

ON CONJUGACY OF DISJOINT ITERATION GROUPS ON THE UNIT CIRCLE

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To the memory of Professor György Targonski

Abstract. The aim of this paper is to give a necessary and sufficient condition for conjugacy of some iteration groups $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ defined on the unit circle S . Our basic assumption is that they are non-singular, that is at least one element of \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} has no periodic point. Moreover, under some further restrictions, we determine all orientation-preserving homeomorphisms $\Gamma : S \mapsto S$ such that

$$\Gamma \circ F^t = G^t \circ \Gamma, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Let $S := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ be the unit circle with positive orientation. A family $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ of homeomorphisms such that

$$F^s \circ F^t = F^{s+t}, \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

is said to be a flow or an iteration group.

DEFINITION 1(see [1] and also [6]). An iteration group \mathcal{F} such that for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$, $F^t = \text{id}$ if F^t has a fixed point is said to be disjoint.

DEFINITION 2(see [6]). Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be iteration groups. We will say that \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are conjugate if there exists a homeomorphism $\Gamma : S \mapsto S$ such that

$$(1) \quad \Gamma \circ F^t = G^t \circ \Gamma, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Received: November 9, 1998.

AMS (1991) subject classification: Primary 39B12; Secondary 58F25, 39B62.

The problem of conjugacy of disjoint iteration groups defined on open real intervals has been examined by M. C. Zdun (see [6]). In this paper we give a necessary and sufficient condition for conjugacy of some iteration groups on the unit circle. Moreover, under some further restrictions, we determine all orientation-preserving homeomorphisms $\Gamma : S \mapsto S$ fulfilling for these iteration groups condition (1).

Throughout this note the closure of the set A will be denoted by $\text{cl } A$ and we write A^d for the set of all cluster points of A . $\sim p$ stands for the negation of p .

Let $\tilde{\pi} : \mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto e^{2\pi it} \in S$ and $\pi := \tilde{\pi}|_{[0,1)}$. For all $v, w, z \in S$, there exist unique $t_1, t_2 \in [0, 1)$ such that $w\pi(t_1) = z$ and $w\pi(t_2) = v$. Define

$$v \prec w \prec z \quad \text{if and only if} \quad 0 < t_1 < t_2$$

and

$$v \preceq w \preceq z \quad \text{if and only if} \quad t_1 \leq t_2 \quad \text{or} \quad t_2 = 0$$

(see [1]).

If $v, z \in S$, $v \neq z$, then there exist $t_v, t_z \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $t_v < t_z < t_v + 1$ and $v = \tilde{\pi}(t_v)$, $z = \tilde{\pi}(t_z)$. Put

$$\overrightarrow{(v, z)} := \{\tilde{\pi}(t), \quad t \in (t_v, t_z)\}.$$

LEMMA 1 (see [3]). *Let $v, w, z \in S$. $v \prec w \prec z$ if and only if $w \in \overrightarrow{(v, z)}$. Moreover, if $v \prec w \prec z$, then $v \neq w$, $w \neq z$, $v \neq z$.*

LEMMA 2 (see [3]). *For every $v, w, z \in S$ the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) $v \prec w \prec z$,
- (ii) $w \prec z \prec v$,
- (iii) $z \prec v \prec w$.

LEMMA 3 (see [3]). *For every $v, w, z \in S$ the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i) $\sim (v \prec w \prec z)$,
- (ii) $v = w$ or $w = z$ or $v = z$ or $z \prec w \prec v$,
- (iii) $z \preceq w \preceq v$,
- (iv) $w \preceq v \preceq z$,
- (v) $v \preceq z \preceq w$.

Let $A \subset S$ be such that $\text{card}A \geq 3$. We say that the function $\varphi : A \mapsto S$ is increasing (respectively, strictly increasing, decreasing, strictly decreasing) if for every $v, w, z \in A$ such that $v < w < z$ we have $\varphi(v) \preceq \varphi(w) \preceq \varphi(z)$ (respectively, $\varphi(v) < \varphi(w) < \varphi(z)$, $\varphi(z) \preceq \varphi(w) \preceq \varphi(v)$, $\varphi(z) < \varphi(w) < \varphi(v)$). According to Lemma 1, the map φ is strictly increasing (respectively, strictly decreasing) if $w \in \overrightarrow{(v, z)}$ yields $\varphi(w) \in \overrightarrow{(\varphi(v), \varphi(z))}$ (respectively, $\varphi(w) \in \overrightarrow{(\varphi(z), \varphi(v))}$). The function φ is said to be strictly monotonic if φ is strictly increasing or strictly decreasing.

A subset $A \subset S$ is said to be an open arc if $A = \overrightarrow{(v, z)}$ for some $v, z \in S, v \neq z$. Every open arc is non-empty, different from S , open and connected (see also [1] and [3]).

It is known (see for instance [4]) that for every homeomorphism $F : S \mapsto S$ there exists a homeomorphism $f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$F \circ \tilde{\pi} = \tilde{\pi} \circ f$$

and

$$f(x + 1) = f(x) + 1, \quad \text{if } f \text{ is strictly increasing}$$

and

$$f(x + 1) = f(x) - 1, \quad \text{if } f \text{ is strictly decreasing.}$$

We will say that the function f represents the homeomorphism F . If f is strictly increasing we will say that the homeomorphism F preserves orientation.

If $F : S \mapsto S$ is an orientation-preserving homeomorphism represented by a function f then the number $\alpha(F) \in [0, 1)$ defined by

$$\alpha(F) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f^n(x)}{n} \pmod{1}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

is said to be the rotation number of F . This limit always exists and does not depend on x and f . Moreover, $\alpha(F)$ is rational if and only if $F^n(z_0) = z_0$ for a $z_0 \in S$ and an $n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$, which means that z_0 is a periodic point of F .

DEFINITION 3. An iteration group \mathcal{F} is called non-singular if at least one element of \mathcal{F} has no periodic point.

Of course, \mathcal{F} is non-singular if and only if there exists an element of \mathcal{F} with an irrational rotation number. Such iteration groups have been investigated in [1]. Without loss of generality we may assume that the above-mentioned function from $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is F^1 , that is $\alpha(F^1) \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

From Remark 2 in [5] it follows that every $F^t \in \mathcal{F}$ and $G^t \in \mathcal{G}$ preserves orientation. Thus, we have the following

REMARK 1 (see [4]). *If the iteration groups $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ are conjugate, then $\alpha(F^t) = \alpha(G^t), t \in \mathbb{R}$.*

Let \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} satisfy (1). Then, according to Remark 1, \mathcal{F} is non-singular if and only if so is \mathcal{G} . Moreover, one can show that \mathcal{F} is disjoint if and only if so is \mathcal{G} (see also [1]).

For a given orientation-preserving homeomorphism $F : S \mapsto S$ put

$$C_F(z) := \{F^n(z), n \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \quad z \in S.$$

If $\alpha(F) \notin \mathbb{Q}$, then the set $L_F := C_F(z)^d$ does not depend on z , is invariant with respect to F (that is $F[L_F] = L_F$) and either $L_F = S$ or L_F is a perfect nowhere dense subset of S (see for instance [4]).

LEMMA 4. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be an iteration group and $F^{t_0} \in \mathcal{F}$ be such that $\alpha(F^{t_0}) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then*

$$F^t[L_{F^{t_0}}] = L_{F^{t_0}}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

PROOF. Fix $t \in \mathbb{R}, z \in S$. By the definition of $C_{F^{t_0}}(z)$ we have $F^t[C_{F^{t_0}}(z)] = C_{F^{t_0}}(F^t(z))$. Hence, using the definition of $L_{F^{t_0}}$ and the fact that F^t is a homeomorphism, we obtain

$$F^t[L_{F^{t_0}}] = F^t[C_{F^{t_0}}(z)^d] = (F^t[C_{F^{t_0}}(z)])^d = (C_{F^{t_0}}(F^t(z)))^d = L_{F^{t_0}}.$$

□

LEMMA 5. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be an iteration group and $F^{t_1}, F^{t_2} \in \mathcal{F}$ be such that $\alpha(F^{t_1}), \alpha(F^{t_2}) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then*

$$L_{F^{t_1}} = L_{F^{t_2}}.$$

PROOF. Fix $t \in \mathbb{R}, A \subset S$ and put

$$C_{F^t}(A) := \bigcup_{w \in A} C_{F^t}(w).$$

Clearly,

$$C_{F^t}(A) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} F^{nt}[A].$$

Hence and by Lemma 4 we have

$$C_{F^{t_2}}(L_{F^{t_1}}) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} F^{nt_2}[L_{F^{t_1}}] = L_{F^{t_1}}.$$

Consequently,

$$(C_{F^{t_2}}(L_{F^{t_1}}))^d = (L_{F^{t_1}})^d = L_{F^{t_1}},$$

since the set $L_{F^{t_1}}$ is perfect. Take a $w \in L_{F^{t_1}}$. Using just shown equality we obtain

$$L_{F^{t_2}} = (C_{F^{t_2}}(w))^d \subset (C_{F^{t_2}}(L_{F^{t_1}}))^d = L_{F^{t_1}}.$$

In the same manner we can see that $L_{F^{t_1}} \subset L_{F^{t_2}}$. □

From now on we assume that $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ (and also \mathcal{G}) is a non-singular iteration group. Then, according to Lemma 5, the set L_{F^t} does not depend on the choice of $F^t \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $\alpha(F^t) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Thus, we can define

$$L_{\mathcal{F}} := L_{F^{t_0}}$$

for an arbitrary $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\alpha(F^{t_0}) \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

Put $L_{\mathcal{F}}(z) := O_{\mathcal{F}}(z)^d$, where $O_{\mathcal{F}}(z)$ denotes the orbit $O_{\mathcal{F}}(z) := \{F^t(z), t \in \mathbb{R}\}$.

REMARK 2 (see [1]). Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be a non-singular iteration group and $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that $\alpha(F^{t_0}) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then

- (i) $L_{\mathcal{F}} = \text{cl } C_{F^{t_0}}(z), \quad z \in L_{\mathcal{F}},$
- (ii) $L_{\mathcal{F}} = L_{\mathcal{F}}(z), \quad z \in S.$

DEFINITION 4 (see also [6]). A non-singular iteration group \mathcal{F} is said to be dense if $L_{\mathcal{F}} = S$, otherwise \mathcal{F} is called a non-dense group.

LEMMA 6. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be a non-singular iteration group and $\alpha(F^1) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then there exist a unique continuous increasing function $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}} : S \mapsto S$ and a uniquely determined function $c_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{R} \mapsto S$ such that

$$(2) \quad \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(F^t(z)) = c_{\mathcal{F}}(t)\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(z), \quad z \in S, \quad t \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$(3) \quad c_{\mathcal{F}}(s+t) = c_{\mathcal{F}}(s)c_{\mathcal{F}}(t), \quad s, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$(4) \quad \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}[L_{\mathcal{F}}] = S,$$

$$(5) \quad \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(1) = 1$$

and

$$(6) \quad c_{\mathcal{F}}(1) = \pi(\alpha(F^1)).$$

The solution $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ of (2) is a homeomorphism if and only if the iteration group \mathcal{F} is dense.

PROOF. The existence of a continuous increasing function $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ and a mapping $c_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ satisfying conditions (2)-(4) and the fact that $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ is a homeomorphism if and only if \mathcal{F} is dense have been proved by M. Bajger (see Proposition 1 in [1]). Moreover, it is easily seen that the above-mentioned proof gives more, namely $c_{\mathcal{F}}$ satisfies condition (6). Fix $a \in \mathbb{S}$ and observe that $a\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ fulfils (4) and (2) with the function $c_{\mathcal{F}}$. Hence, we may assume that $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ satisfy condition (5).

Note now that using (2) and (6) we have

$$(7) \quad \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(F^1(z)) = \pi(\alpha(F^1))\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{S}.$$

But in [3] it is proved that for every orientation-preserving homeomorphism with an irrational rotation number there exists a unique up to a multiplicative constant continuous increasing solution of (7). Thus, we have the desired uniqueness of $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$. From this it is easy to check that $c_{\mathcal{F}}$ is uniquely determined. \square

An immediate consequence of Lemma 6 is the following

LEMMA 7 (see also [1]). *If $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is a dense iteration group such that $\alpha(F^1) \notin \mathbb{Q}$, then there exist a unique function $c_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ satisfying (3) and (6) and a uniquely determined homeomorphism $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ fulfilling (5) such that*

$$F^t(z) = \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(c_{\mathcal{F}}(t)\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(z)), \quad z \in \mathbb{S}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

If \mathcal{F} is a non-dense iteration group, then we have the following unique decomposition

$$\mathbb{S} \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}} = \bigcup_{q \in M} L_q,$$

where L_q for $q \in M$ are open pairwise disjoint arcs and $\text{card} M = \aleph_0$.

LEMMA 8 (see [1]). *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be a non-dense iteration group and $\alpha(F^1) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. If $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ is a continuous increasing*

solution of (2) satisfying (4) and (5) with $c_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ fulfilling (3) and (6), then:

- (a) for every $q \in M$, $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ is constant on L_q ,
- (b) if $V \subset \mathbb{S}$ is an open arc and $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ is constant on V , then $V \subset L_q$ for some $q \in M$,
- (c) if $p \neq q$, then $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}[L_p] \cap \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}[L_q] = \emptyset$,
- (d) for every $q \in M$ and every $t \in \mathbb{R}$, there exists a $p \in M$ such that $F^t[L_q] = L_p$,
- (e) the sets $\text{Im } c_{\mathcal{F}}$,

$$K_{\mathcal{F}} := \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}[\mathbb{S} \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}}]$$

are countable,

- (f) $K_{\mathcal{F}} \cdot \text{Im } c_{\mathcal{F}} = K_{\mathcal{F}}$.

By Lemma 8 the function

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q) := \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}[L_q], \quad q \in M$$

is a bijection of M onto $K_{\mathcal{F}}$ and the mapping

$$T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t) := \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)c_{\mathcal{F}}(t)), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

is well defined. Condition (3) makes it obvious that $T_{\mathcal{F}} : M \times \mathbb{R} \mapsto M$ satisfies the translation equation

$$T_{\mathcal{F}}(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, s), t) = T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, s+t), \quad q \in M, s, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

LEMMA 9 (see [1]). If $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ is a non-dense iteration group and $\alpha(F^1) \notin \mathbb{Q}$, then

$$F^t[L_q] = L_{T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)}, \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The below results show that the strictly monotonic mappings defined on \mathbb{S} have many of the properties of strictly monotonic real functions.

Let us first note that an immediate consequence of Lemma 1 is

REMARK 3. Every strictly monotonic mapping is an injection.

The following lemma is easy to check

LEMMA 10. Assume that $A, B, C \subset \mathbb{S}$ are such that $\text{card } A = \text{card } B = \text{card } C \geq 3$ and let $F : A \mapsto B$ and $G : B \mapsto C$ be strictly monotonic. Then:

- (i) if F has the same type of monotonicity as G , then $G \circ F$ is strictly increasing,
 (ii) if F has different type of monotonicity from G , then $G \circ F$ is strictly decreasing.

The fact that every orientation-preserving homeomorphism is strictly increasing has been shown in [1]. The same proof works for a homeomorphism which revers orientation, so we have

LEMMA 11. *A homeomorphism $F : S \mapsto S$ preserves (respectively, revers) orientation if and only if F is strictly increasing (respectively, decreasing).*

LEMMA 12. *Every strictly monotonic function defined on a dense subset of S can be extended to a strictly monotonic mapping of the entire circle S .*

PROOF. Let D be a dense subset of S and $F : D \mapsto S$ be strictly increasing (similar arguments apply to the case of strictly decreasing F). Fix $w \in S \setminus D$ and choose a sequence $\{w_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset D$ such that

$$\overrightarrow{(w_0, w_n)} \subset \overrightarrow{(w_0, w)}, \quad \overrightarrow{(w_0, w_n)} \subset \overrightarrow{(w_0, w_{n+1})}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$$

and

$$\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \overrightarrow{(w_0, w_n)} = \overrightarrow{(w_0, w)}.$$

As F is strictly increasing on D , $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \overrightarrow{(F(w_0), F(w_n))}$ is an open arc, say $\overrightarrow{(F(w_0), a)}$. Put $F(w) := a$. It only remains to prove that the definition of $F(w)$ does not depend on the choice of the sequence $\{w_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and that so determined function F is strictly increasing on S . We leave this to the reader. \square

The below lemma in the case of strictly increasing mappings can be found in [3]. The same conclusion can be drawn for strictly decreasing functions, so we get

LEMMA 13. *Every strictly monotonic function $F : S \mapsto S$ such that the image of F is a dense subset of S is continuous.*

As an immediate consequence of Lemmas 12 and 13 we have the following

COROLLARY 1. *Let D_1, D_2 be dense subsets of S and F be a strictly monotonic mapping from D_1 onto D_2 . Then F can be uniquely extended to a continuous function defined on the entire circle S .*

To prove our main results, we start with

REMARK 4. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be non-singular iteration groups such that $\alpha(F^1), \alpha(G^1) \notin \mathbb{Q}$. If \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} satisfy (1) with a homeomorphism Γ , then

$$\Gamma[L_{\mathcal{F}}] = L_{\mathcal{G}}.$$

PROOF. Fix $z \in S$. By (1) we have

$$\Gamma[C_{F^1}(z)] = C_{G^1}(\Gamma(z)).$$

Hence, using the fact that Γ is a homeomorphism,

$$\Gamma[C_{F^1}(z)^d] = C_{G^1}(\Gamma(z))^d$$

and finally $\Gamma[L_{\mathcal{F}}] = L_{\mathcal{G}}$. □

THEOREM 1. Let the dense iteration groups $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be such that $\alpha(F^1) = \alpha(G^1) =: \alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are conjugate if and only if $c_{\mathcal{F}} = c_{\mathcal{G}}$.

PROOF. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : S \mapsto S, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be dense iteration groups with $\alpha(F^1) = \alpha(G^1) = \alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then, by Lemma 7, $F^t(z) = \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(c_{\mathcal{F}}(t)\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}(z))$ and $G^t(z) = \varphi_{\mathcal{G}}^{-1}(c_{\mathcal{G}}(t)\varphi_{\mathcal{G}}(z))$ for the homeomorphisms $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}, \varphi_{\mathcal{G}} : S \mapsto S$ fulfilling (5) and the functions $c_{\mathcal{F}}, c_{\mathcal{G}} : \mathbb{R} \mapsto S$ satisfying conditions (3) and (6). Assume first that \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are conjugate. Putting $\lambda := \varphi_{\mathcal{G}} \circ \Gamma \circ \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}$, where Γ is a homeomorphism fulfilling (1), it is easy to check that

$$(8) \quad \lambda(zc_{\mathcal{F}}(t)) = \lambda(z)c_{\mathcal{G}}(t), \quad z \in S, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Moreover,

$$c_{\mathcal{F}}(n) = c_{\mathcal{G}}(n) = \pi(\alpha)^n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z},$$

since $c_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $c_{\mathcal{G}}$ satisfy (6) and (3). Using now the facts that the set $D := \{\pi(\alpha)^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is dense in S (see for instance [2]) and λ is continuous, we get by (8)

$$\lambda(zw) = \lambda(z)w, \quad z, w \in S.$$

Hence and again by (8), $c_{\mathcal{F}} = c_{\mathcal{G}}$.

Conversely, if $c_{\mathcal{F}} = c_{\mathcal{G}}$ then we obtain (1) with $\Gamma := \varphi_{\mathcal{G}}^{-1} \circ \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$. □

We now give a necessary and sufficient condition for conjugacy of non-dense disjoint iteration groups. It is worth pointing out that in order

to get the necessary condition, the assumption that the iteration groups are disjoint can be dropped.

THEOREM 2. *Let the non-dense disjoint iteration groups $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be such that $\alpha(F^1) = \alpha(G^1) =: \alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are conjugate if and only if $c_{\mathcal{F}} = c_{\mathcal{G}}$ and there exists a $d \in \mathbb{S}$ such that*

$$K_{\mathcal{G}} = d \cdot K_{\mathcal{F}}.$$

PROOF. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{F^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{G^t : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}, t \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be non-dense disjoint iteration groups with $\alpha(F^1) = \alpha(G^1) = \alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then we have the following unique decompositions

$$(9) \quad \mathbb{S} \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}} = \bigcup_{q \in M} L_q \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{S} \setminus L_{\mathcal{G}} = \bigcup_{q \in M} L'_q,$$

where L_q and L'_q for $q \in M$ are open pairwise disjoint arcs and $\text{card} M = \aleph_0$. Let the continuous increasing functions $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}, \varphi_{\mathcal{G}} : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ satisfy conditions (2), (4) and (5) and the functions $c_{\mathcal{F}}, c_{\mathcal{G}} : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ fulfil (3) and (6). By (6) and (3) the dense set $D = \{\pi(\alpha)^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is contained in $\text{Im}c_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $\text{Im}c_{\mathcal{G}}$. Hence, using Lemma 8(f), we conclude that the sets $K_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $K_{\mathcal{G}}$ are dense in \mathbb{S} .

Lemma 8(a) lets us define

$$(10) \quad \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q) := \varphi_{\mathcal{F}}[L_q] \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_{\mathcal{G}}(q) := \varphi_{\mathcal{G}}[L'_q], \quad q \in M.$$

Moreover, by Lemma 8(c), (f), we can define

$$(11) \quad T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t) := \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)c_{\mathcal{F}}(t)), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$(12) \quad T_{\mathcal{G}}(q, t) := \Phi_{\mathcal{G}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{G}}(q)c_{\mathcal{G}}(t)), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

It follows from Lemma 9 that

$$(13) \quad F^t[L_q] = L_{T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)} \quad \text{and} \quad G^t[L'_q] = L'_{T_{\mathcal{G}}(q, t)}, \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Assume first that \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are conjugate and let $\Gamma : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ be a homeomorphism satisfying (1). By Remark 4 and (9),

$$\bigcup_{q \in M} \Gamma[L_q] = \bigcup_{q \in M} L'_q.$$

Therefore there exists a bijection $\Phi : M \mapsto M$ such that

$$(14) \quad \Gamma[L_q] = L'_{\Phi(q)}.$$

Using (14), (13) and (1) we get

$$\begin{aligned} L'_{\Phi(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t))} &= \Gamma[L_{T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)}] = \Gamma[F^t[L_q]] = G^t[\Gamma[L_q]] \\ &= G^t[L'_{\Phi(q)}] = L'_{T_G(\Phi(q), t)}, \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

and consequently

$$(15) \quad \Phi(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)) = T_G(\Phi(q), t), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Hence by (11) and (12),

$$\Phi(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)c_{\mathcal{F}}(t))) = \Phi_G^{-1}(\Phi_G(\Phi(q))c_G(t)), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Putting $q := \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(z)$ for $z \in K_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $\delta := \Phi_G \circ \Phi \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}$ we obtain

$$(16) \quad \delta(zc_{\mathcal{F}}(t)) = \delta(z)c_G(t), \quad z \in K_{\mathcal{F}}, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

whence, by (6) and (3), it follows that

$$(17) \quad \delta(z\pi(\alpha)^n) = \delta(z)\pi(\alpha)^n, \quad z \in K_{\mathcal{F}}, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

It is obvious that $\delta : K_{\mathcal{F}} \mapsto K_G$ is a bijection. We shall prove that it is strictly monotonic. To do this, take $v, w, z \in K_{\mathcal{F}}$ fulfilling $v \prec w \prec z$ and let $p, q, r \in M$ be such that $v = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(p)$, $w = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)$, $z = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(r)$. Then

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(p) \prec \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q) \prec \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(r)$$

and by (10) and the facts that $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ is increasing and L_q for $q \in M$ are open arcs

$$L_p \prec L_q \prec L_r$$

(that is for every $v \in L_p$, $w \in L_q$, $z \in L_r$ we have $v \prec w \prec z$). Now, using Lemma 11 and (14), we get

$$L'_{\Phi(p)} \prec L'_{\Phi(q)} \prec L'_{\Phi(r)}, \quad \text{if } \Gamma \text{ preserves orientation}$$

and

$$L'_{\Phi(p)} \succ L'_{\Phi(q)} \succ L'_{\Phi(r)}, \quad \text{if } \Gamma \text{ reverses orientation.}$$

Hence, by the fact that φ_G is increasing and Lemma 8(a), (c),

$$\varphi_G[L'_{\Phi(p)}] \underset{(\gamma)}{<} \varphi_G[L'_{\Phi(q)}] \underset{(\gamma)}{<} \varphi_G[L'_{\Phi(r)}]$$

and from (10)

$$\Phi_G(\Phi(p)) \underset{(\gamma)}{<} \Phi_G(\Phi(q)) \underset{(\gamma)}{<} \Phi_G(\Phi(r)).$$

Using now the fact that $p = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(v)$, $q = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(w)$, $r = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(z)$ we have

$$\delta(v) \underset{(\gamma)}{<} \delta(w) \underset{(\gamma)}{<} \delta(z).$$

Since the sets $K_{\mathcal{F}}$ and K_G are dense in S , Corollary 1 shows that the function δ has a continuous extension $\hat{\delta}$ defined on S . By (17), the density of the set $D = \{\pi(\alpha)^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and the continuity of the function $\hat{\delta}$ we get

$$\hat{\delta}(zw) = \hat{\delta}(z)w, \quad z, w \in S.$$

Putting $z := 1$ we have $\hat{\delta}(w) = \hat{\delta}(1)w$ for $w \in S$ and, in consequence,

$$K_G = \delta[K_{\mathcal{F}}] = \hat{\delta}[K_{\mathcal{F}}] = \hat{\delta}(1) \cdot K_{\mathcal{F}}.$$

Moreover, (16) gives $c_{\mathcal{F}} = c_G$. This ends the first part of the proof.

Let now $c_{\mathcal{F}} = c_G =: c$ and $K_G = d \cdot K_{\mathcal{F}}$ for a $d \in S$. We will prove that \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are conjugate. Actually, we will show even more, namely we shall give the general construction of all orientation-preserving homeomorphisms $\Gamma : S \mapsto S$ satisfying (1).

Define the function $\Psi : M \mapsto M$ by

$$\Psi(q) := \Phi_G^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)d), \quad q \in M.$$

Note that Ψ is a bijection. Moreover,

$$(\Phi_G \circ \Psi \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1})(z) = zd, \quad z \in K_{\mathcal{F}}$$

whence

$$(\Phi_G \circ \Psi \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1})(zc(t)) = (\Phi_G \circ \Psi \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1})(z)c(t), \quad z \in K_{\mathcal{F}}, t \in \mathbb{R},$$

since $zc(t) \in K_{\mathcal{F}}$. From this and (11) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_G(\Psi(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t))) &= (\Phi_G \circ \Psi \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1})(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)c(t)) \\ &= \Phi_G(\Psi(q))c(t), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, (12) gives

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_G(T_G(\Psi(q), t)) &= \Phi_G(\Phi_G^{-1}(\Phi_G(\Psi(q))c(t))) \\ &= \Phi_G(\Psi(q))c(t), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.\end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$(18) \quad \Psi(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)) = T_G(\Psi(q), t), \quad q \in M, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Now we introduce the following relation on M

$$p \mathcal{R} q \iff \exists t \in \mathbb{R} \quad p = T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t).$$

A trivial verification shows that \mathcal{R} is an equivalence relation. Let E be an arbitrary subset of M such that for every $q \in M$, $\text{card}(E \cap [q]) = 1$ (here and subsequently $[q]$ denotes the equivalence class of q with respect to the relation \mathcal{R}) and define

$$A(q) := [q] \cap E, \quad q \in M.$$

Let $W : M \mapsto \mathbb{R}$ be an arbitrary function such that

$$(19) \quad T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(q), W(q)) = q, \quad q \in M.$$

Hence according to (11) we get

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(A(q))c(W(q))) = q, \quad q \in M$$

and consequently

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(A(q)) = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q) \frac{1}{c(W(q))} = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)c(-W(q)), \quad q \in M.$$

Hence

$$A(q) = \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}^{-1}(\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)c(-W(q))), \quad q \in M$$

so, by (11),

$$(20) \quad T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, -W(q)) = A(q), \quad q \in M.$$

Let

$$(21) \quad \Gamma_e : L_e \mapsto L'_{\Psi(e)}, \quad e \in E$$

be arbitrary strictly increasing homeomorphisms. Define the mapping Γ_0 by

$$(22) \quad \Gamma_0(z) := (G^{W(q)} \circ \Gamma_{A(q)} \circ F^{-W(q)})(z), \quad z \in L_q.$$

According to (22), (13), (20), (21), (18) and (19) we have the following equalities

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_0[L_q] &= (G^{W(q)} \circ \Gamma_{A(q)} \circ F^{-W(q)})(L_q) = (G^{W(q)} \circ \Gamma_{A(q)})(L_{T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, -W(q))}) \\ &= (G^{W(q)} \circ \Gamma_{A(q)})(L_{A(q)}) = G^{W(q)}[L'_{\Psi(A(q))}] = L'_{T_G(\Psi(A(q)), W(q))} \\ &= L'_{\Psi(T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(q), W(q)))} = L'_{\Psi(q)}, \quad q \in M. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$(23) \quad \Gamma_0[L_q] = L'_{\Psi(q)}, \quad q \in M.$$

Our next goal is to show that $\Gamma_0 : \bigcup_{q \in M} L_q \mapsto \bigcup_{q \in M} L'_q$ is strictly increasing. In order to do this take $v, w, z \in \bigcup_{q \in M} L_q$ such that $w \in \overline{(v, z)}$. We shall show that $\Gamma_0(v) \prec \Gamma_0(w) \prec \Gamma_0(z)$. For this purpose, we consider three cases:

(i) $\{v, w, z\} \subset L_q$ for a $q \in M$. As G^t and F^t for $t \in \mathbb{R}$ preserve orientation (see Remark 2 in [5]), we obtain our claim from (22) and Lemmas 11 and 10.

(ii) $\text{card}(\{v, w, z\} \cap L_q) = 2$ for a $q \in M$. By Lemmas 1 and 2 we can assume that $v, w \in L_q$. Choose $u \in L_q$ such that $w \in \overline{(v, u)}$. Using (i) and (23) we get $\Gamma_0(w) \in \overline{(\Gamma_0(v), \Gamma_0(u))} \subset L'_{\Psi(q)}$. Moreover, $\Gamma_0(z) \notin L'_{\Psi(q)}$, since $z \notin L_q$ and Ψ is a bijection. According to the above remarks, we have $\Gamma_0(w) \in \overline{(\Gamma_0(v), \Gamma_0(z))}$.

(iii) $\text{card}(\{v, w, z\} \cap L_q) \leq 1$ for every $q \in M$. Suppose that $v \in L_q, w \in L_p, z \in L_r$ for $p, q, r \in M, p \neq q, q \neq r, p \neq r$. Let us note that $L_q \prec L_p \prec L_r$. Using the fact that $\varphi_{\mathcal{F}}$ is increasing, Lemma 8 and (10) we have

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(q)d \prec \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(p)d \prec \Phi_{\mathcal{F}}(r)d.$$

Hence and by the definition of Ψ ,

$$\Phi_G(\Psi(q)) \prec \Phi_G(\Psi(p)) \prec \Phi_G(\Psi(r)).$$

Now (10), the facts that φ_G is increasing and L'_q for $q \in M$ are open arcs lead to

$$L'_{\Psi(q)} \prec L'_{\Psi(p)} \prec L'_{\Psi(r)},$$

whence by (23) we obtain our claim.

Thus, Γ_0 is strictly increasing. Moreover, by (9), (23) and the fact that Ψ is a bijection we get

$$\Gamma_0[S \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}}] = S \setminus L_{\mathcal{G}}.$$

Since the sets $S \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $S \setminus L_{\mathcal{G}}$ are dense in S , Corollary 1 shows that Γ_0 has the unique continuous extension $\Gamma : S \mapsto S$.

We will prove that Γ satisfies (1). First we show that

(P) if $T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, u) = T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, v)$ for a $p \in M$, then $F^u = F^v$ and $G^u = G^v$.

In fact, if $T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, u) = T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, v)$, then by (11), $c(u) = c(v)$ and (3) gives $c(u - v) = 1$. Hence,

$$T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, u - v) = p \quad \text{and} \quad T_{\mathcal{G}}(p, u - v) = p,$$

which follows from (11) and (12). Set

$$\overline{(a_p, b_p)} := L_p \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{(a'_p, b'_p)} := L'_p.$$

By (13),

$$F^{u-v}[L_p] = L_p \quad \text{and} \quad G^{u-v}[L'_p] = L'_p,$$

whence it follows that $F^{u-v}(a_p) = a_p$ and $G^{u-v}(a'_p) = a'_p$. From this $F^u = F^v$ and $G^u = G^v$, since the iteration groups \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{G} are disjoint.

Fix $q \in M$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$. By (19), the facts that $T_{\mathcal{F}}$ satisfies the translation equation and $A(q) = A(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t))$ we get

$$(24) \quad \begin{aligned} T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t) &= T_{\mathcal{F}}(T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(q), W(q)), t) = T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(q), W(q) + t) \\ &= T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)), W(q) + t). \end{aligned}$$

Putting $u := T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t)$ in (24) we have $u = T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(u), W(q) + t)$ and consequently by (19), $T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(u), W(u)) = T_{\mathcal{F}}(A(u), W(q) + t)$. Hence by (P),

$$(25) \quad F^{W(q)+t} = F^{W(u)} = F^{W(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t))}, \quad G^{W(q)+t} = G^{W(u)} = G^{W(T_{\mathcal{F}}(q, t))}.$$

Let $z_0 \in S \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}}$ and $p \in M$ be such that $z_0 \in L_p$. By Lemma 9, $F^t(z_0) \in L_{T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, t)}$. Hence from (22) and (25) we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} (G^t \circ \Gamma)(z_0) &= (G^t \circ G^{W(p)} \circ \Gamma_{A(p)} \circ F^{-W(p)})(z_0) \\ &= (G^{t+W(p)} \circ \Gamma_{A(p)} \circ F^{-t-W(p)} \circ F^t)(z_0) \\ &= (G^{W(T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, t))} \circ \Gamma_{A(p)} \circ F^{-W(T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, t))})(F^t(z_0)) \\ &= (G^{W(T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, t))} \circ \Gamma_{A(T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, t))} \circ F^{-W(T_{\mathcal{F}}(p, t))})(F^t(z_0)) \\ &= (\Gamma \circ F^t)(z_0). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by the density of the set $S \setminus L_{\mathcal{F}}$ and the continuity of the mappings G^t , F^t and Γ we obtain (1).

Finally, let Γ be an orientation-preserving homeomorphism fulfilling (1). Putting $\Gamma_e := \Gamma|_{L_e}$ for $e \in E$ we get

$$\Gamma(z) = (G^{W(p)} \circ \Gamma_{A(p)} \circ F^{-W(p)})(z), \quad z \in L_p, p \in M.$$

Hence it follows that the above-described construction determines all orientation-preserving homeomorphisms Γ satisfying (1). \square

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