

## REALIZING ROTATION VECTORS FOR TORUS HOMEOMORPHISMS

BY JOHN FRANKS

**ABSTRACT.** We consider the rotation set  $\rho(F)$  for a lift  $F$  of a homeomorphism  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$ , which is homotopic to the identity. Our main result is that if a vector  $v$  lies in the interior of  $\rho(F)$  and has both coordinates rational, then there is a periodic point  $x \in T^2$  with the property that

$$\frac{F^q(x_0) - x_0}{q} = v$$

where  $x_0 \in R^2$  is any lift of  $x$  and  $q$  is the least period of  $x$ .

In this article we consider the rotation set  $\rho(F)$  as defined in [MZ], for a lift  $F$  of a homeomorphism  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$ , which is homotopic to the identity. Our main result is that if a vector  $v$  lies in the interior of  $\rho(F)$  and has both coordinates rational, then there is a periodic point  $x \in T^2$  with the property that

$$\frac{F^q(x_0) - x_0}{q} = v$$

where  $x_0 \in R^2$  is any lift of  $x$  and  $q$  is the least period of  $x$ . This should be compared with the well-known fact that if a homeomorphism of the circle has rational rotation number  $p/q$  then it has a periodic point (with rotation number  $p/q$ ).

R. MacKay and J. Llibre [ML] have proved a similar result using the ideas our Proposition (2.4) below. They require the stronger hypothesis that  $v$  is in the interior of the convex hull of vectors in  $\rho(F)$  which represent periodic orbits of  $f$ .

### 1. BACKGROUND AND DEFINITIONS

Suppose  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  is a homeomorphism homotopic to the identity map, and let  $F: R^2 \rightarrow R^2$  be a lift.

**(1.1) Definition.** Let  $\rho(F)$  denote the set of accumulation points of the subset of  $R^2$

$$\left\{ \frac{F^n(x) - x}{n} \mid x \in R^2, n \in Z^+ \right\},$$

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thus  $\nu \in \rho(F)$  if there are sequences  $x_i \in R^2$  and  $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  with  $\lim n_i = \infty$  such that

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^{n_i}(x_i) - x_i}{n_i} = \nu.$$

In [MZ] the rotation set is defined for a map homotopic to the identity (rather than a homeomorphism)  $f: T^n \rightarrow T^n$ . However, we shall be concerned only with homeomorphisms of  $T^2$ . In [MZ] it is shown that for homeomorphisms of  $T^2$ ,  $\rho(F)$  is convex.

We now briefly review the elementary theory of attractor-repeller pairs and chain recurrence developed by Charles Conley in [C]. In the following  $f: X \rightarrow X$  will denote a homeomorphism of a compact metric space  $X$ .

**(1.2) Definition.** An  $\varepsilon$ -chain for  $f$  is a sequence  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  of points in  $X$  such that

$$d(f(x_i), x_{i+1}) < \varepsilon \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1.$$

If  $x_1 = x_n$  it is called a periodic  $\varepsilon$ -chain.

A point  $x \in X$  is called *chain recurrent* if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $n$  (depending on  $\varepsilon$ ) and an  $\varepsilon$ -chain  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  with  $x_1 = x_n = x$ . The set  $\mathbf{R}$  of chain recurrent points is called the *chain recurrent set* of  $f$ .

It is easily seen that  $\mathbf{R}$  is compact and invariant under  $f$ .

If  $A \subset X$  is a compact subset and there is an open neighborhood  $U$  of  $A$  such that  $f(\text{cl}(U)) \subset U$  and  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} f^n(\text{cl}(U)) = A$ , then  $A$  is called an *attractor* and  $U$  is its isolating neighborhood. It is easy to see that if  $V = X - \text{cl}(U)$  and  $A^* = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} f^{-n}(\text{cl}(V))$ , then  $A^*$  is an attractor for  $f^{-1}$  with isolating neighborhood  $V$ . The set  $A^*$  is called the *repeller* dual to  $A$ . It is clear that  $A^*$  is independent of the choice of isolating neighborhood  $U$  for  $A$ . Obviously  $f(A) = A$  and  $f(A^*) = A^*$ .

If we define a relation  $\sim$  on  $\mathbf{R}$  by  $x \sim y$  if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $\varepsilon$ -chain from  $x$  to  $y$  and another from  $y$  to  $x$ , then it is clear that  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation.

The equivalence classes in  $\mathbf{R}(f)$  for the equivalence relation  $\sim$  above are called the *chain transitive components* of  $\mathbf{R}(f)$ .

**(1.3) Definition.** A complete Lyapounov function for  $f: X \rightarrow X$  is a continuous function  $g: X \rightarrow R$  satisfying:

- (1) If  $x \notin \mathbf{R}(f)$ , then  $g(f(x)) < g(x)$ .
- (2) If  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}(f)$ , then  $g(x) = g(y)$  iff  $x \sim y$  (i.e.,  $x$  and  $y$  are in the same chain transitive component).
- (3)  $g(\mathbf{R}(f))$  is a compact nowhere dense subset of  $R$ .

By analogy with the smooth setting, elements of  $g(\mathbf{R}(f))$  are called *critical values* of  $g$ .

A theorem of C. Conley [C] asserts that a complete Lyapounov function exists for any flow or homeomorphism of a compact space. The proof in [C] is given for flows; for an exposition in the case of homeomorphisms see [F2].

In general the number of chain transitive components for a homeomorphism can be infinite (even uncountable). However, if we specify a fixed  $\delta > 0$  and work with  $\delta$ -chains we can decompose  $R(f)$  into a finite number of pieces.

**(1.4) Definition.** For a fixed  $\delta > 0$  we say that  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}(f)$  are  $\delta$ -equivalent if there is a  $\delta$ -chain from  $x$  to  $y$  and one from  $y$  to  $x$ . This is an equivalence relation and the equivalence classes will be called  $\delta$ -transitive components of  $R(f)$ . We will say a compact  $f$ -invariant set  $\Lambda \subset \mathbf{R}(f)$  is  $\delta$ -transitive if for every  $x, y \in \Lambda$ ,  $x$  is  $\delta$ -equivalent to  $y$ .

**(1.5) Lemma.** Given  $\delta > 0$  and a homeomorphism  $f: X \rightarrow X$  of a compact space, then there are finitely many  $\delta$ -transitive components.

*Proof.* A  $\delta$ -transitive component is a union of chain transitive components. Two chain transitive components which are in different  $\delta$ -transitive components must be at least distance  $\delta$  apart. Hence if there were infinitely many  $\delta$ -transitive components, there would be infinitely many subsets each at least distance  $\delta$  from the others. This is impossible since  $X$  is compact.  $\square$

**(1.6) Theorem.** Given  $\delta > 0$  and a homeomorphism of a compact space  $f: X \rightarrow X$ , there is a complete Lyapounov function  $g: X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  for  $f$ , and regular values for  $g$ ,  $c_0 < c_1 < c_2 < \dots < c_n$  such that if  $\Lambda_i = \mathbf{R}(f) \cap g^{-1}([c_{i-1}, c_i])$ , then  $\{\Lambda_i\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , are the  $\delta$ -transitive components of  $f$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_n$  be the  $\delta$ -transitive components for  $f$ . We order them in such a way that if  $i < j$  there is no  $\delta$ -chain from  $\Lambda_i$  to  $\Lambda_j$ . This is possible since there can be no "cycle" of  $\Lambda_i$ 's with each one having a  $\delta$ -chain to the next and the last having a  $\delta$ -chain to the first.

Let  $U_i$  denote the set of all  $z \in X$  such that there is a  $\delta$ -chain from  $\Lambda_i$  to  $z$ .  $U_i$  is an open set. Moreover,  $f(\text{cl}(U_i)) \subset U_i$ , because if  $z \in \text{cl}(U_i)$ , there is  $z_0 \in U_i$  such that  $d(f(z), f(z_0)) < \delta$  and consequently a  $\delta$ -chain from  $x$  to  $z_0$  gives a  $\delta$ -chain  $x = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k, z_0, f(z)$  from  $x$  to  $f(z)$ .

Thus if  $A_i = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} f^n(\text{cl } U_i)$  and  $A_i^* = \bigcap_{n \geq 0} f^{-n}(X - U_i)$ , then  $A_i, A_i^*$  are an attractor repeller pair and  $\Lambda_i \subset A_i$ . A result of Conley (see Lemma (1.7) of [F2] for a proof) asserts there is a continuous function  $g_i: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $A_i = g_i^{-1}(0)$ ,  $A_i^* = g_i^{-1}(1)$  and  $g_i(f(x)) < g_i(x)$  for all  $x \in X - (A_i \cup A_i^*)$ . If  $i < j$ , then  $\Lambda_j \subset A_i^*$  so  $g_i(\Lambda_j) = \{1\}$ .

Let  $h(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n 2^i g_i(x)$  and note that  $h(f(x)) \leq h(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . For  $x \in \mathbf{R}(f) = \bigcup \Lambda_i$ ,  $h(x)$  is an even integer between 0 and  $2^{n+1}$ . Also note if  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}(f)$ , then  $h(x) = h(y)$  if and only if  $g_i(x) = g_i(y)$  for all  $i$ . Hence if  $x \in \Lambda_i, y \in \Lambda_j, i < j$ , then  $h(x) \neq h(y)$  since  $g_i(x) \neq g_i(y)$ . Now if  $g_0: X \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a complete Lyapounov function, then  $g(x) = g_0(x) + h(x)$  is the desired function.  $\square$

2. THE  $\delta$ -TRANSITIVE CASE

We begin with a sequence of results leading to our main theorem. Assume throughout that  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  is a homeomorphism homotopic to the identity and  $F: R^2 \rightarrow R^2$  is a lift, i.e., if  $\pi: R^2 \rightarrow T^2$  is the covering projection then  $\pi \circ F = f \circ \pi$ .

**(2.1) Lemma.** *If  $F$  has no fixed points, then there is an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that no periodic  $\varepsilon$ -chain for  $F$  exists.*

*Proof.* This result and its proof are quite similar to (2.1) of [F1] and (2.2) of [F2]. Let

$$\delta = \min_{x \in R^2} |F(x) - x|.$$

Note this minimum is assumed since it suffices to consider only  $x$  in a compact fundamental domain for  $\pi$ . Hence  $\delta > 0$ .

A result of Oxtoby [Ox] says that there is a  $\gamma > 0$  such that for any finite set of pairs  $\{(x_i, y_i)\}$  of elements in  $R^2$  with  $\|x_i - y_i\| < \gamma$  there is a pairwise disjoint set of piecewise linear arcs  $\alpha_i$  from  $x_i$  to  $y_i$  with the diameter of each  $< \delta$ .

Let  $\varepsilon = \gamma$ ; we will show there is no periodic  $\varepsilon$ -chain for  $F$ . Suppose to the contrary that  $z_1 = z, z_2, z_3, \dots, z_n = z$  is a periodic  $\varepsilon$ -chain. Letting  $y_i = z_i, x_i = F(z_{i-1})$ , we see that there are pairwise disjoint arcs  $\alpha_i$  from  $F(z_{i-1})$  to  $z_i$ , with diameter  $< \delta$ . By isotoping in a neighborhood of these arcs we can produce a perturbation  $G$  of  $F$  satisfying

- (1)  $\|F(x) - G(x)\| < \delta$  for all  $x \in R^2$ , and
- (2)  $G(z_{i-1}) = z_i$ .

Now  $G$  has a periodic point, namely  $z$ . Hence by results of [Br or Fa]  $G$  has a fixed point  $p$ . Thus  $\|F(p) - p\| \leq \|F(p) - G(p)\| + \|G(p) - p\| < \delta$  which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**(2.2) Lemma.** *Suppose  $\Lambda$  is a  $\delta$ -transitive compact invariant subset of  $\mathbf{R}(f)$  for a homeomorphism  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  and  $F$  is a lift of  $f$ . There is a constant  $K > 0$ , such that for any  $x_0, y_0 \in \Lambda, x \in \pi^{-1}(x_0)$  there is a  $\delta$ -chain for  $F$  from  $x$  to a point  $y \in \pi^{-1}(y_0)$  with  $\|y - x\| < K$ .*

*Proof.* Fix  $\omega \in \pi^{-1}(\Lambda)$  and let  $Q_n$  denote the set of  $z \in \Lambda$  such that there is a  $\delta$ -chain for  $f$  from  $\pi(\omega)$  to  $z$  of length less than  $n$ .  $Q_n$  is open by definition and  $\Lambda = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} Q_n$  so compactness of  $\Lambda$  implies  $Q_N = \Lambda$  for some  $N > 0$ . Hence given  $y_0 \in \Lambda$  there is a  $\delta$ -chain from  $\pi(\omega)$  to  $y_0$  of length less than  $N$ . Lifting this to  $R^2$ , starting at  $w$ , we obtain a  $\delta$ -chain from  $w$  to some  $y' \in \pi^{-1}(y_0)$ . If  $P = \sup \|F(\nu) - \nu\|$ , then since this  $\delta$ -chain from  $w$  to  $y'$  has length less than  $N$ , it follows that  $\|y' - w\| < C_1 = N(P + \delta)$ .

A similar argument shows that given  $x_0 \in \Lambda$  there is an  $x' \in \pi^{-1}(x_0)$  with a  $\delta$ -chain from  $x'$  to  $w$  and  $\|x' - w\| < C_2$  for some constant  $C_2$  independent of

$x_0$ . Piecing these together we obtain a  $\delta$ -chain from  $x'$  to  $y'$  with  $\|y' - x'\| < K = C_1 + C_2$ . Now given any  $x \in \pi^{-1}(x_0)$  translate this  $\delta$ -chain by the integer vector  $x - x'$  to obtain a  $\delta$ -chain from  $x$  to  $y$ , where  $y = y' + (x - x')$  satisfies  $\pi(y) = y_0$  and  $\|y - x\| = \|y' - x'\| < K$ .  $\square$

**(2.3) Definition.** If  $\Lambda \subset T^2$  is a compact invariant set for  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$ , and  $F$  is a lift of  $f$ , we denote by  $\rho(f, \Lambda)$ , the accumulation points of the set

$$\left\{ \frac{F^n(x) - x}{n} \mid \pi(x) \in \Lambda \text{ and } n > 0 \right\}.$$

**(2.4) Proposition.** Suppose  $\Lambda \subset T^2$  is a compact invariant subset of  $\mathbf{R}(f)$  for  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  and for some  $\delta > 0$ ,  $\Lambda$  is  $\delta$ -transitive. If  $0$  is in the interior of the convex hull of  $\rho(F, \Lambda)$ , then there is a periodic  $\delta$ -chain for  $F$ .

*Proof.* The hypothesis guarantees that there are vectors  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4 \in \rho(F, \Lambda)$  such that  $0$  is in the interior of their convex hull (see Steinitz's theorem in [HDK]). Choose neighborhoods  $U_i$  of  $\nu_i$  in  $R^2$  so small that whenever  $\nu'_i \in U_i$ ,  $0$  is also in the interior of the convex hull of  $\nu'_1, \nu'_2, \nu'_3$  and  $\nu'_4$ . Fix  $z_0 \in \Lambda$  and  $z \in \pi^{-1}(z_0)$ . Now by (2.2) and the fact that  $\nu_1 \in \rho(F, \Lambda)$  we can find  $x_i \in R^2$  and  $n_i > i$  such that

- (1)  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^{n_i}(x_i) - x_i}{n_i} = \nu_1$ .
- (2) There is a  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $x_i$  and  $\|x_i - z\| < K$ .
- (3) There is a  $\delta$ -chain from  $F^{n_i}(x_i)$  to  $z'_i \in \pi^{-1}(z_0)$  and  $\|F^{n_i}(x_i) - z'_i\| < K$ .

Notice that piecing together the  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $x_i$ , the orbit segment from  $x_i$  to  $F^{n_i}(x_i)$  and the  $\delta$ -chain from  $F^{n_i}(x_i)$  to  $z'_i$  we obtain a  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $z'_i$ . Also (1), (2), and (3) imply

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z'_i - z}{n_i} = \nu_1.$$

Choose  $i$  sufficiently large that

$$\frac{z'_i - z}{n_i} \in U_1$$

and set  $w_1 = z'_i - z$ ,  $m_1 = n_i$  so that there is a  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $z + w_1$  and  $w_1/m_1 \in U_1$ . Note that  $\pi(z'_i) = \pi(z) = z_0$  implies  $w_1$  is an integer vector.

Now in a similar fashion construct  $w_2, m_2, w_3, m_3$ , and  $w_4, m_4$ , with the analogous properties.

Since  $0$  is in the convex hull of  $w_1/m_1, w_2/m_2, w_3/m_3, w_4/m_4$  and the vectors  $w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4$  are integers, it is possible to solve

$$Aw_1 + Bw_2 + Cw_3 + Dw_4 = 0$$

for positive integers  $A, B, C, D$ . Any translate of a  $\delta$ -chain by an integer vector is another  $\delta$ -chain. Hence piecing together  $A$  translates of the  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $z + w$ , with  $B$  translates of the  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $z + w_2$ ,  $C$  translates of the  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $z + w_3$ , etc., we obtain a  $\delta$ -chain from  $z$  to  $z + Aw_1 + Bw_2 + Cw_3 + Dw_4 = z$  as desired.  $\square$

### 3. THE GENERAL CASE

As before we assume  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  is a homeomorphism and  $F: R^2 \rightarrow R^2$  is a lift.

**(3.1) Proposition.** *Suppose  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  and  $\nu_4$  are extreme points of the convex set  $\rho(F)$  and 0 is in the interior of their convex hull. Then  $F$  possesses a fixed point.*

*Proof.* In [MZ] it is shown that since  $\nu_i$  is an extreme point of  $\rho(F)$  there is an ergodic Borel measure realizing  $\nu_i$  and hence a nonwandering point  $x_i \in T^2$  such that if  $x \in \pi^{-1}(x_i)$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(x) - x}{n} = \nu_i.$$

We will need only the fact that such an  $x_i$  exists with  $x_i \in \mathbf{R}(f)$ .

To show that  $F$  has a fixed point it suffices by (2.1) to show that for every  $\delta > 0$  there is a periodic  $\delta$ -chain for  $F$ . Given  $\delta > 0$ , let  $\mathbf{R}(f) = \Lambda_1 \cup \Lambda_2 \cup \dots \cup \Lambda_m$  be a decomposition of the chain recurrent set into  $\delta$ -transitive pieces as given in (1.6) and let  $g: T^2 \rightarrow R$  be a complete Lyapounov function compatible with this decomposition. We will show that there exists a piece  $\Lambda_j$  of this decomposition and points  $y_i \in \Lambda_j, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , such that whenever  $y \in \pi^{-1}(y_i)$ ,

$$\nu_i = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(y) - y}{n}.$$

It then follows by (2.4) that  $F$  has a  $\delta$ -chain. Since this holds for all  $\delta > 0$  we conclude by (2.1) that  $F$  has a fixed point.

Choose a smooth approximation  $g_0: T^2 \rightarrow R$  to  $g$  and regular values  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m$  such that the manifolds with boundary  $M_i = g_0^{-1}((-\infty, c_i])$  satisfy

- (1)  $f(M_i) \subset \text{int } M_i$ , and
- (2)  $\Lambda_i \subset M_i - M_{i-1}$ .

Let  $N_i$  be the manifold  $\text{cl}(M_i - M_{i-1})$ , so  $T^2 = \bigcup N_i$  and  $N_i \cap N_k$  consists of a finite set of circles if  $k = i \pm 1$  and otherwise is empty if  $i \neq k$ .

These circles are the components of  $g_0^{-1}(\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m\})$ . We first observe that none of these circles is essential in  $T^2$ . If there were such a circle, say

$\gamma$ , then it would be in the boundary of  $M_j$  for some  $j$  and  $M_j$  would have to have another boundary component which is isotopic to  $\gamma$ . (There might also be some inessential circles in the boundary of  $M_j$ .) It follows that  $M_j$  is an essential annulus (perhaps with some disks removed) in  $T^2$ . Let  $\tilde{M}_j$  be a component of  $\pi^{-1}(M_j)$  and choose a lift  $F_0$  of  $f$  so that  $F_0(\tilde{M}_j) \subset \tilde{M}_j$ . Now  $\tilde{M}_j$  is an infinite strip (perhaps with holes) which has a rational slope. It follows since  $F_0(\tilde{M}_j) \subset \tilde{M}_j$  that for any  $x \in R^2$ , if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(x) - x}{n}$  exists, then it must lie on a line with this slope, since  $F_0^n(x)$  is constrained between parallel translates of  $\tilde{M}_j$ . From this and the fact that  $F(x) = F_0(x) + w$  for some integer vector  $w$ , it follows that the convex hull of the vectors  $\nu_i$  given in our hypothesis is a line segment. This contradicts the assumption that 0 is in the interior of the convex hull; so none of the boundary components of the  $N_i$  can be essential in  $T^2$ .

Since each of these boundary circles is inessential, each of them bounds a unique smooth disk in  $T^2$ . The complement of the union of these disks consists of the interior of a single one of the  $N_i$ 's, say  $N_j$ . The complement of  $\text{int}(N_j)$  in  $T^2$  consists of a finite set of disks, say  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_r$ . Number these disks so that

$$D_i \subset M_j \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq s$$

and

$$D_i \subset \text{cl}(T^2 - M_j) \quad \text{for } s < i \leq r.$$

Then

$$f(D_i) \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^s D_k \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq s$$

and

$$f^{-1}(D_i) \subset \bigcup_{k=s+1}^r D_k \quad \text{if } s < i \leq r.$$

Consider now a point  $x \in \pi^{-1}(x_1)$  such that

$$\nu_1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(x) - x}{n}.$$

We will show that if  $x_1$  is not in  $\Lambda_j$ , there is another point  $y_1 \in \Lambda_j$  so that whenever  $y \in \pi^{-1}(y_1)$ ,

$$\nu_1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(y) - y}{n}.$$

Since the same is true for  $\nu_2, \nu_3$ , and  $\nu_4$ , we will have completed the proof by the remarks above.

Suppose now that  $x_1 \in D_p$  for  $1 \leq p \leq s$ . There exists  $q > 0$  such that  $f^q(D_p) \subset D_p$  (recall that  $x_1$  is recurrent). Hence if  $D \subset R^2$  is the lift of

$D_p$  containing  $x$ , then  $F^q(D) \subset D + w$  for some integer vector  $w$ . If we set  $G(z) = F^q(z) - w$ , then  $G(D) \subset D$  so there is a fixed point  $z_0$  for  $G$ . Clearly

$$\nu_1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(x) - x}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(z_0) - z_0}{n} = \frac{w}{q}.$$

If  $x_1 \in D_p$  and  $s < p$ , then a similar argument applied to  $f^{-1}$  leads to a fixed point  $z_0$  of  $G$  with the same properties.

We want to find a fixed point for  $G$  which is in  $\pi^{-1}(N_j)$ . To do this we consider fixed points of  $f^q$  on  $T^2$ . We will use the fact that  $f^q$  is homotopic to a map with no fixed points so the index sum of the set of fixed points in any Nielsen class for  $f^q$  is zero (see [B, Theorem 3, p. 94]). Recall that two fixed points  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are in the same Nielsen class for  $f^q$  provided any lift of  $f^q$  to  $R^2$  which pointwise fixes  $\pi^{-1}(p_1)$  also pointwise fixes  $\pi^{-1}(p_2)$ .

We will consider points in the Nielsen class of the point  $\pi(z_0)$  where  $z_0$  is the fixed point of  $G$  mentioned above. Any such points which are not in  $N_j$  will lie in a  $D_i$  with a lift  $\tilde{D}_i$  for which  $G(\tilde{D}_i) \subset \tilde{D}_i$  or with  $G^{-1}(\tilde{D}_i) \subset \tilde{D}_i$ . Hence the contribution to the index of the points in  $D_i$  will be  $+1$ . Thus the index of the set of fixed points in the Nielsen class of  $\pi(z_0)$  which are not in  $N_j$  is positive (the disk  $D_p$  contributes at least one  $+1$ ). It follows there must be a fixed point  $y_1 \in N_j$  of  $f^q$  in the Nielsen class of  $\pi(z_0)$ . Since  $y_1$  is in the Nielsen class of  $\pi(z_0)$ , if  $y \in \pi^{-1}(y_1)$ , then  $G(y) = y$ . Hence

$$\nu_1 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(y) - y}{n}.$$

Also  $y_1$  is a periodic point of  $f$  in  $N_j$  so  $y_1 \in \Lambda_j$ . The same argument implies the existence of  $y_2, y_3, y_4 \in \Lambda_j$ , so this completes the proof.  $\square$

**(3.2) Theorem.** *Suppose  $f: T^2 \rightarrow T^2$  is a homeomorphism homotopic to the identity and  $F: R^2 \rightarrow R^2$  is a lift. If  $\nu$  is a vector with rational coordinates in the interior of  $\rho(F)$ , then there is a point  $p \in R^2$  such that  $\pi(p) \in T^2$  is a periodic point for  $f$  and*

$$\nu = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F^n(p) - p}{n}.$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $\nu = (r/q, s/q)$  with the greatest common divisor of  $r, s$ , and  $q$  equal to 1. If  $G(x) = F^q(x) - (r, s)$ , then a fixed point  $p$  of  $G$  will satisfy  $F^q(p) = p + (r, s)$  and hence be the desired point.

It is easy to check (see [MZ]) that  $\rho(G) = q\rho(F) - (r, s)$ . Thus since  $(r/q, s/q)$  is in the interior of  $\rho(F)$ , it follows that 0 is in the interior of  $\rho(G)$ . Since  $\rho(G)$  is closed and convex there exist extreme points  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \nu_4 \in \rho(G)$  such that 0 is in their convex hull (see Steinitz's theorem in [HDK]). It now follows from (3.1) that  $G$  possesses a fixed point  $p$ .  $\square$

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201