
- In particular it allows to study transitivity and other topological dynamics properties.
- Thus gives lower bounds of the number of fixed points.
- Thus gives lower bounds of the topological entropy (Perron-Frobenius Theorem and Power Method to compute spectral radius play an important theoretical role here).
- Thus gives lower bounds of ... (in what are you interested in)

# Patterns and their consequences

- ①  $f_\pi$  minimises topological entropy within the class of interval maps admitting a periodic orbit whose pattern is  $\pi$ .
- ②  $f_\pi$  admits a Markov partition which gives a good “coding” to describe the dynamics of the map  $f_\pi$ . The topological entropy of  $f_\pi$  may be calculated from this partition.
- ③  $f_\pi$  is essentially unique.
- ④ the pattern of  $A$  forces a pattern  $\rho$  if and only if  $f_\pi$  has a periodic orbit whose pattern is  $\rho$ . We recall that a pattern  $A$  forces a pattern  $B$  if and only if each map exhibiting the pattern  $A$  also exhibits the pattern  $B$ . In this sense, the dynamics of  $f_\pi$  are minimal within the class of maps admitting a periodic orbit whose pattern is  $\pi_A$ .

# Patterns and their consequences

## A summary of three known cases

PERIODIC ORBIT OF	PATTERN A	CANONICAL REPRESENTATIVES
interval map	permutation $\pi$ induced by map on orbit	'Connect-the-dots' maps $f_\pi$
tree map	'relative positions' of the points of orbit	canonical models of trees
surface homeo.	braid type (isotopy class rel. orbit)	Nielsen-Thurston representatives