

Progress on Difference Equations International Conference PODE 2025 Cartagena, 28th-30th May 2025

On the emergence and properties of weird quasiperiodic attractors

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Noemi Schmitt, Frank Westerhoff (Dept of Economics, University of Bamberg, Germany)

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• The phase space is separated into three partitions by two vertical discontinuity lines. One linear homogeneous map acts in the middle partition, while the other acts in the two external partitions. The origin is a fixed point for both maps, but since it belongs to the middle partition, it is a virtual fixed point for the external linear map.

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- Global stability and bifurcation analysis reveals coexisting attractors with constant and oscillating mispricing.
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- A new type of dynamic behavior, termed a weird quasiperiodic attractor, WQA.

• Gardini L, Radi D, Schmitt N, Sushko I, Westerhoff F. On the limits of informationally efficient stock markets: New insights from a chartist-fundamentalist model, 2024. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2410.21198.

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- L. Gardini, D. Radi, N. Schmitt, I. Sushko, F. Westerhoff. How risk aversion may shape the dynamics of stock markets: A chartist-fundamentalist approach, 2025d (in progress).

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$$F = \left\{egin{array}{ll} F_L: (x,y)
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• Among several known definitions of chaos, we use the following one: **Def**. A 2D map $F: I \to I, I \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, is said to be **chaotic** on a closed invariant set $X \subseteq I$ if (a) periodic points of F are dense in X, and (b) F is topologically transitive, i.e., there is a dense aperiodic (neither periodic, nor quasiperiodic) trajectory on X.

So, we consider a 2D discontinuous PWL map $F:\mathbb{R}^2 o\mathbb{R}^2,$ defined as follows:

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$$D_L = \{(x,y): x < -1\}, \ \ D_R = \{(x,y): x > -1\},$$

separated by the discontinuity line $C_{-1} = \{(x, y) : x = -1\}.$

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separated by the **discontinuity line** $C_{-1} = \{(x, y) : x = -1\}$. The images of C_{-1} are denoted as

$$C^L = F_L(C_{-1}) = \{(x,y): y = \delta_L\}, \ C^R = F_R(C_{-1}) = \{(x,y): y = \delta_R\}.$$

Examples of WQA of map F



(a) $\delta_L = 0.75$, $\delta_R = 1.2$, $\tau_L = -0.7$, $\tau_R = -2.5$; (b) $\delta_L = 0.7$, $\delta_R = 1.001$, $\tau_L = 0.3$, $\tau_R = 0.71$; $\delta_L = 0.9$, $\delta_R = 1.1$, $\tau_L = -2.5$, (c) $\tau_R = -0.7$; (d) $\tau_R = -1.2$; (e) $\delta_L = 0.84$, $\delta_R = 1.15$, $\tau_L = -1$, $\tau_R = -1.9$; (f) $\delta_L = 1.05$, $\delta_R = 0.7$, $\tau_L = -0.75$, $\tau_R = -1.6$.

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Examples of coexisting WQAs with basins



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Property 1

The fixed point $O = (0,0) \in D_R$ of map F_R is the unique fixed point of map F, provided no eigenvalue of F_R equals 1, i.e., $1 - \tau_R + \delta_R \neq 0$.

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Property 2

Invertibility of map F is of (a) $Z_1 - Z_0 - Z_1$ type for $0 < \delta_R < \delta_L$, or $\delta_L < \delta_R < 0$; (b) $Z_1 - Z_2 - Z_1$ type for $\delta_R < \delta_L < 0$, or $0 < \delta_L < \delta_R$; (c) $Z_0 - Z_1 - Z_2$ type for $\delta_L \delta_R < 0$; (d) $Z_1 - Z_\infty - Z_1 - Z_0$ type for $\delta_L = 0$, $\delta_R \neq 0$; (e) $Z_0 - Z_\infty - Z_0 - Z_1$ type for $\delta_R = 0$, $\delta_L \neq 0$; (f) $Z_1 - Z_2 - Z_1$ type for $\delta_R = \delta_L$.



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Property 3

In the (δ_i, τ_i) -parameter plane, i = L, R, the eigenvalues $\lambda_{1,2}^i = \frac{1}{2}(\tau_i \pm \sqrt{\tau_i^2 - 4\delta_i})$ of matrix J_i satisfy $|\lambda_{1,2}^i| < 1$ in the **stability triangle** T^i , defined as $T^i = \{(\delta_i, \tau_i) : \delta_i < 1, -1 - \delta_i < \tau_i < 1 + \delta_i\}$. T^i is bounded by the segments of the straight lines $\tau_i = 1 + \delta_i$ (related to $\lambda_1^i = 1$), $\tau_i = -1 - \delta_i$ (related to $\lambda_2^i = -1$), and $\delta_i = 1$ (related to complex-conjugate $|\lambda_{1,2}^i| = 1$).

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For the fixed point O, the boundary of T^R defined by $\tau_R = 1 + \delta_R$ corresponds to a **degenerate** +1 **bifurcation**, at which any point of halfline $S^R = \{(x, y) : x > -1, y = -\delta_R x\}$ is fixed;

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Let F_{σ} denote a composite map, $F_{\sigma} = F_{\sigma_0} \circ F_{\sigma_1} \dots \circ F_{\sigma_{n-1}}$, where $\sigma = \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_{n-1}$ is a symbolic sequence with $\sigma_j \in \{L, R\}, n \geq 2$.

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Bifurcation structure of map F: WQA and divergence

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Rotation number of a cycle

For a (nonhyperbolic) cycle with a symbolic sequence σ , by its **rotation number** $\rho = m/n$, we mean that along the cycle the trajectory makes m turns around the origin in n iterations.

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Bifurcation structure of map F: WQA and divergence

Bifurcation structure of map F in the (au_L, au_R) - and (δ_R, au_R) -parameter plane

Blue and yellow parameter regions indicate convergence to the fixed point O and to a WQA, respectively. Gray regions indicate divergence.



(a) the (τ_L, τ_R) -parameter plane for $\delta_L = 0.9$, $\delta_R = 0.7$, and (b) the (δ_R, τ_R) -parameter plane for $\delta_L = 0.9$, $\tau_L = -2.5$. The boundaries B_{LRn-1} and B_{L2Rn-2} of the divergence region $D_{1/n}^R$, and the boundaries B_{RLn-1} and B_{R^2Ln-2} of the divergence region $D_{1/n}^L$ are shown for n = 2, ..., 9.

Bifurcation structure of map F: WQA and divergence



Image: A matrix

Divergence regions and dangerous BCB of O at h = 0

An analogue of a dangerous BCB in the 2D BCBNF (see e.g., Ganguli & Banerjee 2005)



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Weird quasiperiodic attractors

Dynamics of map F near the divergence region $D_{1/5}^R$



Dynamics of map F near the divergence region $D_{1/5}^R$














In the yellow regions, there is a dense set of curves associated with rational rotation numbers and the existence of corresponding bounded segments filled with nonhyperbolic cycles, but the general case is the existence of WQAs associated with irrational rotation numbers.

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A mechanism of the appearance of a WQA (schematically)



WQA can be seen as a limit set of the iterations of the segment (P, P_{σ}) , where P is an intersection point of the discontinuity line and the eigenvector V_0^{σ} (associated before with a segment S_0^{σ} of nonhyperbolic σ -cycles), and $P_{\sigma} = F^{\sigma}(P)$. In the above example, a dense quasiperiodic trajectory on the WQA includes critical point $P_R = F_R(P)$, so that WQA is a closure of the trajectory with the initial point P_R .

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Recall: the existence of a set $S^{\sigma} = \{S_i^{\sigma}\}_{i=0}^{i=n-1}$ of *n* segments filled with nonhyperbolic σ -cycles is associated with the conditions $P_{\sigma}(1) = 0$, moreover, the related admissibility conditions must be satisfied: all the segments must be located in the proper partitions.

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Existence of S^{σ} for $\sigma = LR^{n-1}$, $\sigma = L^2R^{n-2}$, $n \geq 3$

$$\begin{split} B_{LR^{n-1}}: \quad P_{LR^{n-1}}(1) &= 1 - \tau_L a_{n-1} + (\delta_L + \delta_R) a_{n-2} + \delta_L \delta_R^{n-1} = 0 \text{ and } (A^{LR^{n-1}}) \text{ holds,} \\ B_{L^2R^{n-2}}: \quad P_{L^2R^{n-2}}(1) &= 1 + (\tau_L(\delta_L + \delta_R) - \delta_L \tau_R) a_{n-3} - (\tau_L^2 - 2\delta_L) a_{n-2} + \\ &+ \delta_L^2 \delta_R^{n-2} = 0 \text{ and } (A^{L^2R^{n-2}}) \text{ holds,} \\ \end{split}$$
where $(A^{LR^{n-1}}): \quad S_0^{LR^{n-1}} \subset D_L, \quad S_j^{LR^{n-1}} \subset D_R, \quad j = \overline{1, n-1}, \\ (A^{L^2R^{n-2}}): \quad S_0^{L^2R^{n-2}} \subset D_L, \quad S_1^{L^2R^{n-2}} \subset D_L, \quad S_j^{L^2R^{n-2}} \subset D_R, \quad j = \overline{2, n-1}, \\ \end{aligned}$
and a_k is the solution of the second-order homogeneous linear difference equation

$$a_k = \tau_R a_{k-1} - \delta_R a_{k-2}, \quad a_0 = 1, \quad a_1 = \tau_R, \ k = 2, 3, \ldots$$

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Recall: the existence of a set $S^{\sigma} = \{S_i^{\sigma}\}_{i=0}^{i=n-1}$ of n segments filled with nonhyperbolic σ -cycles is associated with the conditions $P_{\sigma}(1) = 0$, moreover, the related admissibility conditions must be satisfied: all the segments must be located in the proper partitions.

Existence of S^{σ} for $\sigma = LR^{n-1}$, $\sigma = L^2R^{n-2}$, $n \geq 3$

$$\begin{split} B_{LR^{n-1}} : & P_{LR^{n-1}}(1) = 1 - \tau_L a_{n-1} + (\delta_L + \delta_R) a_{n-2} + \delta_L \delta_R^{n-1} = 0 \text{ and } (A^{LR^{n-1}}) \text{ holds,} \\ B_{L^2R^{n-2}} : & P_{L^2R^{n-2}}(1) = 1 + (\tau_L(\delta_L + \delta_R) - \delta_L \tau_R) a_{n-3} - (\tau_L^2 - 2\delta_L) a_{n-2} + \end{split}$$

$$+ \, \delta_L^2 \delta_R^{n-2} = {\mathsf 0} \, \, {\mathsf {and}} \, \, (A^{L^2 \, R^{n-2}}) \, \, {\mathsf {holds}},$$

where $(A^{LR^{n-1}})$: $S_0^{LR^{n-1}} \subset D_L$, $S_j^{LR^{n-1}} \subset D_R$, $j = \overline{1, n-1}$, $(A^{L^2R^{n-2}})$: $S_0^{L^2R^{n-2}} \subset D_L$, $S_1^{L^2R^{n-2}} \subset D_L$, $S_j^{L^2R^{n-2}} \subset D_R$, $j = \overline{2, n-1}$, and a_k is the solution of the second-order homogeneous linear difference equation $a_k = \tau_R a_{k-1} - \delta_R a_{k-2}$, $a_0 = 1$, $a_1 = \tau_R$, $k = 2, 3, \dots$

 $B_{LR^{n-1}}$ and $B_{L^2R^{n-2}}$ are **boundaries of the divergence region** $D_{1/n}^R$ if there exists corresponding σ -cycle at infinity (i.e., all the segments are admissible and one-side unbounded).

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Transition from real to complex-conjugate eigenvalues of matrix $J_{LR^{n-1}} = J_R^{n-1}J_L$ and matrix $J_{L^2R^{n-2}} = J_R^{n-2}J_L^2$ occurs crossing a parameter set $E_{LR^{n-1}}$ and $E_{L^2R^{n-2}}$, respectively, defined as follows:

$$\begin{split} E_{LR^{n-1}} : & (\tau_L a_{n-1} - (\delta_L + \delta_R) a_{n-2})^2 - 4\delta_L \delta_R^{n-1} = 0, \\ E_{L^2R^{n-2}} : & ((\delta_L \tau_R - \tau_L (\delta_L + \delta_R)) a_{n-3} + (\tau_L^2 - 2\delta_L) a_{n-2}) - 4\delta_L^2 \delta_R^{n-2} = 0. \end{split}$$

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The boundary $H_{LR^{n-1}}$ is defined as follows:

$$H_{LR^{n-1}}: \quad \delta_L a_{n-3} - \tau_L a_{n-2} = 0, \quad H_{LR^{n-1}} \subset D_{1/n}^R.$$

• On one side of boundary $H_{LR^{n-1}}$, it holds that the unstable eigenvectors $V_j^{LR^{n-1}}$ are admissible, while eigenvectors $V_j^{L^2R^{n-2}}$ are not admissible (so that an attracting LR^{n-1} -cycle at infinity exists, while the L^2R^{n-2} -cycle is virtual);

Transition from real to complex-conjugate eigenvalues of matrix $J_{LR^{n-1}} = J_R^{n-1}J_L$ and matrix $J_{L^2R^{n-2}} = J_R^{n-2}J_L^2$ occurs crossing a parameter set $E_{LR^{n-1}}$ and $E_{L^2R^{n-2}}$, respectively, defined as follows:

$$\begin{split} E_{LR^{n-1}} : & (\tau_L a_{n-1} - (\delta_L + \delta_R) a_{n-2})^2 - 4\delta_L \delta_R^{n-1} = 0, \\ E_{L^2 R^{n-2}} : & ((\delta_L \tau_R - \tau_L (\delta_L + \delta_R)) a_{n-3} + (\tau_L^2 - 2\delta_L) a_{n-2}) - 4\delta_L^2 \delta_R^{n-2} = 0. \end{split}$$

The boundary $H_{LR^{n-1}}$ is defined as follows:

$$H_{LR^{n-1}}: \quad \delta_L a_{n-3} - \tau_L a_{n-2} = 0, \quad H_{LR^{n-1}} \subset D_{1/n}^R.$$

• On one side of boundary $H_{LR^{n-1}}$, it holds that the unstable eigenvectors $V_j^{LR^{n-1}}$ are admissible, while eigenvectors $V_j^{L^2R^{n-2}}$ are not admissible (so that an attracting LR^{n-1} -cycle at infinity exists, while the L^2R^{n-2} -cycle is virtual); • On the other side of boundary $H_{LR^{n-1}}$, the unstable eigenvectors $V_j^{L^2R^{n-2}}$ are admissible, while eigenvectors $V_j^{LR^{n-1}}$ are not admissible (so that an attracting L^2R^{n-2} -cycle at infinity exists, while the LR^{n-1} -cycle is virtual).

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Existence of
$$S^{\sigma}$$
 for $\sigma = RL^{n-1}$, $\sigma = R^2L^{n-2}$, $n \geq 3$

$$B_{RL^{n-1}}: \ \ P_{RL^{n-1}}(1) = 1 - au_R b_{n-1} + (\delta_R + \delta_L) b_{n-2} + \delta_R \delta_L^{n-1} = 0$$
 and $(A^{RL^{n-1}})$ holds,

$$\begin{split} B_{R^2L^{n-2}}: \quad P_{R^2L^{n-2}}(1) &= 1 + (\tau_R(\delta_L + \delta_R) - \delta_R\tau_L)b_{n-3} - (\tau_R^2 - 2\delta_R)b_{n-2} + \\ &+ \delta_R^2\delta_L^{n-2} = 0 \quad \text{and} \ (A^{R^2L^{n-2}}) \text{ holds}, \end{split}$$

where

$$(A^{RL^{n-1}}): \quad S_0^{RL^{n-1}} \subset D_R, \ S_j^{RL^{n-1}} \subset D_L, \ j = \overline{1, n-1},$$
$$(A^{R^2L^{n-2}}): \quad S_0^{R^2L^{n-2}} \subset D_R, \ S_1^{R^2L^{n-2}} \subset D_R, \ S_j^{R^2L^{n-2}} \subset D_L, \ j = \overline{2, n-1}.$$
and b_k is a solution of the second-order homogeneous linear difference equation

$$b_k = au_L b_{k-1} - \delta_L b_{k-2}, \ \ b_0 = 1, \ \ b_1 = au_L, \ \ k = 2, 3, \dots$$

 $B_{RL^{n-1}}$ and $B_{R^2L^{n-2}}$ are **boundaries of the divergence region** $D_{1/n}^L$ if there exists corresponding σ -cycle at infinity (i.e., all the segments are admissible and one-side unbounded).

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$$E_{RL^{n-1}}: \quad (\tau_R b_{n-1} - (\delta_R + \delta_L)b_{n-2})^2 - 4\delta_R \delta_L^{n-1} = 0,$$

$$R^2 L^{n-2}: \quad ((\delta_R \tau_L - \tau_R (\delta_R + \delta_L))b_{n-3} + (\tau_R^2 - 2\delta_R)b_{n-2}) - 4\delta_R^2 \delta_L^{n-2} = 0.$$

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$$H_{RL^{n-1}}: \quad \delta_R b_{n-3} - \tau_R b_{n-2} = 0, \quad H_{RL^{n-1}} \subset D_{1/n}^L.$$

• On one side of boundary $H_{RL^{n-1}}$, it holds that the unstable eigenvectors $V_j^{RL^{n-1}}$ are admissible, while eigenvectors $V_j^{R^2L^{n-2}}$ are not admissible (so that an attracting RL^{n-1} -cycle at infinity exists, while the R^2L^{n-2} -cycle is virtual); • On the other side of boundary $H_{RL^{n-1}}$, the unstable eigenvectors $V_j^{R^2L^{n-2}}$ are admissible, while eigenvectors $V_j^{RL^{n-1}}$ are not admissible (so that an attracting R^2L^{n-2} -cycle at infinity exists, while the RL^{n-1} -cycle is virtual).

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