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## Iterations and Groups of Formal Transformations

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we consider the problem of formal iteration. We construct an area preserving mapping which does not have any square root. This leads to a counterexample to Moser’s existence theorem for an interpolation problem. We give examples of formal transformation groups such that the iteration problem has a solution for every element of the groups.

**Keywords:** iteration, formal transformations, functional equations.

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## Introduction

Iterated functions are objects of study in computer science, fractals, dynamical systems and renormalization group physics [1–4]. Here we will consider continuous iterations of mappings. Let  $\mathbb{K}$  denote either the set of real numbers or the set of complex numbers. Suppose we are given a local diffeomorphism  $u$  of a neighborhood of the origin  $0 \in \mathbb{K}^n$  onto another and leaves  $0$  fixed. The problem of continuous iteration consists in finding a one-parameter family of mappings (a flow)  $f(t, x) = f^t(x)$  such that

$$f^t \circ f^s = f^{t+s}, \quad f^1 = u, \quad f^0(x) = x \quad \forall t, s \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (1)$$

The iteration problem was investigated by Koenigs, Lewis, Baker, Chen, Sternberg and others. Bibliographical references can be found in [4–6].

Every smooth flow  $f^t$  is defined by a system of ordinary differential equations

$$y' = X(y)$$

with initial condition  $y(0) = x$ . Thus the iteration problem is equivalent the following question. Given a a local diffeomorphism  $u$ , does there exist a system of ordinary differential equations such that  $y(1) = u$ ? If the answer to this question is affirmative then we say that the map  $u$  is embedded in the flow  $f^t$ .

The problem is of great interest in the study of the exponential mapping of infinite-dimensional Lie algebras of vector fields [7–9]. Let  $\exp(tX)$  denote an one-parameter group generated by a vector field  $X$ , then the map  $\exp : X \mapsto \exp(X)$  is called the exponential map or time-one map. Let  $G$  be a group of smooth (or formal) maps, and we are given the mapping  $u \in G$ . The question which arises is this: under what conditions is there a vector field  $X$  such that  $u = \exp(X)$ ? If such a vector field  $X$  exists, then it is called the logarithm of  $u$ . We will also say that the formal transformation  $u$  possesses a logarithm.

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Let us denote by  $GS_n(\mathbb{K})$  the group of formal power series transformations [9]. Lewis [10] proved that if a transformation  $u \in GS_n(\mathbb{K})$  satisfies so-called pseudo-incommensurable condition, then the iteration problem has a formal power series solution. This Lewis result has been repeatedly proved by different authors [5, 6, 9].

In this paper we discuss the iteration problem for some subgroups of the group  $GS_n(\mathbb{K})$ . It turns out that there are mappings  $u$  to which the problem does not even have formal solution, namely, we give an example of a polynomial mapping  $u : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  preserving the area such that there does not exist a 2-tuple  $g = (g_1, g_2)$  of formal power series  $g_1, g_2 \in \mathbb{R}[[x, y]]$  with  $g \circ g = u$ . This is a counterexample to Moser's statement [3] about the existence of a solution to the iteration problem for area-saving mappings. We present sufficient conditions for the existence of a solution of the iteration problem. These conditions allow to indicate some groups of formal transformations such that any element of a group possesses a logarithm and the corresponding iteration problem has a formal solution.

## 1. Examples and condition for the existence of solutions

We begin with the case of a linear mapping

$$u(x) = Ux, \quad x \in \mathbb{K}^n,$$

where  $U$  is an invertible matrix. In this case, a solution of the iteration problem has the form

$$u^t(x) = U^t x = e^{t \ln(U)} x$$

whenever the matrix  $\ln(U)$  is correctly defined. When  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$  the matrix  $\ln(U)$  exists but in general it is not unique. If  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$  and  $U$  is positive definite then  $\ln(U)$  is a real matrix. Some details of the linear case can be found in [10]. Sometimes a nonlinear problem (1) can be reduced to a linear one. This is true if an analytical map  $u$  is conjugate to a linear map. Some of the most known results in this direction are Poincaré and Siegel-Sternberg theorems [11–13].

We now consider the groups of formal transformations. Let  $\mathbb{K}[[x]]$  denote the ring of formal power series in indeterminate  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{K}$ . The ring has a maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{M}_1$  and a ideal  $\mathfrak{M}_2$  consisting of series without constant and linear terms. Denote by  $\mathfrak{M}_i^n$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) the  $n$ -ary Cartesian product of  $\mathfrak{M}_i$ . Obviously  $\mathfrak{M}_1^n$  is a monoid under substitution of series. We denote by  $GS_n(\mathbb{K})$  the set of all invertible elements of  $\mathfrak{M}_1^n$ . We shall call elements of  $GS_n(\mathbb{K})$  formal transformations. It is clear that  $GS_n(\mathbb{K})$  is a group. As usual, the general linear group of degree  $n$  over  $\mathbb{K}$  is denoted by  $GL_n(\mathbb{K})$ .

**Example 1.** Let us consider the group  $GS_1(\mathbb{C})$  and a polynomial map

$$u = e^{i\pi/3} z + z^7.$$

It is easy to see that there is no a formal power series

$$g = c_1 z + c_2 z^2 + c_3 z^3 + c_4 z^4 + \dots$$

such that

$$g \circ g = u. \tag{2}$$

Actually, comparing coefficients of  $z$  in (2), we have

$$c_1^2 = e^{i\pi/3}.$$

Then comparing coefficients of  $z^2, \dots, z^6$  yields  $c_2 = \dots = c_6 = 0$ . Finally, comparing coefficients of  $z^7$ , we obtain

$$c_1 c_7 (c_1^6 + 1) = 1.$$

This is a contradiction, because  $c_1^6 + 1 = 0$ . This example shows that there is no one-parameter group passing through the polynomial  $e^{i\pi/3}z + z^7$ . If such a group  $f^t$  exists, then  $f^{1/2} \circ f^{1/2} = u$ . But it is not possible as we just proved. This example shows that polynomial map  $u = e^{i\pi/3}z + z^7 \in GS_1(\mathbb{C})$  does not possess a logarithm.

We remark that such examples have been known for a long time (see, for example [4, 9]).

**Example 2.** Let  $SS_n(\mathbb{K})$  denote the set  $\{f \in GS_n(\mathbb{K}) : \det(Df) = 1\}$ , where  $Df$  is the Jacobian matrix of  $f$ , i.e.  $SS_n(\mathbb{K})$  is a group of volume preserving formal transformations. Consider an area preserving polynomial mapping  $v \in SS_2(\mathbb{R})$  given by

$$\tilde{x}_1 = x_1 + x_2^{m+1}, \quad \tilde{x}_2 = x_2$$

and the rotation matrix

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\alpha = 2\pi/m$  and  $m \geq 2$  is an even number. Thus  $u = Mv$  is an area preserving mapping.

It is convenient to use the complex variables  $z = x_1 + ix_2$  and  $\bar{z} = x_1 - ix_2$ . Then the mapping  $u$  has the form

$$u(z, \bar{z}) = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{m}} \left( z + \left( \frac{z - \bar{z}}{2i} \right)^{m+1} \right). \tag{3}$$

Let us show that there does not exist a formal series

$$g(z, \bar{z}) = c_{10}z + c_{01}\bar{z} + c_{20}z^2 + c_{11}z\bar{z} + c_{02}\bar{z}^2 + \dots$$

satisfying the condition (2). We assume that such series exists and try to find his coefficients.

Collect all terms belonging to  $z, \bar{z}$  in (2). Then we have two equations

$$e^{i\frac{2\pi}{m}} = c_{10}^2 + |c_{01}|^2, \tag{4}$$

$$c_{01}(c_{10} + \bar{c}_{10}) = 0.$$

It follows that

$$c_{01} = 0, \quad c_{10} = \pm \exp(i\pi/m).$$

Then comparing coefficients of  $z^k\bar{z}^l$  ( $1 < k + l < m + 1$ ) yields equation

$$c_{kl}(c_{10} + c_{10}^k\bar{c}_{10}^l) = 0.$$

Obviously, the following inequality holds

$$c_{10} + c_{10}^k\bar{c}_{10}^l \neq 0$$

whenever  $1 < k + l < m + 1$ . Thus we have  $c_{kl} = 0$ .

Finally, we collect all terms belonging to  $z^{m+1}$  and obtain equalities

$$\frac{\exp(2i\pi/m)}{(2i)^{m+1}} = c_{(m+1)0}c_{10}(1 + c_{10}^m) = 0,$$

since  $c_{10} = \pm \exp(i\pi/m)$  and  $m$  is an even number. This contradiction proves our assertion.

This example implies that Moser's theorem [3] on the solvability of the iteration problem in the class of formal series is not true even for polynomial mappings. Moreover, it is impossible to find the square root of a area preserving mapping in the general case. This example shows that the polynomial map (3) does not possess a logarithm. We shall see that the above examples are related to resonances.

Let  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{C}$  be characteristic values of a matrix  $U \in GL_n(\mathbb{K})$ . We recall that an identity of the form

$$\lambda_s = \lambda_1^{m_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{m_n}, \quad m_i \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n m_i > 1 \quad (5)$$

is called the resonance (induced by  $U$ ). We say that the resonance (5) is not obstructive if

$$\lambda_s^t = \lambda_1^{tm_1} \cdots \lambda_n^{tm_n} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (6)$$

It is easy to see that we have resonances of the form

$$\lambda = \lambda^{m+1},$$

in Examples 1 and 2 above. These resonances are obstructive since

$$\lambda^{\frac{1}{2}} \neq \lambda^{\frac{m+1}{2}}.$$

Using the theory of normal forms we proved the following statement in [14].

**Lemma.** *Let  $u = Ux + g \in GS_n(\mathbb{C})$  be a formal transformation with  $U \in GL_n(\mathbb{C})$  and  $g \in \mathfrak{M}_2^n$ . If any resonance induced by the matrix  $U$  is not obstructive then  $u$  possesses a logarithm.*

Now we show that the conditions (5), (6) are equivalent to Lewis's ones. Indeed, it follows from (5) that

$$\exp(\log \lambda_s) = \exp(m_1 \log \lambda_1 + \cdots + m_n \log \lambda_n).$$

The last equality is equivalent to

$$\log(\lambda_s) - \sum_{j=1}^n m_j \log(\lambda_j) \in 2\pi i\mathbb{Z}. \quad (7)$$

Similarly, the condition (6) yields

$$t(\log(\lambda_s) - \sum_{j=1}^n m_j \log(\lambda_j)) \in 2\pi i\mathbb{Z} \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

It follows that

$$\log(\lambda_s) = \sum_{j=1}^n m_j \log(\lambda_j). \quad (8)$$

Conversely, it is easy to see that the equality (8) gives (6) and (7) implies (5).

We recall that Lewis's condition means that any relation (7) implies the equality (8) (see [9, 10]).

One can apply Lemma to obtain subgroups  $G$  of  $GS_n(\mathbb{K})$  such that any  $u \in G$  possesses a logarithm. For example, consider subgroup  $B_l$  which consists of formal transformations

$$u = Ux + g, \quad g \in \mathfrak{M}_2^n,$$

where  $U$  is a lower triangular matrix with real positive eigenvalues.

**Corollary.** *Any formal transformation  $u \in B_l$  possesses a logarithm.*

The analogous result holds for subgroup of formal transformations  $B^u$  with upper triangular matrices.

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## Итерации и группы формальных преобразований

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**Аннотация.** В работе рассматривается задача формальной итерации. Строится сохраняющее площадь отображение, которое не допускает извлечения квадратного корня, что, в свою очередь, приводит к контрпримеру — к теореме Мозера для задачи интерполяции. Даны примеры групп формальных преобразований, для которых задача итерации имеет решение для произвольного элемента группы.

**Ключевые слова:** итерация, формальное преобразование, функциональное уравнение.