

A “UNIVERSAL” DYNAMICAL SYSTEM GENERATED BY A CONTINUOUS MAP OF THE INTERVAL

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we show that there is a continuous map $f : I \rightarrow I$ of the interval such that any ω -limit set W of any continuous map $g : I \rightarrow I$ can be transformed by a homeomorphism $I \rightarrow I$ to an ω -limit set \tilde{W} of f . Consequently, any nowhere-dense compact set and any finite union of compact intervals is a homeomorphic copy of an ω -limit set of f .

1. INTRODUCTION

Let $I = [0, 1]$ be the unit interval in R and let $\mathcal{C}(I, I)$ denote the class of continuous functions from I to I . For $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$, f^0 is the identity function, and for any positive integer n , the n -th iterate f^n is defined by $f^n = f \circ f^{n-1}$. A set $W \subset I$ is called an ω -limit set for f if there is an $x \in I$ such that W is the cluster set of the sequence $\{f^n(x)\}$. Denote this set by $\omega_f(x)$, and let ω_f be the class of all ω -limit sets of f . Any $W \in \omega_f$ is a non-empty closed subset of I and $f(W) = W$.

The following characterization of ω -limit sets is due to Agronsky et al. [1]: a non-empty compact set $W \subset I$ is an ω -limit set of a map $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ if and only if W is either a finite collection of compact intervals or nowhere dense (by interval we mean a non-degenerate one, exceptions are stated explicitly). Recall that the necessary condition was proved already in the sixties by Sharkovsky [8]; a simpler proof of the sufficient condition is given in [5]. In fact, [5] contains a stronger result: any infinite nowhere dense compact set W is an ω -limit set of homoclinic type for a suitable continuous map of I . A characterization of sets in ω_f , for any fixed continuous f , is given in [3]; it involves a transportation condition on the sets. The system ω_f equipped with the Hausdorff metric is a compact set [3].

In view of the above-mentioned facts there is the following natural problem: how large can the system ω_f be? In [7] Keller gives a simple example of a function $f : I \rightarrow I$ continuous everywhere except for a single point such that any nowhere dense compact set $F \subset I$ has a homeomorphic copy \tilde{F} in ω_f ; the corresponding homeomorphism can be extended to the whole of I . By Evans et al. [6], if $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ has periodic orbits of all periods, then any non-empty countable compact set has a homeomorphic copy in ω_f . This homeomorphism, however, cannot be in general extended from F to the whole interval I . In this paper we prove that there

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is a “universal” continuous function, up to homeomorphisms of the interval, solving a problem formulated by A. M. Bruckner (cf., e.g., [4]). Our main result is the following one.

Theorem 1.1. *There is a map $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ such that, for any non-empty compact set $F \subset I$ which is either nowhere dense or is the union of finitely many non-degenerate intervals, there is a homeomorphism φ of I such that $\varphi(F)$ is an ω -limit set of f .*

Clearly, the condition “up to homeomorphism” cannot be omitted, and the function involved cannot be simple. In our case f is strongly irregular, having infinite variation on any open interval which intersects a Cantor set C_f . Moreover, the ω -limit sets of f which are contained in C_f form our universal system for infinite nowhere dense ω -limit sets. Instead of Theorem 1.1 it is more convenient to prove the following equivalent statement.

Theorem 1.2. *There is a countable family of maps $f_n \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$, such that, for any non-empty compact set $F \subset I$ which either is nowhere dense or is the union of finitely many non-degenerate intervals, there is a homeomorphism φ of I such that $\varphi(F)$ is an ω -limit set of f_n , for some n .*

The equivalence follows by the “diagonalization” method. Assume that Theorem 1.2 is true, and let $\{I_n\}$ be pairwise disjoint compact intervals in I . Let $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ be any map such that $f|_{I_n}$ is conjugated to f_n (i.e., $f_n \circ \psi = \psi \circ (f|_{I_n})$, where ψ is a homeomorphism $I_n \rightarrow I$). Then f is the universal function from Theorem 1.1. The converse implication is obvious.

Remark 1.3. For any positive integer k , it is easy to find a continuous map which has an ω -limit set consisting of exactly k disjoint compact periodic intervals and hence, a k -cycle. So, to prove Theorem 1.2, it suffices to show that it is true for the infinite nowhere dense compact sets F .

In this paper we use standard terminology and notation (see, e.g., [2]). However, some notions should be fixed. A *Cantor set* is any nowhere dense non-empty compact set without isolated points. A *homeomorphic copy* of a set $A \subset I$ is a copy with respect to an order-preserving homeomorphism (which can be extended to the whole interval). The following notion of an ω -limit set of homoclinic type plays a central role in our construction.

Definition 1.4. Let W be a nowhere dense compact set, and $A = \{a_0, \dots, a_{k-1}\} \neq \emptyset$ a subset of the set of limit points of W . Assume there is a system $\{W_n^i\}_{n=1}^\infty$, $i = 0, \dots, k-1$, of non-empty pairwise disjoint compact subsets of W such that $W \setminus \bigcup_{i,n} W_n^i = A$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_n^i = a_i$, for any i . Let $f : W \rightarrow W$ be a continuous map and let A be a k -cycle of f such that, for any $i \pmod k$, $f(a_i) = a_{i-1}$, $f(W_n^i) = W_{n-1}^{i-1}$ if $n > 1$ and $f(W_1^i) = a_{i-1}$. Then W is called a *homoclinic set* of order k with respect to f .

A homoclinic set W of f is an ω -limit set of f if, for any $a \in A$ and any open set U intersecting W , $f^k(U)$ is a neighborhood of a , for some k (cf. Lemma 4.1 below).

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 contains preliminaries on mappings between uncountable nowhere dense compact sets (Lemma 2.3). This and the

Itinerary Lemma 4.1 are the tools allowing us to construct a universal function for uncountable nowhere dense compact sets (Proposition 5.1). The universal function even need not have the 3c-property (Definition 3.1 and Lemma 4.2), GC-maps (Definition 2.2) are quite sufficient in this case. However, the "countable part" of the construction is not so simple. Preliminaries are given in Section 3, with Propositions 3.6 and 3.7 as the main results (they play a role similar to Lemma 2.3 in the uncountable case). Section 5 contains the main constructions.

2. PRELIMINARIES - UNCOUNTABLE CASE

Denote by Q and R the sets of rational and real numbers. For $F \subset R$, let \overline{F} be the closure of F , and F^+ or F^- the set of right- or left-isolated points in F , respectively. For $S \subset R$, let $\mathcal{E}(S)$ be the family of nowhere dense compact sets P such that $P^+ \cup P^- \subset S$. The following result must be known but we are not able to give a reference. Its proof uses standard techniques (cf., e.g., [9]).

Lemma 2.1. *Let F be a Cantor set in $\mathcal{E}(S)$. Then any nowhere dense compact set A has a homeomorphic copy $\tilde{A} \subset F$ in $\mathcal{E}(S)$.*

Proof. We may assume that A is infinite, $\min A = \min F = \alpha$ and $\max A = \max F = \beta$. Let $\mathcal{I} = \{I_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and $\mathcal{J} = \{J_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, $J_n = (a_n, b_n)$, be an enumeration of the intervals complementary to A or F , respectively. Assume that $I_1 = J_1$ and $I_2 = J_2$ are the intervals complementary to $[\alpha, \beta]$. Consider \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{J} as ordered sets with the natural ordering. To get \tilde{A} it suffices to get a system $\mathcal{K} = \{K_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, $K_n = (u_n, v_n)$, of intervals complementary to \tilde{A} and use the fact that A and \tilde{A} are homeomorphic if and only if \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{K} are.

Let $K_1 = I_1$ and $K_2 = I_2$. Assume by induction that K_1, \dots, K_n are defined such that their end-points are end-points of intervals from \mathcal{J} and $I_i \mapsto K_i$ is a homeomorphism between $\{I_1, \dots, I_n\} = \mathcal{I}_n$ and $\{K_1, \dots, K_n\} = \mathcal{K}_n$. Let I_j be the left neighbor of I_{n+1} in \mathcal{I}_n , and let k be the smallest index such that J_k is disjoint from $\bigcup \mathcal{K}_n$, and K_j is the left neighbor of J_k in \mathcal{K}_n . If there are intervals from \mathcal{I} between I_j and I_{n+1} , put $u_{n+1} = a_k$; otherwise let $u_{n+1} = v_j$. Similarly find v_{n+1} . The choice of J_k at any step implies that \tilde{A} contains no interval. Thus both A and \tilde{A} are nowhere dense and, consequently, $I_i \mapsto K_i$ is a homeomorphism between \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{K} . \square

Definition 2.2. Let X and Y be compact intervals. Then $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ is called a *generalized Cantor map*, or *GC-map*, provided there is a Cantor set $C = C_\tau \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$ contained in the interior of X such that the family \mathcal{S}_τ of closures of the intervals complementary to C in X has the following properties.

- (i) \mathcal{S}_τ is the family of the maximal intervals of constancy of τ ;
- (ii) for any $x \in X$, $\tau(x) \in Q$ if and only if $x \in \bigcup \mathcal{S}_\tau$.

Let $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ be a GC-map. For any $L \in \mathcal{S}_\tau$, let C_L be a Cantor set in $\mathcal{E}(Q)$ contained in the interior of L . Denote $D_\tau = C_\tau \cup \bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{S}_\tau} C_L$. Then D_τ is a Cantor set contained in the interior of X and $D_\tau \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$. Let \mathcal{R}_τ be the family of closures of the intervals complementary to D_τ . For any $L \in \mathcal{R}_\tau$ let E_L be a Cantor set in $\mathcal{E}(Q)$ containing the end-points of L which are interior to X . Denote $E_\tau = D_\tau \cup \bigcup_{L \in \mathcal{R}_\tau} E_L$. Again, $E_\tau \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$.

Lemma 2.3. *Let X and Y be compact intervals, $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ a surjective GC-map, and $A \subset Y$, $B \subset X$ nowhere dense compact sets such that B is uncountable and $A \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$. Then there is a homeomorphism ψ of X such that $\tilde{B} = \psi(B) \in \mathcal{E}(E_\tau^+ \cup E_\tau^-)$ and $\tau(\tilde{B}) = A$.*

Proof. By Definition 2.2, $M = \tau^{-1}(A \cap Q)$ is the union of intervals from \mathcal{S}_τ . Let K be the set of points in D_τ interior to M . Then $C = \overline{K}$ is a Cantor set, and $\tau(C) = \overline{\tau(K)} = \overline{\tau(M)} = \overline{A \cap Q} = A$; the last equality follows since $A \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$ and $A^\pm = A$.

Let $J = (a, b)$ be an interval complementary to C , with $\min C < a < b < \max C$. Then $a \in D_\tau^+$ and $b \in D_\tau^-$. Indeed, $\tau(a)$ and $\tau(b)$ are points in A ; if both are in Q the statement is true by definition of τ . On the other hand if, say, $\tau(a) \notin Q$, then any one-sided neighborhood of $\tau(a)$ contains a point in $A \cap Q$ since $A \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$. By Definition 2.2, τ cannot be constant on J ; hence $\tau(J)$ contains a one-sided neighborhood of $\tau(a)$ and consequently J intersects M - a contradiction.

Let $B = B_1 \cup B_2$, where B_1 is a Cantor set and B_2 is countable. Without loss of generality we may assume that the system \mathcal{M}_B of the closures of the complementary intervals of B_1 with natural ordering has the first and the last element. Hence it is similar to the corresponding system \mathcal{M}_C for C . Let $\psi : X \rightarrow X$ be a homeomorphism with $\psi(B_1) = C$. Then for any L in \mathcal{M}_B , $\psi(L)$ is in \mathcal{M}_C , and $L \cap B$ is non-empty (since L is closed), countable and compact. Apply Lemma 2.1 to get a homeomorphic copy \tilde{B}_L of $B \cap L$ such that $\tilde{B}_L \in (E_\tau^+ \cup E_\tau^-)$, $\tilde{B}_L \subset \psi(L)$, $\min \tilde{B}_L = \min \psi(L)$, and $\max \tilde{B}_L = \max \psi(L)$. Finally, let \tilde{B} be the union of C and all \tilde{B}_L , for $L \in \mathcal{M}_B$. \square

3. PRELIMINARIES - COUNTABLE CASE

We start with some terminology and notation. For $A, B \subset R$ write $A \leq B$ if $x \leq y$ whenever $x \in A$ and $y \in B$, and write $A < B$ if $A \leq B$ and $A \neq B$. Let \mathcal{J} be a system of intervals. For any $J \in \mathcal{J}$, let \mathcal{J}_J be a finite system of intervals (with disjoint interiors) which form a partition of J . Then $\bigcup_{J \in \mathcal{J}} \mathcal{J}_J$ is called a *finite refinement* of \mathcal{J} .

Let $f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$, and $K \subset X$, $L \subset Y$ be compact intervals. Then K *f-covers* L *three times*, if K contains three non-overlapping intervals (i.e., intervals with disjoint interiors) K_1, K_2, K_3 such that $f(K_i) \supset L$, for any i . Moreover, $f|K$ is an *i-map* if there are points $u < v$ in K such that $f(u) < f(v)$ are the end-points of $f(K)$; $f|K$ is a *d-map* if there are points $u < v$ in K such that $f(u) > f(v)$ are the end-points of $f(K)$. Note that one map may well be both an *i-map* and a *d-map*.

Definition 3.1. A map $f \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ has the *3-coverings property*, or *3c-property* if the following three conditions are satisfied:

- (a) X *f-covers* Y three times;
- (b) f attains a rational value at any point of local extremum;
- (c) if $K \subset X$ and $L \subset Y$ are compact intervals such that $f(K) \supset L$, then there are finite partitions $K_1 < K_2 < \dots < K_n$ of K and $L_1 < L_2 < \dots < L_n$ of L if $f|K$ is an *i-map*, and $L_n < L_{n-1} < \dots < L_1$ otherwise, into non-overlapping intervals such that the dividing points in L are rational numbers and K_i *f-covers* L_i three times, for any i .

Note that by (a) and (b), Y must have rational end-points.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ be a GC-map with the 3c-property, and let $\tau(a) \notin Q$. Then any one-sided neighborhood of a is mapped onto a neighborhood of $\tau(a)$ in Y .*

Proof. Denote $\tau(a) = b$ and assume that, e.g., $\tau(K) = L$, where $K = [a, a + \delta]$, $L = [b, b + \varepsilon]$, and δ, ε are positive. Then by Definition 3.1(c) there is a compact interval K' contained in the interior of K such that $b \in \tau(K')$. Thus, there is a c interior to K such that $\tau(c) = b$; hence τ has a local minimum at c , contrary to Definition 3.1(b). □

A sequence $\{I_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ of intervals is *monotone* if it is monotone with respect to the ordering $<$ among sets, i.e., if this sequence accumulates to the right or to the left.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ be a GC-map with the 3c-property. Let $\mathcal{I} = \{I_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ and $\mathcal{J} = \{J_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be monotone sequences of compact subintervals of X and Y , respectively such that the intervals in \mathcal{I} are pairwise disjoint, and these in \mathcal{J} are non-overlapping and have the end-points in Q . Finally, assume that there is a compact interval K in X such that $\tau(K) = Y$, $\tau|_K$ is an i -map if the sequences \mathcal{I} and \mathcal{J} have the same orientation, and $\tau|_K$ is a d -map otherwise.*

Then there is a finite refinement $\tilde{\mathcal{J}} = \{\tilde{J}_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of \mathcal{J} , and a homeomorphism $\varphi : X \rightarrow X$ such that $\varphi(I_n) \subset K$ and $\varphi(I_n)$ τ -covers \tilde{J}_n three times, for any n .

Proof. Assume first that both sequences are increasing and K is a minimal interval such that $\tau(K) = Y$ and $\tau|_K$ is an i -map. Let $u_1 < v_1$ be the minimal points in K such that $\tau(u_1) < \tau(v_1)$ are the end-points of J_1 . By induction, let $u_{n+1} < v_{n+1}$ be points in K such that $v_n < u_{n+1}$ and $\tau(u_{n+1}) < \tau(v_{n+1})$ are the end-points of J_{n+1} . Moreover, since $\tau|_K$ is an i -map, we can choose v_{n+1} to be the minimal point satisfying the above conditions. Denote $K_n = [u_n, v_n]$. Then $\tau|_{K_n}$ is an i -map, for any n . Consequently, since τ has the 3c-property, there are finite partitions $K_{n1} < K_{n2} < \dots < K_{nk}$ of K_n , and $J_{n1} < J_{n2} < \dots < J_{nk}$ of J_n such that K_{ni} τ -covers J_{ni} three times. Rearrange all J_{ni} into a monotone sequence $\tilde{\mathcal{J}} = \{\tilde{J}_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$. Denote by \tilde{K}_{ni} a minimal compact subinterval of K_{ni} which τ -covers J_{ni} three times. Since each J_{ni} has rational end-points and τ is a GC-map, any neighbors $\tilde{K}_{ni}, \tilde{K}_{nj}$ are separated by an interval of constancy of τ . Hence the intervals \tilde{K}_{ni} can be rearranged into an increasing sequence $\tilde{\mathcal{I}} = \{\tilde{I}_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of pairwise disjoint compact intervals. So there is a homeomorphism $\varphi : X \rightarrow X$ such that $\varphi(I_n) = \tilde{I}_n$, for any n .

If both sequences are decreasing, the argument is similar. In the other case use the fact that $\tau|_K$ is a d -map. □

Let $A \subset R$ be a countable compact set, and let Ω be the first uncountable ordinal. Define a non-increasing transfinite sequence $\{A_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Omega}$ of sets as follows: $A_0 = A$, $A_\gamma = \bigcap_{\alpha < \gamma} A_\alpha$ if γ is a limit ordinal, and A_γ is the derivative (i.e., the set of limit points) of $A_{\gamma-1}$ otherwise. By the Baire-Hausdorff theorem, there is an ordinal $\beta < \Omega$ such that A_β is non-empty and finite (and hence, $A_{\beta+1} = \emptyset$); denote this β by $T(A)$, and call it *the depth of A* . The set $A_{T(A)}$ will be referred to as *the center of A* . We say that a sequence $\{I_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of intervals *converges* to a point a , and write $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} I_n = a$, if any neighborhood of a contains all but a finite number of I_n . For countable compact sets A and B in R put $A < B$ if either $T(A) < T(B)$, or $T(A) = T(B)$ and $\#A_{T(A)} \leq 2\#B_{T(B)}$.

Lemma 3.4. *Let $A \subset R$ be a non-empty countable compact set with $T(A) = \alpha$, and $A_\alpha = \{a\}$. Then there is a sequence $\{J_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of pairwise disjoint compact intervals covering $A \setminus \{a\}$, and converging to a , which has one of the following forms:*

$$(3.1) \quad J_1 < J_3 < \dots < J_{2n-1} < \dots < a < \dots < J_{2n} < \dots < J_4 < J_2,$$

$$(3.2) \quad J_1 \leq a < \dots < J_k < \dots < J_3 < J_2,$$

$$(3.3) \quad J_2 < J_3 < \dots < J_k < \dots < a \leq J_1,$$

possibly with $J_1 = \{a\}$ in cases (3.2) or (3.3), such that $J_n \cap A \prec J_{n+1} \cap A$ for each n . Moreover if $\{B_n\}$ are countable compact sets such that $B_n \prec A$, then intervals $\{J_n\}$ can be chosen such that $B_n \prec J_n \cap A$, for $n > 1$.

Proof. Let $u = \min A$, $v = \max A$, $A^l = A \cap [u, a]$, and $A^r = A \cap [a, v]$. If $T(A^r) = \beta < \alpha$ put $J_1 = [a, v]$. In this case, $T(A^l) = \alpha$. For $x \in [u, a]$, $\psi(x) = T(A \cap [u, x]) < \alpha$ is a nondecreasing function, and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \psi(x)$ is α if α is a limit ordinal, and is $\alpha - 1$ otherwise. Since A is nowhere dense, there are compact pairwise disjoint intervals J_i , for $i > 1$, satisfying (3.3) such that $\beta < T(A \cap J_i) < T(A \cap J_{i+1})$ if α is limit, and $\beta \leq T(A \cap J_i) = \alpha - 1$ otherwise. The case $T(A^l) < \alpha$ similarly leads to (3.2), and $T(A^l) = T(A^r) = \alpha$ to (3.1). \square

Lemma 3.5. *Let A be a countable compact set whose center is a singleton $\{a\}$. Then there are non-overlapping, possibly degenerate intervals $\{H_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ with end-points in Q , covering $A \setminus \{a\}$ such that $H_1 \leq H_3 \leq \dots \leq a \leq \dots \leq H_4 \leq H_2$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H_n = a$, and $H_i \prec A$, for $i \geq 1$.*

Proof. Apply Lemma 3.4 to get intervals $\{J_n\}$. In case (3.2) find disjoint intervals H_{2n} such that $H_{2n} \supset J_{n+1}$, for $n > 0$. If a is left-isolated, take $H_1 \subset J_1 \setminus \{a\}$, $H_1 \supset J_1 \cap A \setminus \{a\}$, and $H_{2n-1} = \{a\}$, for $n > 1$. Otherwise cover $J_1 \cap A \setminus \{a\}$ by an increasing sequence $\{H_{2n-1}\}$ of disjoint intervals. Similarly in the other cases. \square

Proposition 3.6. *Let X and Y be compact intervals with rational end-points, and $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ a GC-map with the 3c-property. Let $A \subset Y$ and $B \subset X$ be countable compact sets such that $A \in \mathcal{E}(Q)$ and $A \prec B$. Then there is a homeomorphism ψ of X such that $\psi(B) \in \mathcal{E}(D_\tau^+ \cup D_\tau^-)$ and $\tau(\psi(B)) = A$.*

Proof. The statement is obviously true if $T(A) = 0$, so assume by transfinite induction that it is true whenever $T(A) < \alpha$, and let $T(A) = \alpha$.

Case 1. Assume that the center of A is a singleton $A_\alpha = \{a\}$. Apply Lemma 3.5 to get intervals H_n . Since $A \prec B$ there are two disjoint compact intervals $U < V$ such that $T(B \cap U) = T(B \cap V) = \beta \geq \alpha$, $(B \cap U)_\beta = \{u\}$, and $(B \cap V)_\beta = \{v\}$, where u and v are end-points of U and V , respectively. Apply Lemma 3.4 to $B \cap U$ to get a monotone sequence $\mathcal{I}_u = \{I_n^u\}$ of compact subintervals of U which covers $B \cap U \setminus \{u\}$, such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} I_n^u = u$, and $B \cap I_n^u \succ A \cap H_i$, for $i \leq 2n$. Similarly find $\mathcal{I}_v = \{I_n^v\}$ for $B \cap V$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} I_n^v = v$ and $B \cap I_n^v \succ A \cap H_i$, for $i \leq 2n$.

If both sequences \mathcal{I}_u and \mathcal{I}_v are increasing, let K_0, K_1 be non-overlapping compact intervals with $\tau(K_0) = \tau(K_1) = Y$ such that $\tau|_{K_0}$ is an i -map and $\tau|_{K_1}$ a d -map. Such intervals exist since τ is a 3c-map. If $K_0 < K_1$ apply twice Lemma 3.3, first to $K = K_0$, $\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}_u$ and $\mathcal{J} = \{H_{2n-1}\}$, and then to $K = K_1$, $\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}_v$ and $\mathcal{J} = \{H_{2n}\}$, to get a homeomorphism φ of I such that the intervals from $\tilde{\mathcal{I}}_u = \varphi(\mathcal{I}_u)$ are contained in K_0 , and these from $\tilde{\mathcal{I}}_v = \varphi(\mathcal{I}_v)$ in K_1 . For any interval

L in $\tilde{\mathcal{I}}_u \cup \tilde{\mathcal{I}}_v$, $\tau|L$ is a GC-map in $\mathcal{C}(L, \tau(L))$ with the 3c-property. Since $A \cap \tau(L)$ and $B \cap L$ satisfy the hypothesis of the proposition, and the depth of $A \cap \tau(L)$ is less than α , by the induction hypothesis there is a homeomorphism φ_L of L such that $\varphi_L(B \cap L)$ is mapped by τ onto $A \cap \tau(L)$. It remains to insert a homeomorphic copy of $B \setminus (U \cup V)$ into $\mathcal{E}(D_\tau^+ \cup D_\tau^-) \setminus \varphi(U \cup V)$ such that it is mapped into A . But this is easy since τ has 3c-property and the sets $\varphi(U)$ and $\varphi(V)$ are separated by intervals of constancy of τ – cf. Definition 2.2 and Lemma 2.1.

If $K_0 > K_1$, exchange above \mathcal{I}_u and \mathcal{I}_v . The argument is similar, when \mathcal{I}_u and \mathcal{I}_v are decreasing: it suffices to exchange above $\{H_{2n-1}\}$ and $\{H_{2n}\}$. If the sequences have opposite orientation, choose intervals K_0 and K_1 such that $\tau|K_0$ and $\tau|K_1$ are both i -maps or both d -maps.

Case 2. Let $\#A_\alpha = m > 1$, where $\alpha = T(A)$. Then there are disjoint compact intervals $I_1 < I_2 < \dots < I_m$ covering A such that the depth of any $A_i = A \cap I_i$ is α , and its center is a singleton. Find a similar decomposition $B_1 < B_2 < \dots < B_m$ of B such that any pair A_i, B_i meets the hypothesis of Proposition 3.6 and apply the result proved in Case 1. \square

Proposition 3.6 and the next result make it possible to transform any infinite countable compact set A , by a suitable homeomorphism of the interval, to a homoclinic set of τ .

Proposition 3.7. *Let $W \subset R$ be a countably infinite compact set, with depth $T(W) = \alpha$ and center $W_\alpha = A = \{a_0, \dots, a_{k-1}\}$. Then there is a system $\{W_n^i\}_{n=1}^\infty$, $i = 0, \dots, k-1$, of non-empty pairwise disjoint compact portions of W with the following properties:*

- (i) $W \setminus \bigcup_{i,n} W_n^i \subset A$;
- (ii) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_n^i = a_i$, for any i ;
- (iii) $W_{n-1}^{i-1} \prec W_n^i$, for any $n > 1$, and any i taken mod k .

Proof. Find disjoint compact intervals I_0, \dots, I_{k-1} covering W such that $a_i \in I_i$. Apply Lemma 3.4 (with all B_n empty) to any $W^i = I_i \cap W$ to get intervals $\{J_n^i\}$. A suitable decomposition of W can be constructed by amalgamating the portions $W \cap J_n^i$ into bigger pieces. Let $W_1^i = J_1^i \cap W$. Let $\beta_i = T(W_1^i)$; then $\beta = \max_i \beta_i < \alpha$. Note that $W^i \setminus W_1^i$ is a portion of W^i .

Let s be the minimal index such that J_s^i is disjoint from W_1^i . Let $J_{s_1}^i = J_s^i, J_{s_2}^i, \dots, J_{s_p}^i$ be a minimal portion of intervals (i.e., the system of intervals J_j^i contained in an interval) from one side of a_i and disjoint from W_1^i such that $(J_{s_1}^i \cup J_{s_2}^i \cup \dots \cup J_{s_p}^i) \cap W \succ W_1^{i-1}$. Such a finite portion exists by Lemma 3.4. Put $W_2^i = (J_{s_1}^i \cup J_{s_2}^i \cup \dots \cup J_{s_p}^i) \cap W$. The sets W_n^i are defined similarly by induction. \square

4. GENERAL RESULTS

An elementary result, which is well-known as the *Itinerary Lemma*, says that for any $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ and any sequence $\{U_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ of compact intervals such that $f(U_n) \supset U_{n+1}$, for any n , there is a point x such that $f^n(x) \in U_n$, for any n . The following result is its generalization.

Lemma 4.1. *Let $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$, and let P be a countable set, $\{U_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ a sequence of compact intervals such that $f(U_n) \supset U_{n+1}$ and $U_n \cap P \neq \emptyset$, for any n . Let any $p \in P$ be an element of U_n , for infinitely many n , and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{diam } U_n = 0$. Then there is an $x \in U_0$ such that $\omega_f(x) = \bar{P}$.*

Proof. By the Itinerary Lemma, there is an $x \in U_0$ such that $f^n(x) \in U_n$, for any n . Since $\omega_f(x)$ is closed, to prove the lemma it suffices to show that $P \subset \omega_f(x) \subset \overline{P}$. The first inclusion is trivial since, for any $p \in P$, both p and $f^n(x)$ belong to U_n , for infinitely many n . To prove the other one, let $a \in \omega_f(x)$, and let U_ε be the open ε -neighborhood of a . Then there is a subsequence $\{n_k\}$ such that $f^{n_k}(x) \in U_\varepsilon$, for any k , and hence, $U_{n_k} \subset U_{2\varepsilon}$, for any sufficiently large k . Thus, $U_{2\varepsilon} \cap P \neq \emptyset$ and consequently, $a \in \overline{P}$. \square

Lemma 4.2. *Let X and Y be compact intervals, Y with rational end-points, and let $C \subset \mathcal{E}(Q)$ be a Cantor set contained in the interior of X . Then there is a GC-map $\tau \in \mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ with the 3c-property such that $C_\tau = C$.*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{S} = \{I_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be the system of closures of intervals complementary to C in X , and let $\{r_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ be an enumeration of $Q \cap Y$. Assume without loss of generality that $r_0 = \min Y$, $r_1 = \max Y$, $I_1 < I_j < I_2$ for $j > 2$, and $I_1 < I_3 < I_4 < I_2$. Define a sequence $\{\tau_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of maps in $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ as follows. Let $\tau_1(x) = r_0$ for $x \in I_1 \cup I_4$, $\tau_1(x) = r_1$ for $x \in I_3 \cup I_2$, and let τ_1 be linear on the intermediate intervals. Next assume by induction that τ_n is constant on any interval from a finite system $\mathcal{S}_n \subset \mathcal{S}$, and is linear and non-constant on any intermediate interval. Moreover, τ_n takes on any value r_0, r_1, \dots, r_n , but only on the intervals of constancy. Hence, $T = \tau_n^{-1}(r_{n+1})$ is a finite set. For any $t \in T$ find neighbor intervals $U_t < V_t$ in \mathcal{S}_n such that t is between them. Let $I_{k(1)}, \dots, I_{k(5)}$ be the first five intervals from $\mathcal{S} \setminus \mathcal{S}_n$ such that $U_t < I_{k(1)} < \dots < I_{k(5)} < V_t$. Let $\tau_{n+1}(x) = \tau_n(x)$ for $x \in \bigcup \mathcal{S}_n$, $\tau_{n+1}|_{I_{k(2)}} = \tau_n|_{V_t}$, $\tau_{n+1}|_{I_{k(4)}} = \tau_n|_{U_t}$, and $\tau_{n+1}|_{I_{k(1)} \cup I_{k(3)} \cup I_{k(5)}} = r_{n+1}$, and let τ_{n+1} be linear on the intermediate intervals. Thus, $\mathcal{S}_n \subset \mathcal{S}_{n+1}$, and $\|\tau_{n+1} - \tau_n\| \leq \delta_n$, where δ_n is the length of maximal interval disjoint from $\{r_1, \dots, r_n\}$. Consequently, $\tau = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tau_n$ has the required properties. \square

5. PROOF OF THE MAIN THEOREM

Proposition 5.1. *Let $I = [0, 1]$. Then there is a map $f \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ such that for any uncountable nowhere dense compact set $W \subset (0, 1)$ there is a homeomorphism φ of I such that $\varphi(W)$ is an ω -limit set of f of homoclinic type.*

Proof. Let $a \in Q \cap (0, 1)$, and let $\{J_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of pairwise disjoint compact intervals with rational end-points in $(0, 1)$ satisfying (3.1) such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} J_n = a$. Put $J_0 = I$ and, for $n > 0$, let $\tau_n \in \mathcal{C}(J_n, J_{n-1})$ be a GC-map with the 3c-property (cf. Lemma 4.2). For any $x \in J_n$, let $x_D \in D_{\tau_n}$ be a point such that $\text{dist}(x, D_{\tau_n}) = |x - x_D|$. Define $f : I \rightarrow I$ as follows.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \tau_n(x), & \text{if } x \in D_{\tau_n} \text{ and } n > 1, \\ a, & \text{if } x \in D_{\tau_1} \text{ or } x = a, \\ \min\{1, \tau_n(x_D) + |x - x_D| \sin(1/|x - x_D|)\}, & \text{if } x \in J_n \text{ and } n \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

and let f be linear on the intermediate intervals. Clearly, f is continuous.

Without loss of generality assume that $a \in W$, $\{J_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ covers $W \setminus \{a\}$ and, for any n , $W_n = W \cap J_n$ is an uncountable compact set. By Lemma 2.1 find a set $\tilde{W}_1 \in \mathcal{E}(D_{\tau_1}^+ \cup D_{\tau_1}^-)$ homeomorphic to W_1 . Then, by Lemma 2.3, there is a homeomorphic copy $\tilde{W}_2 \in \mathcal{E}(E_{\tau_2}^+ \cup E_{\tau_2}^-)$ such that $f(\tilde{W}_2) = \tau_2(\tilde{W}_2) = \tilde{W}_1$. By induction, let $\tilde{W}_{n+1} \in \mathcal{E}(E_{\tau_{n+1}}^+ \cup E_{\tau_{n+1}}^-)$ be homeomorphic to W_{n+1} such that $f(\tilde{W}_{n+1}) = \tilde{W}_n$. Denote $\tilde{W} = \{a\} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^\infty \tilde{W}_n$. Then \tilde{W} is homeomorphic to W .

To finish the proof put $E = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} E_{\tau_n} \cup \{a\}$, $P = \tilde{W} \cap (E^+ \cup E^-)$, and let $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence of points in P containing any point infinitely many times. Denote by U'_n the open interval with center p_n and diameter $1/n$ and note that any U'_n is eventually mapped by f onto a neighborhood of a . Then apply Lemma 4.1. \square

Proposition 5.2. *Let f be as in Proposition 5.1 and $W \subset (0, 1)$ a countably infinite compact set, whose center is a singleton $\{a\}$. Let $\{W_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be disjoint compact portions of W given by Proposition 3.7 and, for any n , let J_n be the convex hull of W_n . If the intervals J_n satisfy (3.1), then there is a homeomorphism φ of I such that $\varphi(W)$ is an ω -limit set of f of homoclinic type.*

Proof. The argument is almost the same as for Proposition 5.1. The main difference is that to get the sets \tilde{W}_n , for $n > 1$, we apply Proposition 3.6 instead of Lemma 2.3. \square

Proposition 5.3. *There are maps $g, h \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ with the following property: let $W \subset (0, 1)$ be a countably infinite compact set, whose center is a singleton $\{a\}$. Let $\{W_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be disjoint compact portions of W given by Proposition 3.7 and, for any n , let J_n be the convex hull of W_n . If the intervals J_n satisfy (3.2) or (3.3), then there is a homeomorphism φ of I such that $\varphi(W)$ is an ω -limit set of homoclinic type of g or h , respectively.*

Proof. In the proof of Proposition 5.1, modify the construction of f so that instead of (3.1) assume (3.2) or (3.3), and instead of Lemma 2.3 apply Proposition 3.6. \square

Proposition 5.4. *For any integer $k > 0$ there is a countable family $\mathcal{M}_k \subset \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ such that any countably infinite compact set $W \subset I$ whose center has k elements is mapped by a homeomorphism of I onto an ω -limit set of homoclinic type of a map in \mathcal{M}_k .*

Proof. The statement is true for $k = 1$ by Propositions 5.2 and 5.3. For $k > 0$ the argument is similar. Note that there is a countable family of all possible orderings (up to homeomorphisms) of portions W_n^i given by Proposition 3.7. To any such ordering ρ assign a map $f_\rho \in \mathcal{C}(I, I)$ similarly, as in Propositions 5.2 and 5.3. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.2. It follows by Propositions 5.1, 5.4, and Remark 1.3. \square

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