Limiting Dynamics of quadratic polynomials and Parabolic Blowups

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Joint work with Ismael Bachy
MUCH inspired by work of Adam Epstein
and helped by discussions with Xavier Buff and Sarah Koch
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Definitions

$$p_c(z) = z^2 + c$$

K_c is the filled-in Julia set

$$K_c = \{z \;|\text{the sequence } z, p_c(z), p_c(p_c(z)), \cdots \not\to \infty\}$$

The set $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{C})$ is the set of compact subsets of $\mathbb{C}$

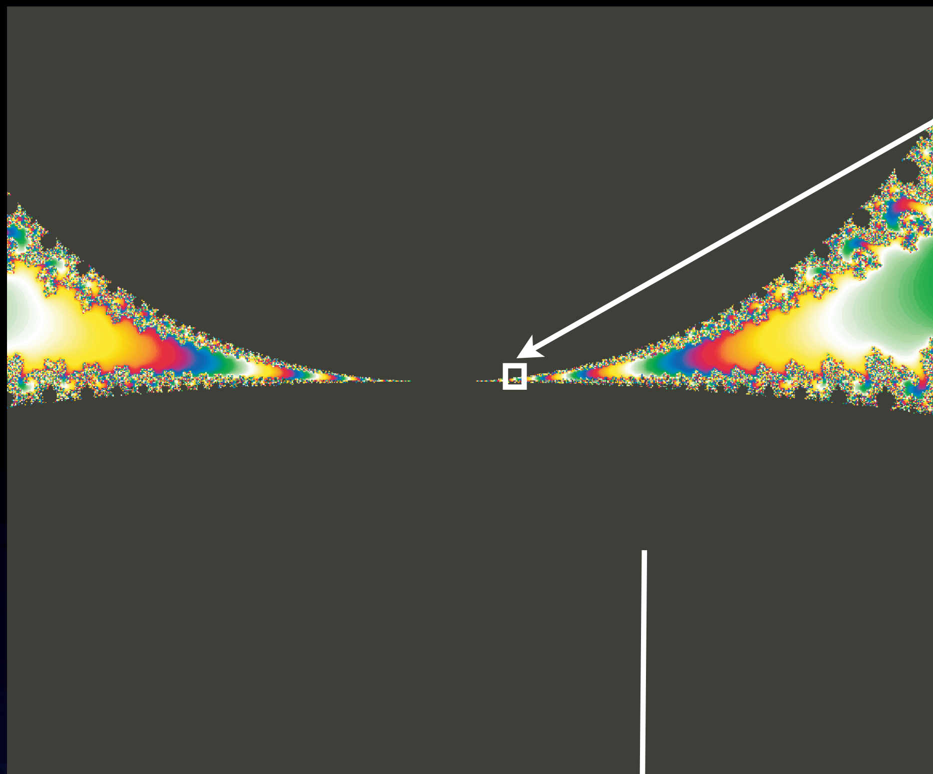
Give $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{C})$ the Hausdorff metric.

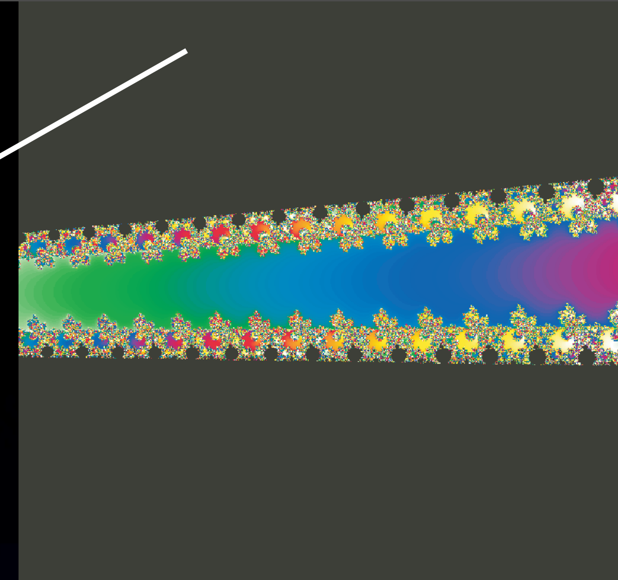
$$\text{There is a dichotomy } \begin{cases} 0 \in K_c \iff K \text{ connected} \\ 0 \notin K_c \iff K \text{ Cantor set} \end{cases}$$

The Mandelbrot set M is

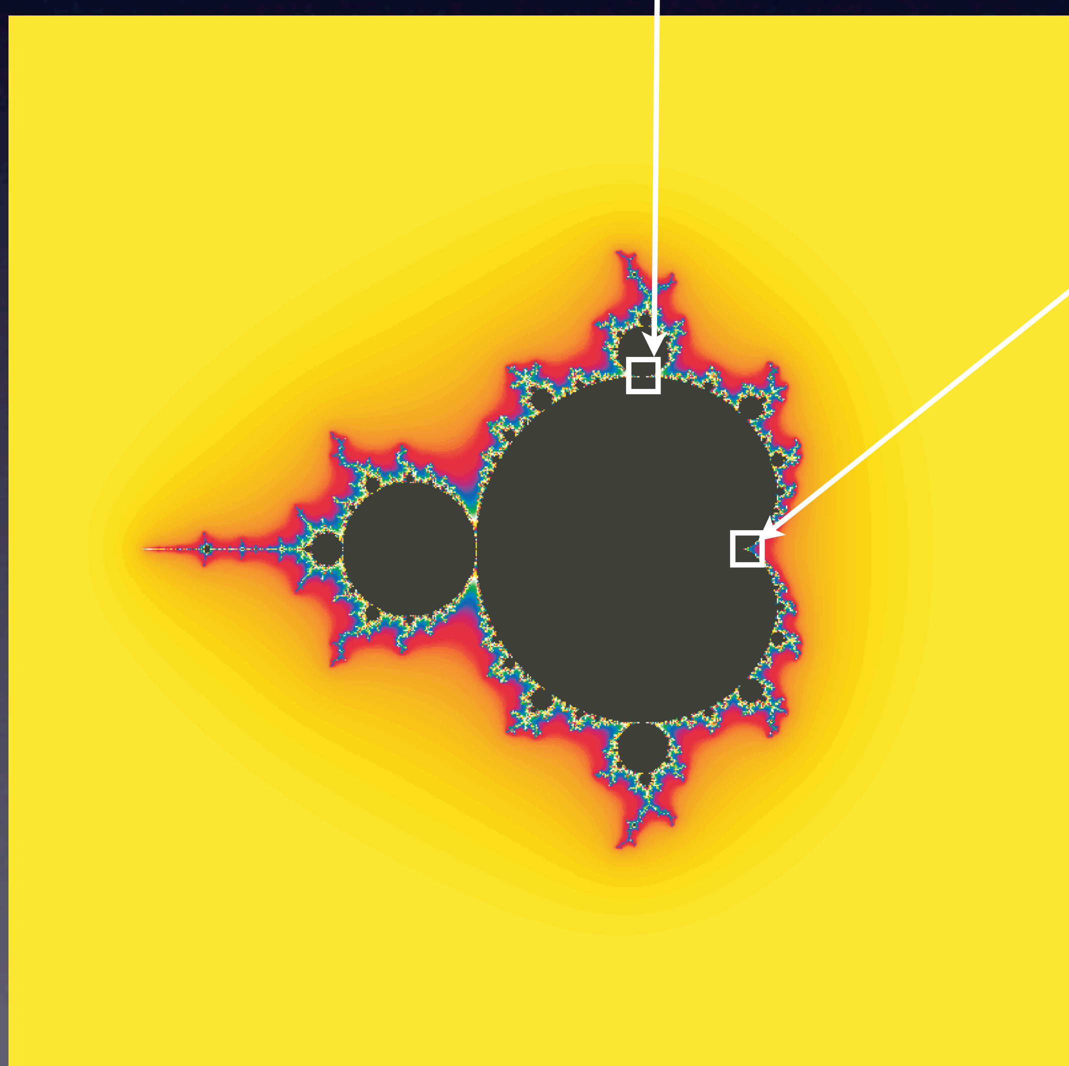
$$M = \{c \in \mathbb{C} \mid K_c \text{ connected}\}$$

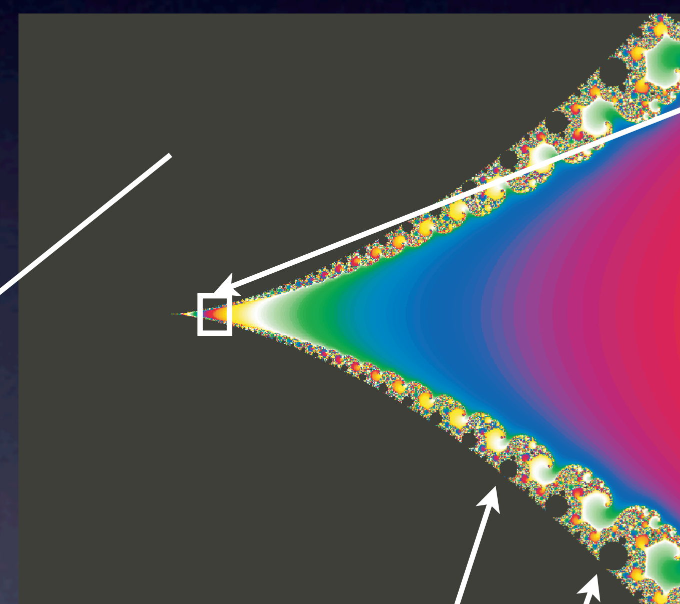
M is the important object in parameter space

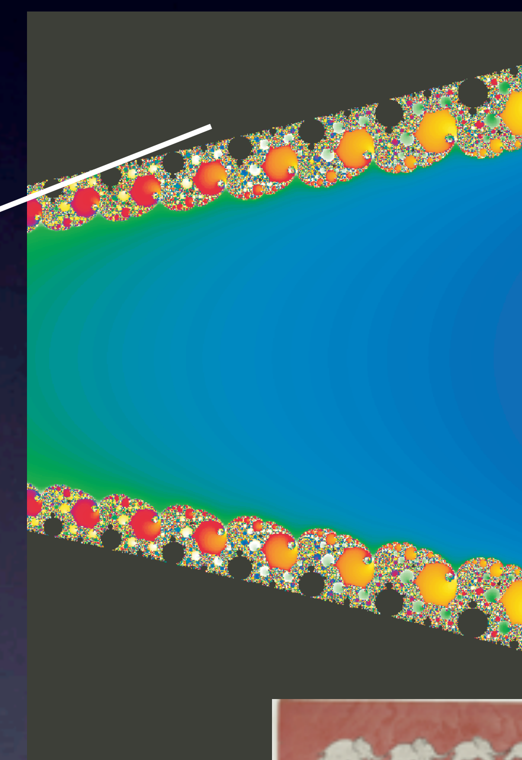




The set M
and various blow-ups
that will come up
during the lecture







do you see elephants?

Basic observation

The map

$$c \mapsto K_c$$

is not continuous

The goal is to describe the closure of its image

According to Douady:

The map $c \mapsto K_c$

is continuous if and only if

p_c has no parabolic cycles

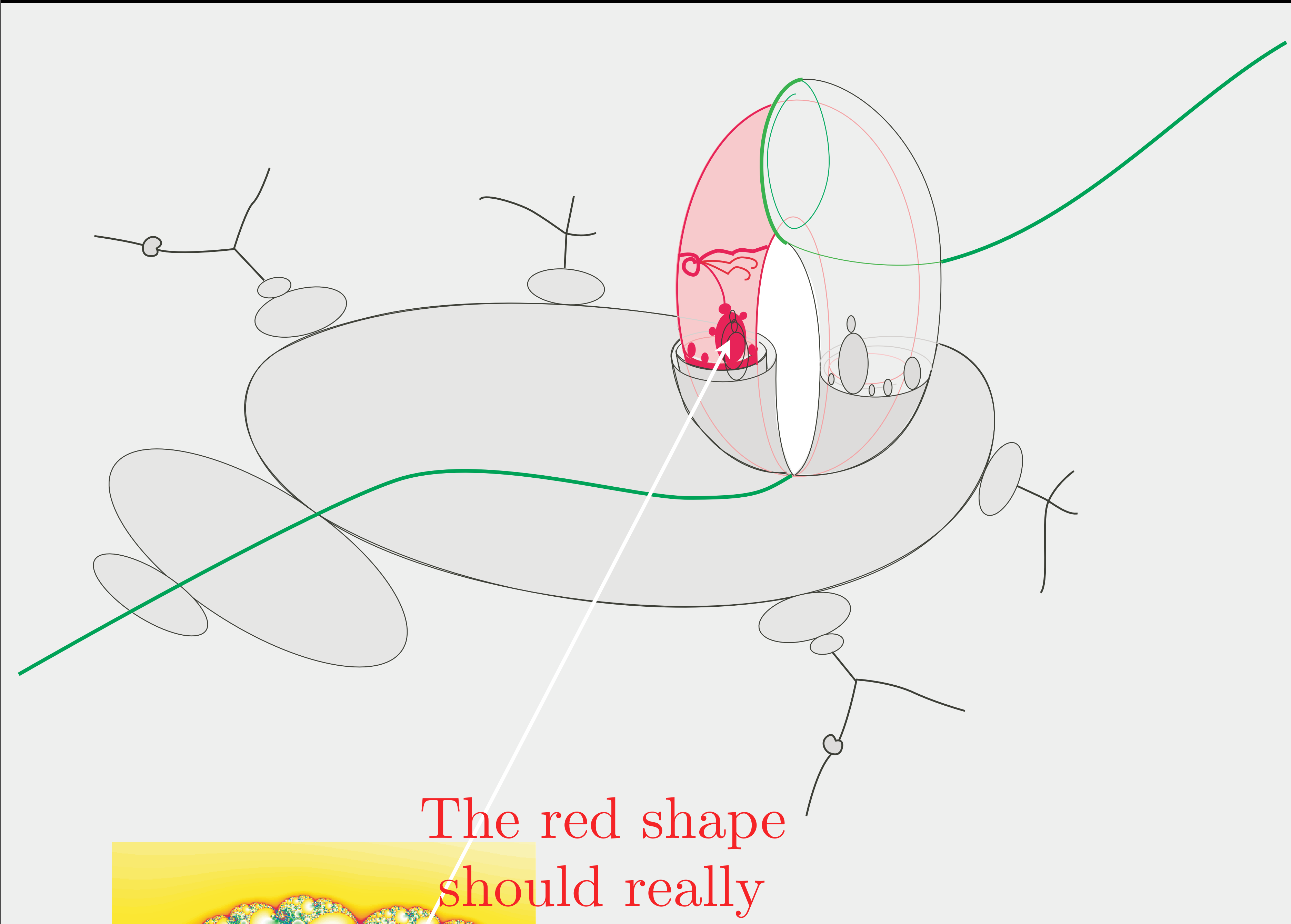
So we need to understand the possible limits of K_c as p_c approaches a polynomial with a parabolic cycle

Our (conjectural) answer is:

The closure of $\{K_c, c \in \mathbb{C}\}$ in $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{C})$ is the projective limit $\widehat{Quad}$ of all systems of finitely many projective blow-ups.

Before giving a precise definition of a parabolic blow-up I will show pictures of two examples

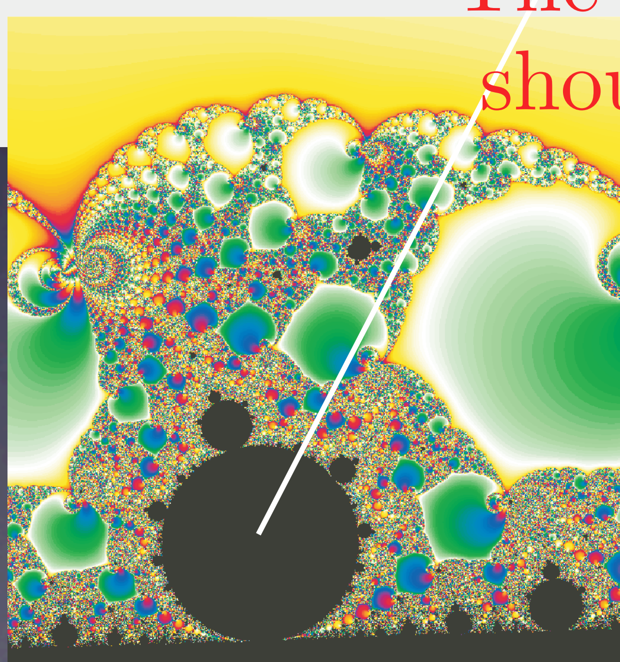
First the parabolic blow-up of $\mathbb{C}$ at $c = \frac{1}{4}$



We replace the cusp of the Mandelbrot set M by a copy of $\overline{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}}$ with its ends identified at the point p

The part of the real axis $c < \frac{1}{4}$ lands at p, whereas the part of the real axis $c > \frac{1}{4}$ spirals towards $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$

The red shape should really look like this



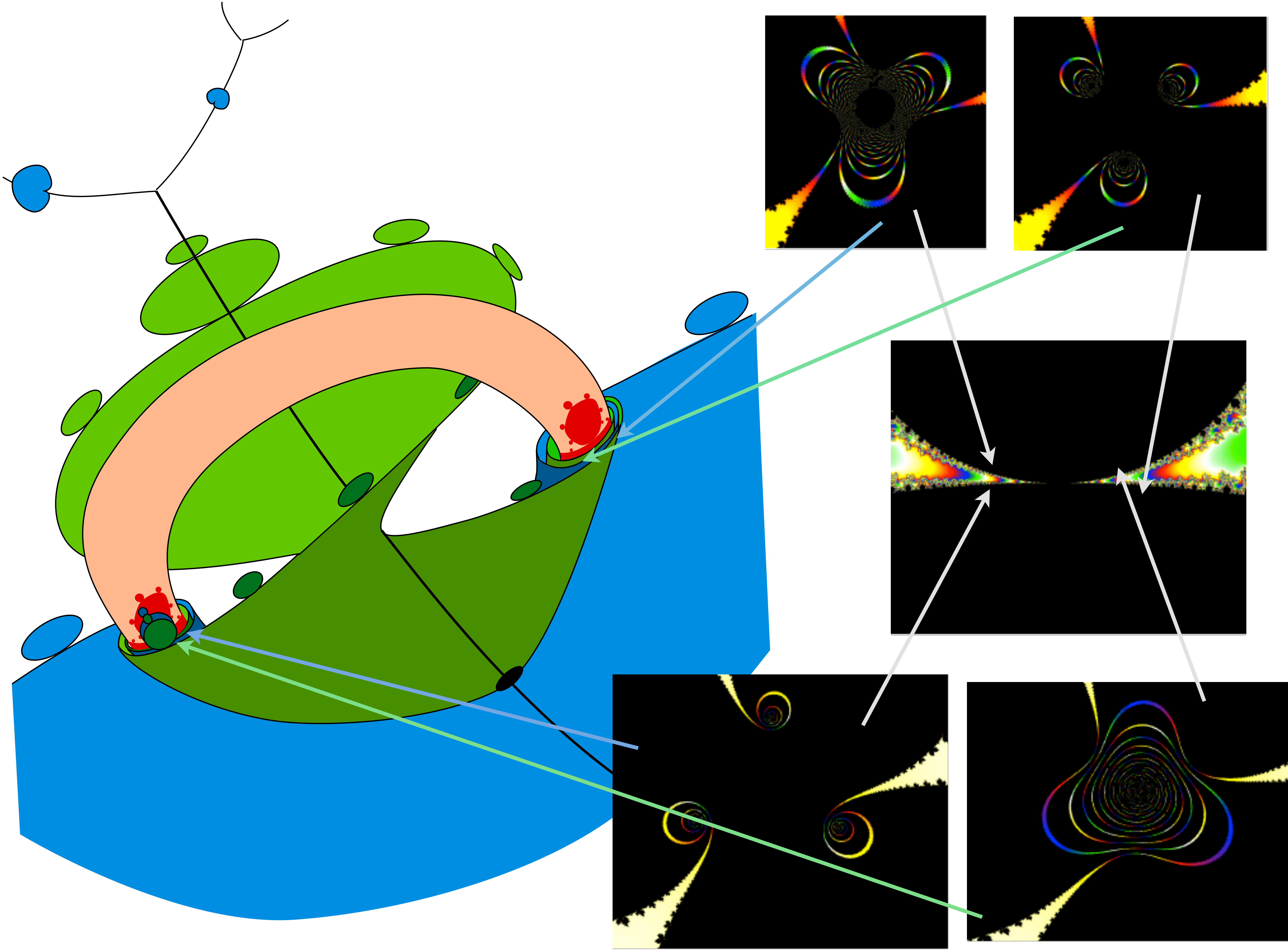
The copy of the cylinder $\overline{\mathbb{C}/Z}$ is called the *exceptional divisor* or *universal elephant (Douady)*

Next I will sketch the parabolic blow-up at $c = \frac{\lambda}{2} - \frac{\lambda^2}{4}$, with $\lambda = e^{2\pi i/3}$, the root of the "rabbit component".

Again, we replace the point by a copy of $\overline{\mathbb{C}/Z}$

This time we show how the boundary of the cardioid and of the rabbit component spiral towards the exceptional divisor.

They "cross": the part from the right of the cardioid spirals towards the same circle as the part from the left of the rabbit component.



Temporarily, let us assume that

1. We know how to define a parabolic blow-up.

2. That each point P of the projective limit $\widehat{Quad}$ of all finite systems of parabolic blowups corresponds to a "conformal dynamical system"

3. That each such conformal dynamical system has a "filled-in Julia set" K_P that is a compact subset of $\mathbb{C}$

Main theorem

The map $\widehat{Quad} \to \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{C})$ given by

$$P \mapsto K_P$$

is continuous.

Conjecture:

It is also injective, hence a homeomorphism to its image.

I do not expect the conjecture to be hard.

Why the spiraling behavior in parabolic blow-ups

Let us illustrate this spiraling behavior

with a few approaches to $c = \frac{1}{4}$

We approach different circles

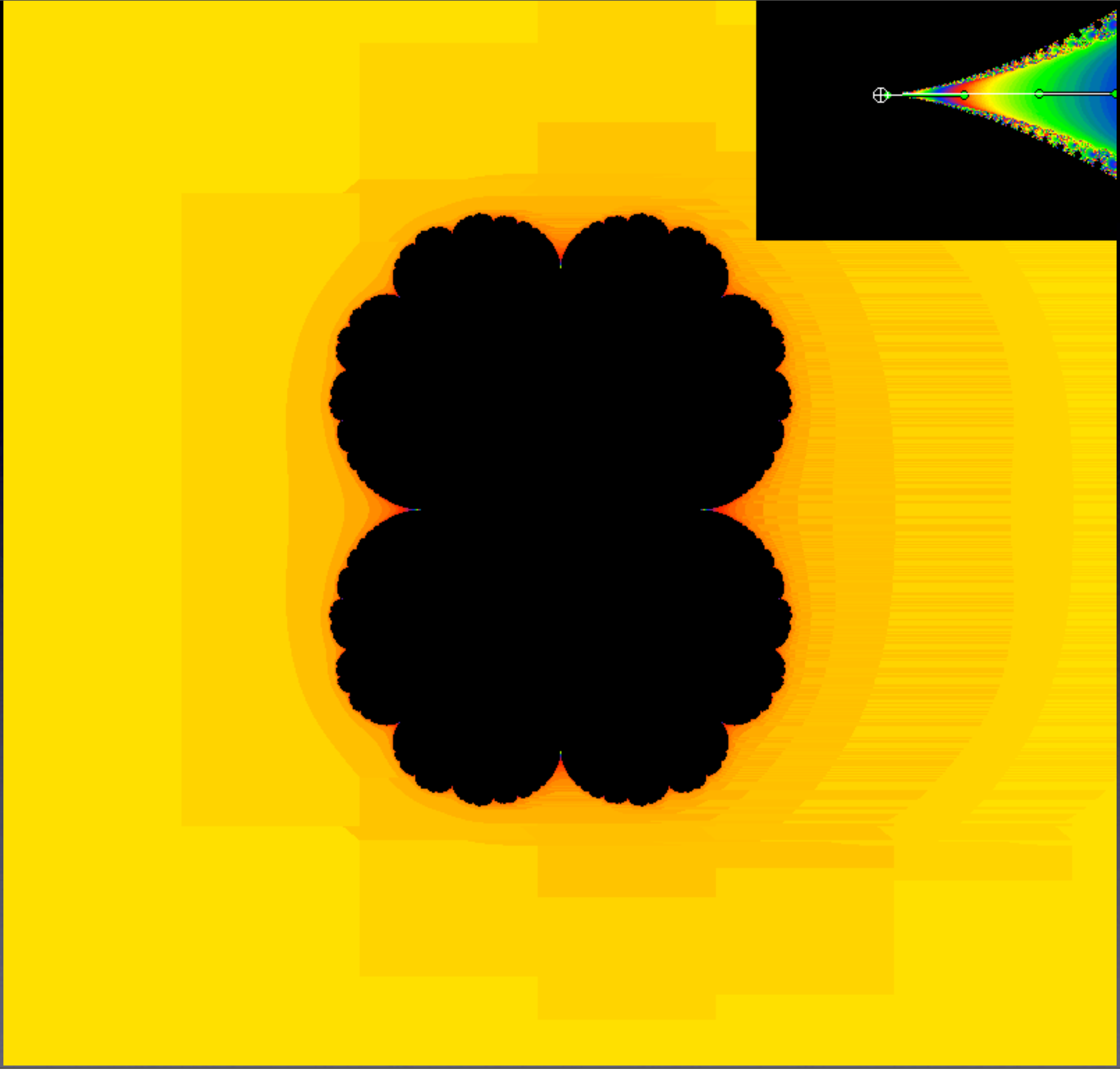
on the exceptional divisor $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$

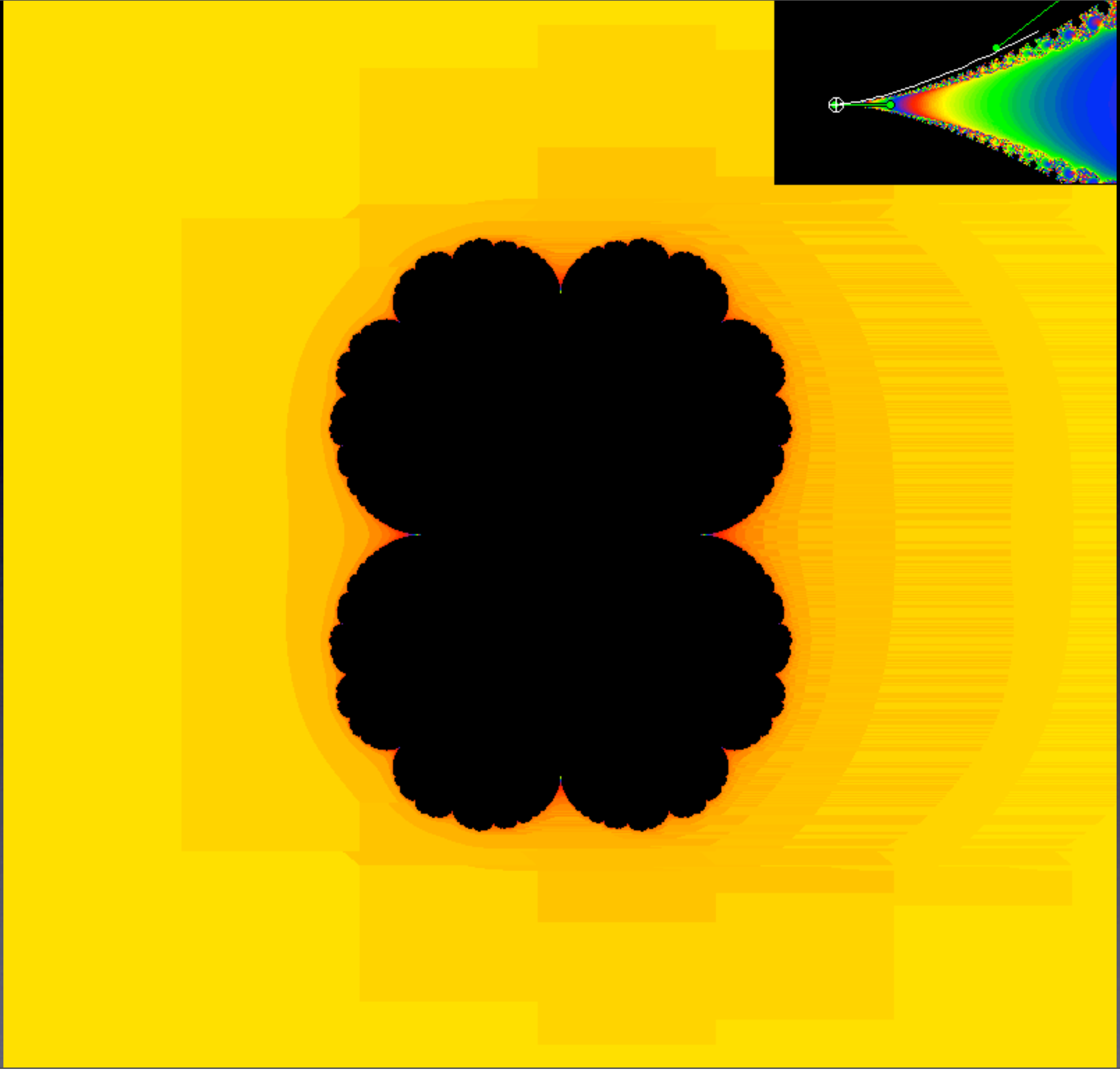
if the multiplier m of the fixed point in $\operatorname{Im} z > 0$

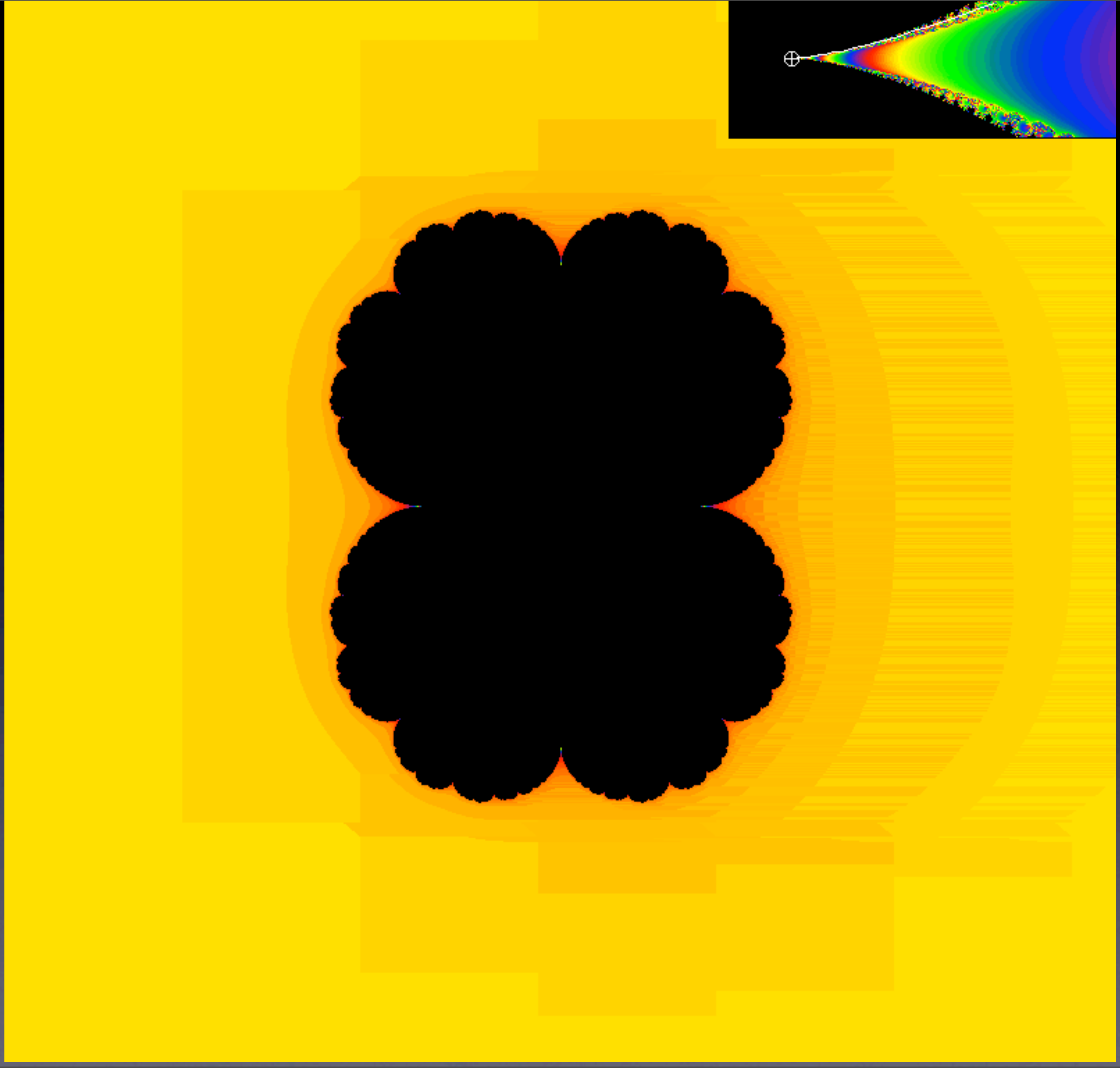
(or the fixed point in $\operatorname{Im} z < 0$)

approach 1 on a circle

tangent to the line $\operatorname{Re} m = 1$





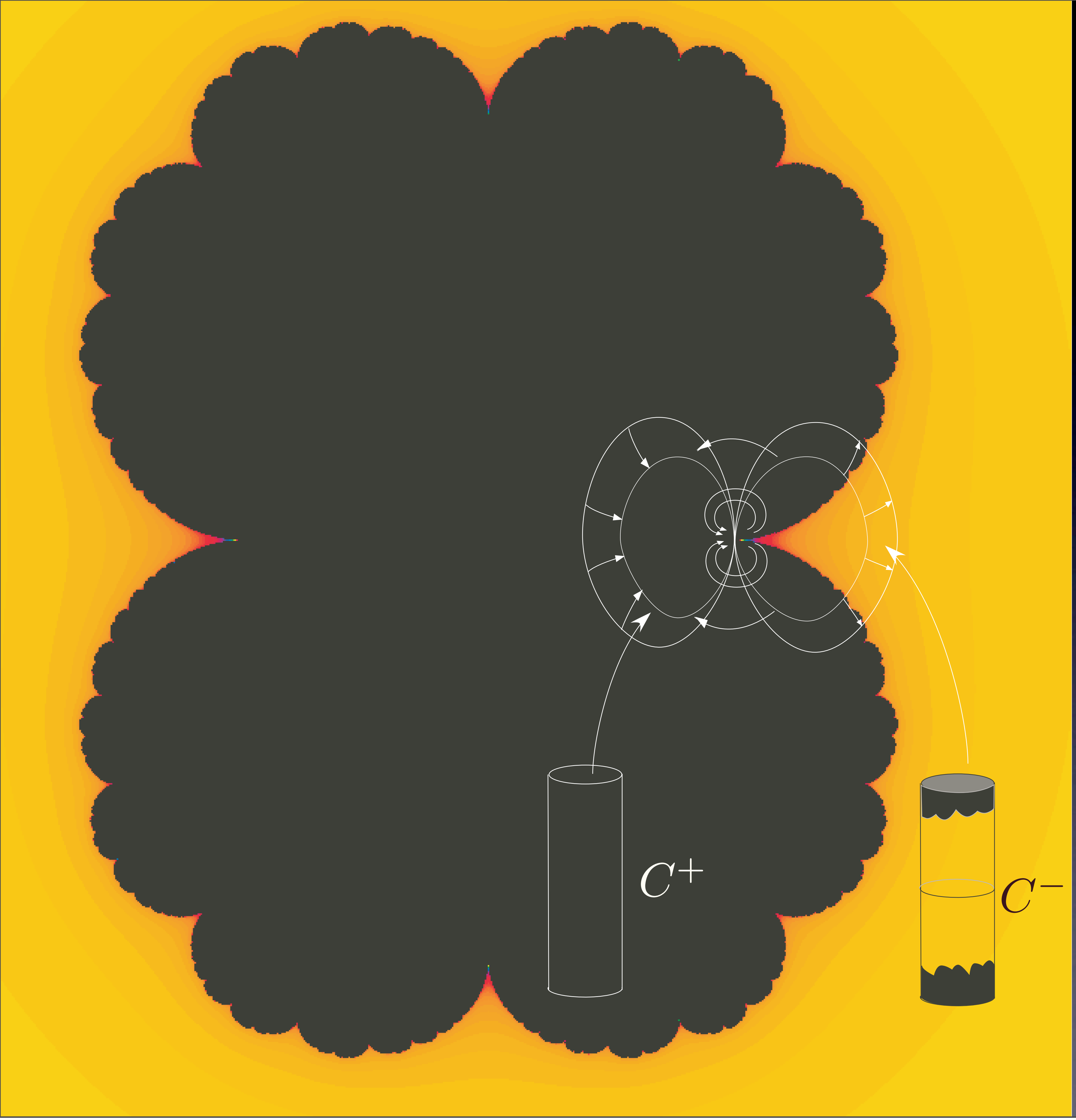


Douady and Lavaurs investigated the limiting dynamics, using

Ecalle Cylinders

and

Horn Maps



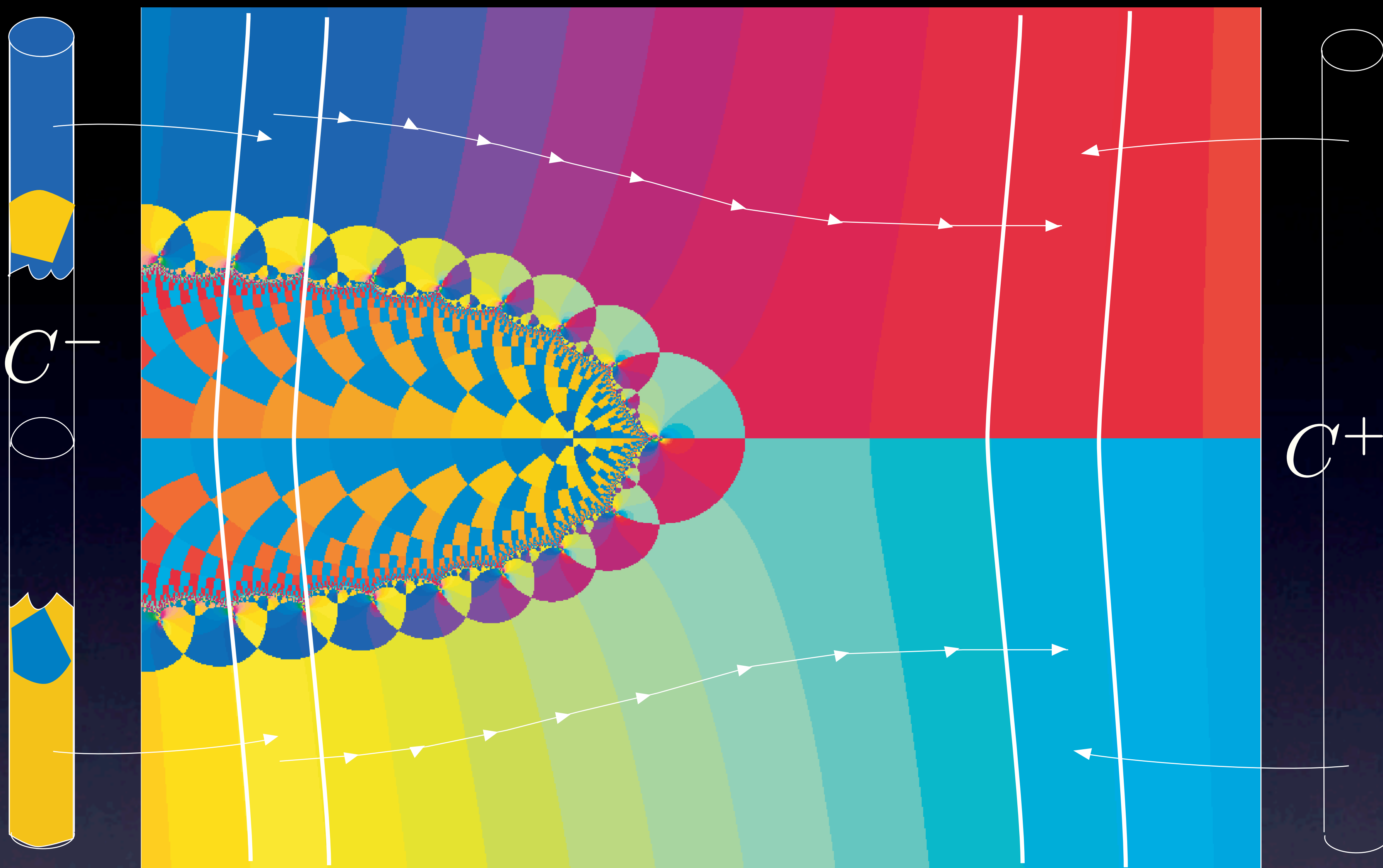
The quotient of the filled in Julia set by the dynamics is a cylinder C^+

It is easier to visualize these cylinders

if the parabolic fixed point is placed at ∞

The map being iterated is now

$$z \mapsto z + 1 + \frac{1}{z - 1}$$



The map

$$z \mapsto z + 1 + \frac{1}{z-1}$$

is conjugate to

$$z \mapsto z + 1$$

in a neighborhood of ∞

The quotient of

$\{z \mid \operatorname{Re} z < -R\}$ and $\{z \mid \operatorname{Re} z > R\}$

are both isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$

Call these cylinders C^- and C^+

The dynamics induces *horn maps* from a neighborhood of the ends of C^- to C^+

To sumarise

if p_c has a parabolic cycle

then there are two quotients C^+ and C^-

by the dynamics, and a horn map

$h : U \to \overline{C}^+$ defined in a

neighborhood U of the ends of C^-.

Adam Epstein has proved that horn maps are

analytic maps of *finite type:*

$h : U \to \overline{C}^+$ is a covering map

of all but finitely many points of C^+.

More generally, if X is a compact Riemann surface U is a Riemann surface and $f : U \to X$ is analytic, then f is of *finite type* if there is a finite set $Z \subset X$ such that

$$f : U - f^{-1}(Z) \to X - Z \text{ is a covering map.}$$

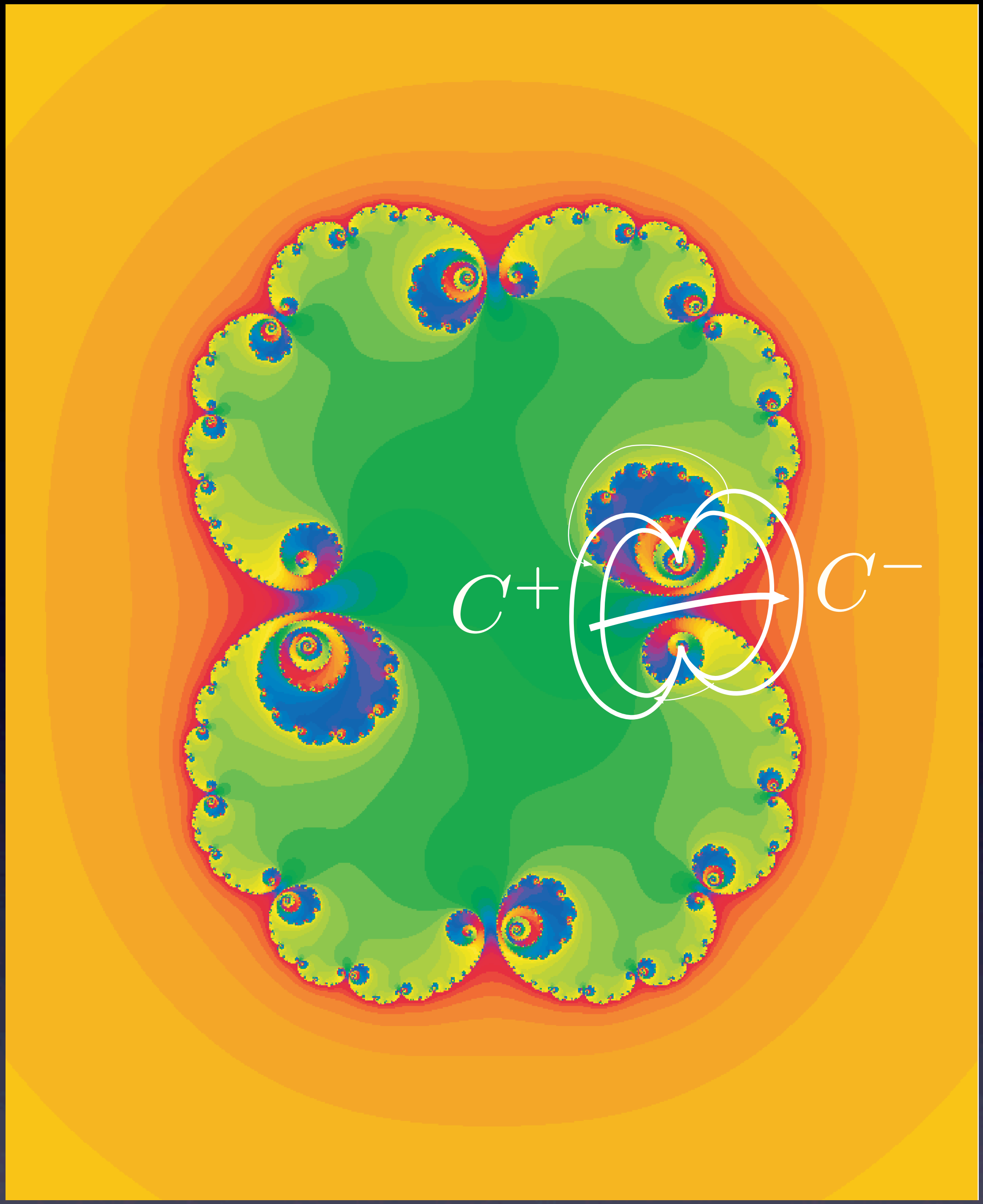
The map f is a *dynamical map of finite type* if $U \subset X$.

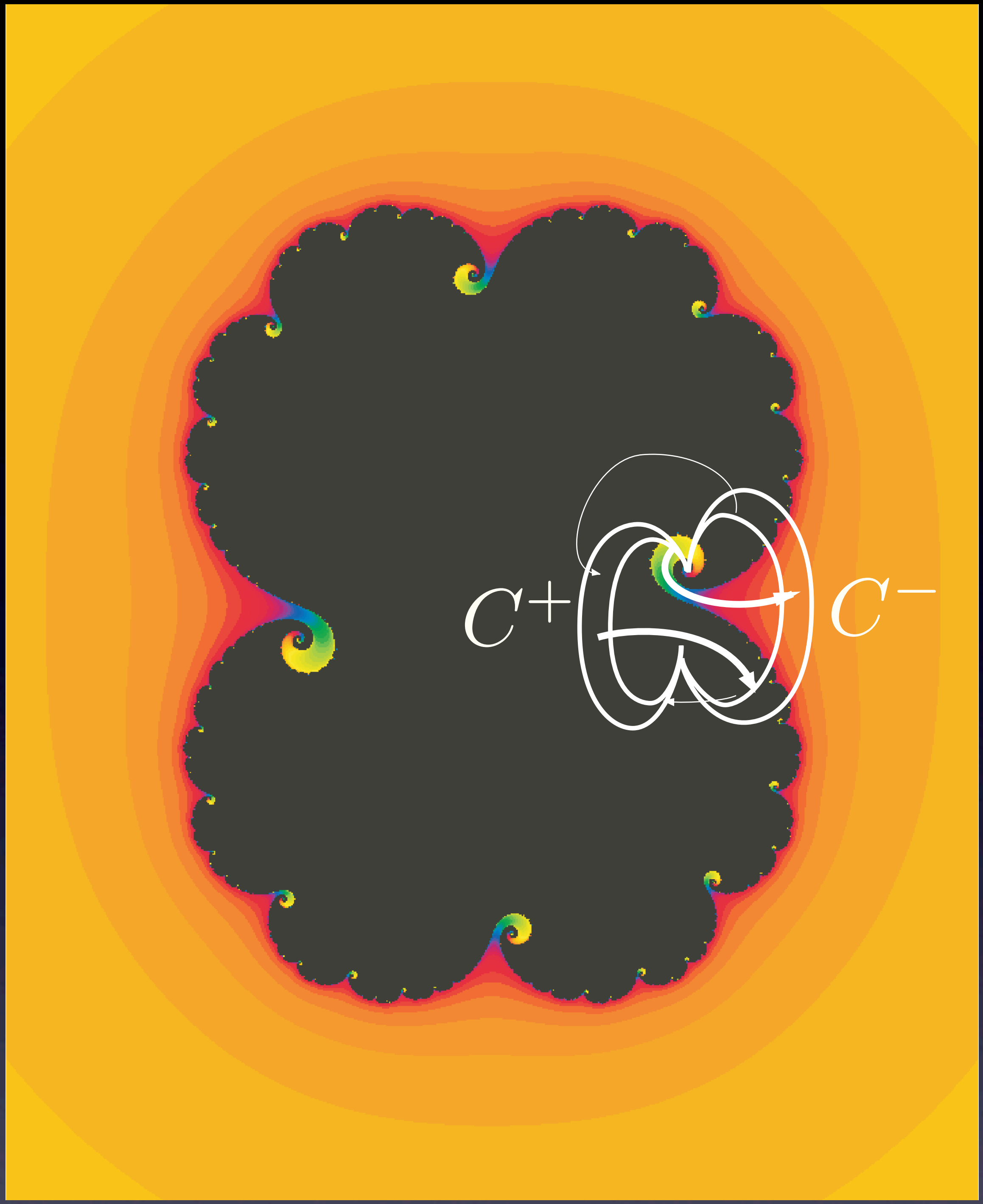
Adam also proves that if a dynamical map of finite type has only one critical value, then it has at most one parabolic cycle, and that parabolic cycle has an ingoing cylinder C^+, an outgoing cylinder C^-, a neighborhood $U \subset C^-$ of the ends of C^-, and a horn map $h : U \to \overline{C}^+$ of finite type.

These cylinders still exist for c in a neighborhood of the parameter value c_0 for which p_{c_0} has a parabolic cycle

The cylinders exist for all values of the parameter with a bit of ambiguity when the cycles emanating from the parabolic cycle are attracting with real derivatives

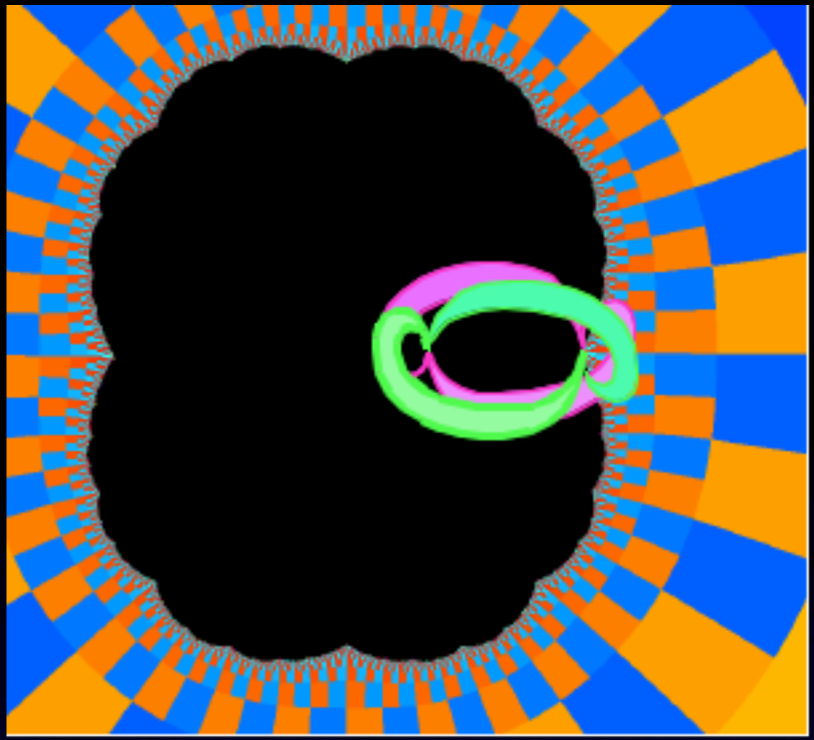
We illustrate this when $c_0 = \frac{1}{4}$.



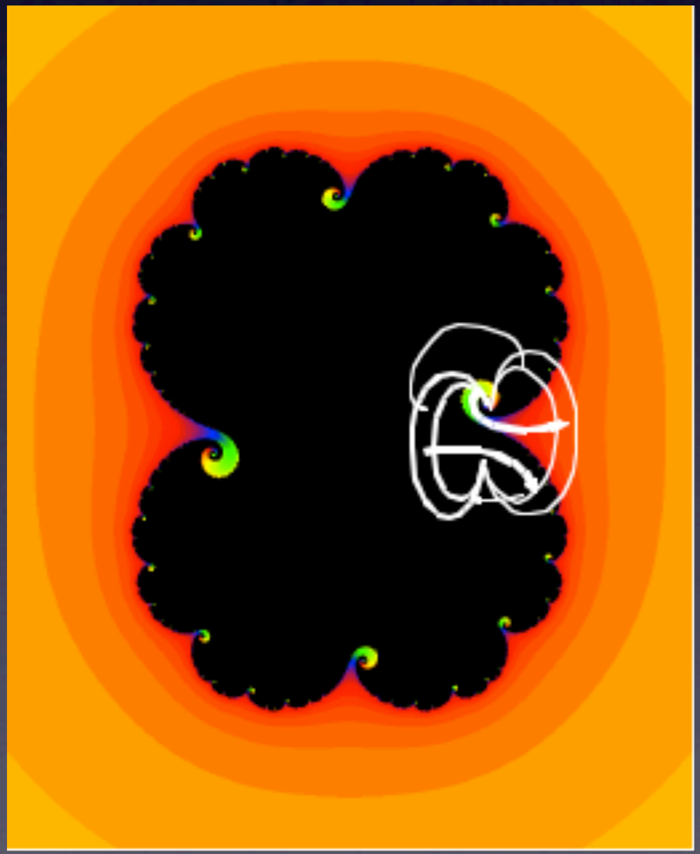


In these two picture of Julia sets K_c
with c close to $c_0 = 1/4$,
we see cylinders C^+ and C^-,
with horn maps defined near
the ends of C^-,

and isomorphisms
$C^+ \to C^-$
referred to as
as *Lavaurs maps*, or
going through the egg beater



In the case where the multiplier of one cycle emating from the parabolic cycle there are two possible sets of cylinders C^+ and C^-, each of which comes with its own horn map.



They are limits of cylinders where the multiplier has small imaginary part

In the limit the Lavaurs map maps all C^+ to one of the ends of C^-.

Defining the parabolic blow-up

The ordinary blow-up of $0 \in \mathbb{C}^2$ is the set

$$\left\{ \left(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2, l \in \mathbb{P}^1 \right) \mid \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \in l \right\}$$

We want an analogous definition

of the parabolic blow-up

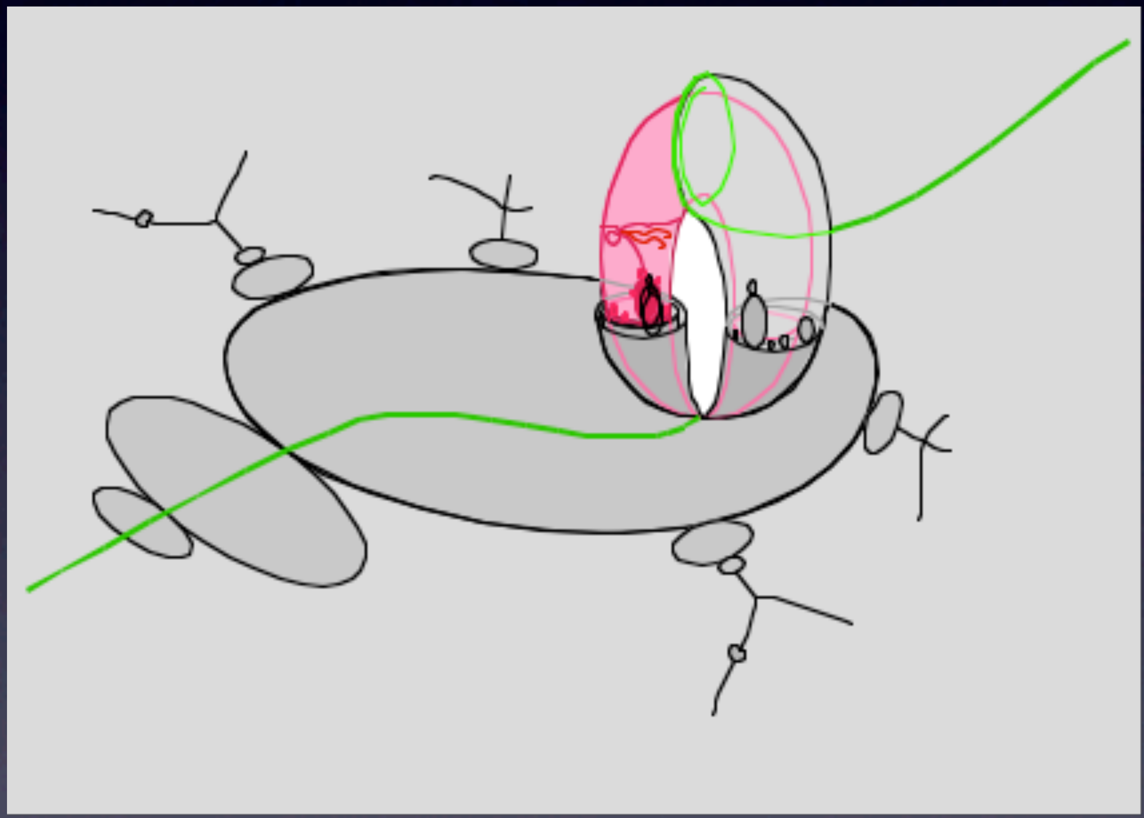
Suppose that p_{c_0} has a parabolic cycle.
Let V be a neighborhood of c_0 sufficiently small
that the cycles emanating from the cycle
are well defined, and let $V^* \subset V$ be the subset
where no such cycle is attracting
with real multiplier

For each $c \in V^*$ we have cylinders C_c^+ and C_c^-
which form a trivial principal bundle under $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$

Moreover for all $c \in V^*$, $c \neq c_0$,
there is a natural isomorphism $L_c : C^+ \to C^-$

We define the parabolic blowup of $\mathbb{C}$ at c_0 to be the closure in $V \times \mathrm{Isom}\,(C^+, \mathbb{C}^-)$ of all pairs (c, L_c).

Thus in the picture the pink "croissant" is $\mathrm{Isom}\,(C^+, C^-)$ and a sequence $i \mapsto c_i$ converges to a point $\phi \in \mathrm{Isom}\,(C^+, C^-)$



if the Lavaurs maps L_{c_i} converge to ϕ.

If $c \uparrow 1/4$, you converge to the identified ends of $\mathrm{Isom}\,(C^+, C^-)$.

This is just the beginning of the story

We may have a first dynamical system p_{c_0}, with a parabolic cycle. Then for each $L \in \mathrm{Isom}\,(C^+, C^-)$ we can define another

$$L \circ h : U \to \mathbb{C}^-$$

where $U \subset C^-$ is the domain of the horn map

This composition $L \circ h$ may itself have parabolic cycles,
and we can iterate the process.

This leads to the definition of a parabolic tower.

A parabolic tower is a sequence (finite or infinite) of dynamical maps of finite type $f_i : U_i \to X_i$.

Each f_i is of the form $L \circ h$ where h is the horn map associated to a parabolic cycle of f_{i-1} and L is an associated Lavaurs isomorphism.

In our case f_0 is required to be a quadratic polynomial.

The set of parabolic towers
above quadratic polynomials
is exactly the projective limit of all finite
systems of parabolic blow-ups
starting with a quadratic polynomial.

This projective limit $\widehat{Quad}$ comes with a topology.
It can also be understood in terms of parabolic towers.
Adam has shown how to associate
a “conformal groupoid” to each parabolic tower
and how to give the set of such groupoids
the *Fell topology*, the appropriate
variant of uniform convergence on compact sets.

These groupoids
(Adam calls them conformal dynamical systems)
have Julia sets and filled in Julia sets
that have the same semicontinuity properties
as ordinary Julia sets and filled in Julia sets.

Adam proves (in his thesis, 1987) that for
infinite towers the Julia sets and
the filled in Julia set coincide.
Since one is upper semi continuous
and the other lower semi-continuous
at infinite towers both are continuous.

But we do gain some insight from the "projective limit of parabolic blow-ups" approach.

For instance:

The Čech cohomology $H^*(\widehat{Quad}, \mathbb{Z})$ has one generator in dimension 1 for each blow-up and one generator in dimension 2 for each blow-up

Another application

The proper transform of the boundary of the cardioid is homeomorphic to the set of finite or infinite sequences of the symbols $1, 2, \ldots, \infty$.

We make the standard identification of continued fractions

If $1 < a_n < \infty$, then $[a_1, \ldots, a_n] = [a_1, \ldots, a_n - 1, 1]$

An N-neighborhood of a sequence $A = [a_1, a_2, \ldots]$ is the set of sequences at most as long as A and whose first N entries coincide with those of A except that any entries ∞ can be replaced by entries $> N$.

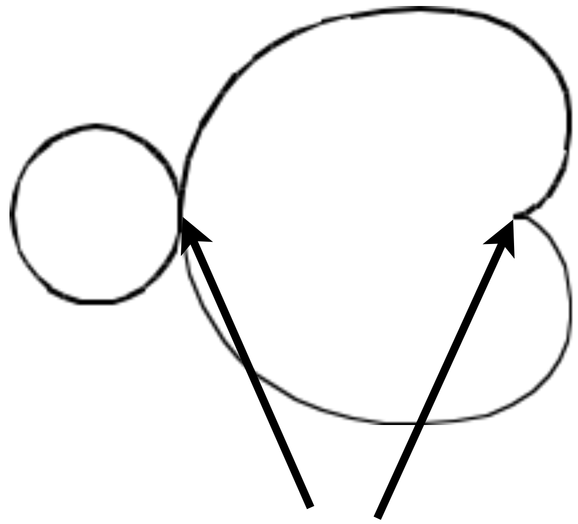
These sequences should be thought of as continued fractions:

$$[a_1, a_2, \ldots] = \cfrac{1}{a_1 + \cfrac{1}{a_2 + \ldots}}$$

The number of symbols ∞ is the height of the corresponding parabolic tower.

We allow the empty sequence [ ] to stand for the angle $0 \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$

Some pictures should illustrate the construction



We will blow up these two points