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Stability Analysis of Simple Root Seeker for Nonlinear Equation

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Abstract: In this paper, the stability of a class of Liu–Wang’s optimal eighth-order single-parameter iterative methods for solving simple roots of nonlinear equations was studied by applying them to arbitrary quadratic polynomials. Under the Riemann sphere and scaling theorem, the complex dynamic behavior of the iterative method was analyzed by fractals. We discuss the stability of all fixed points and the parameter spaces starting from the critical points with the Mathematica software. The dynamical planes of the elements with good and bad dynamical behavior are given, and the optimal parameter element with stable behavior was obtained. Finally, a numerical experiment and practical application were carried out to prove the conclusion.

Keywords: nonlinear problems; iterative methods; complex dynamics behavior; stability; dynamical plane

MSC: 37F10; 65H05; 65B99



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1. Introduction

Nonlinear problems comprise an extraordinarily active field in modern mathematics. A huge number of nonlinear problems, such as nonlinear finite element problems, economic and nonlinear programming problems, and plentiful central problems in physics, chemistry, and fluid mechanics, are attributed to solving some specific nonlinear equations in many cases. In nonlinear mechanics, there are myriad types of nonlinearity, such as material nonlinearity, geometric nonlinearity, contact nonlinearity, and so on. Solving nonlinear equations is also a universal and crucial problem in scientific and engineering calculation [1,2].

However, except for some rather special cases, the direct method has difficulty solving nonlinear equations. For practical problems, in many cases, it is not required to gain the precise answer to the equation; only an approximate value is needed. Of course, the error between the approximate value and the exact solution should be controlled within the allowable range of the actual problem. The approximate solution can be acquired by numerical methods; hence, the study of the numerical solution of nonlinear equations has pivotal academic significance and realistic application worth. There are several numerical algorithms for nonlinear equations, and more numerical solutions are used, such as the multi-point iterative method [3,4], semi-explicit method [5,6], splitting method [7,8], and analytical numerical method [9].

Among these techniques, the essence of the iterative method is a method of successive approximation. In an effort to resolve the approximate solutions of nonlinear equations as accurately as possible, a large number of researchers have come up with distinctive iterative methods [10–14]. Generally speaking, in these iterative methods, the most-typical

is Newton’s method. Newton’s iterative scheme is the earliest and most-classical numerical method for solving nonlinear equations [15]. Its iterative format is

$$y_n = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}.$$

On the basis of Newton’s iterative method, numerous well-known lower-order iteration methods have been proposed [16,17]. In particular, the influential iterative scheme devised by Ostrowski, which is fourth-order, is

$$\begin{cases} y_n = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ x_{n+1} = y_n - \frac{f(y_n)}{f'(x_n)} \frac{f(x_n)}{f(x_n) - 2f(y_n)}. \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

Although there are many iterative methods, in practical applications, we will also selectively find iterative methods with higher information efficiency, a more stable convergence process, and higher convergence accuracy. Informational efficiency is usually defined according to the convergence order and computational cost of the iterative method. Based on the concept of the optimal order proposed by Kung [18], we know that the iterative method with the optimal order is the optimal iterative method, and its computational efficiency is the optimal efficiency. For the iterative method without memory, the information efficiency of the multi-point iterative method with the optimal order is higher than that of the non-optimal multi-point iterative method. For the study of iterative stability, its dynamical behavior can be explored. The convergence and stability of the multi-point iterative method are analyzed by drawing fractal diagrams, which are based on fractal theory [19,20].

Based on (1), Liu and Wang proposed an optimal eighth-order scheme, LWM, defined as [21]

$$\begin{cases} y_n = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ z_n = y_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f(x_n) - 2f(y_n)} \frac{f(y_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ x_{n+1} = z_n - \frac{f(z_n)}{f'(x_n)} \left[\left(\frac{f(x_n) - f(y_n)}{f(x_n) - 2f(y_n)} \right)^2 + \frac{f(z_n)}{f(y_n)} + G(\mu_n) \right], \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

where $\mu_n = \frac{f(z_n)}{f(x_n)}$ and $G(t)$ represents a real-valued function and satisfies $G(0) = 0$, $G'(0) = 4$.

In this paper, we chose $G(t) = \lambda t^2 + 4t, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, then the corresponding iterative format is LWM(λ)

$$\begin{cases} y_n = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ z_n = y_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f(x_n) - 2f(y_n)} \frac{f(y_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ x_{n+1} = z_n - \frac{f(z_n)}{f'(x_n)} \left[\left(\frac{f(x_n) - f(y_n)}{f(x_n) - 2f(y_n)} \right)^2 + \frac{f(z_n)}{f(y_n)} + \lambda \left(\frac{f(z_n)}{f(x_n)} \right)^2 + 4 \left(\frac{f(z_n)}{f(x_n)} \right) \right], \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

where $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

This paper discusses the stability of the iterative method (3) under fractal study. Considering the complexity of the calculation process, we used the mathematical symbol calculation Mathematica software to achieve the calculation. Firstly, the rational operator corresponding to (3) was obtained under the Möbius conjugate map on the Riemann sphere. Secondly, on the basis of the rational operator, we studied its fixed points and critical points. Finally, the relevant parameter spaces and dynamical planes starting from the critical points were analyzed, and the most-stable member in (3) was obtained, which will be introduced

in detail in Section 2. In Section 3, we perform numerical experiments to verify the results in the previous section. In the last section, some conclusions are given.

2. Stability of Iterative Method under Fractal Study

Using fractals to study the stability of iterative method is to study the complex dynamic behavior of the iterative method. The complex dynamic behavior refers to the related properties of the rational operator related to the iterative method under the Möbius conjugate map on the Riemann sphere. From a numerical point of view, the study of the dynamic properties of rational operators allows us to draw important conclusions about the stability and reliability of fixed points and critical points. From the perspective of parameter selection, by researching the parameter spaces of the method constructed from the critical points, the performance of different members can be understood, which is conducive to the selection of parameters. The dynamic planes show the stability of these special methods, and we obtain the elements of the most-stable parameter members.

Next, the complex dynamics of the $LWM(\lambda)$ family described in (3) were explored. To start with, rational operators linked to $LWM(\lambda)$ were constructed on nonlinear polynomials. On this basis, the stability of the corresponding fixed point and critical point was studied. Furthermore, the parameter spaces starting from the free critical points were constructed. Finally, the relevant dynamical planes were analyzed, and the influence of the parameter selection on stability is discussed.

2.1. Rational Operator

According to the consequences of Riemann sphere dynamics [22,23] and the scaling theorem [24], we can construct rational operators on any nonlinear function. Given that the quadratic polynomial stability criterion can be extended to other nonlinear functions, we constructed a rational operator on a quadratic polynomial.

Proposition 1. Let $g(x) = (x - a)(x - b)$ be any quadratic polynomial, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ are roots. Consequently, the rational operator $R_\lambda(x)$ corresponding to the $LWM(\lambda)$ family applied to $g(x)$ given in (3) is

$$R_\lambda(x) = \frac{x^8 \cdot \gamma_\lambda(x)}{\theta_\lambda(x)}, \tag{4}$$

where $\gamma_\lambda(x) = 13 + 46x - (-100 + \lambda)x^2 + 170x^3 + 223x^4 + 240x^5 + 216x^6 + 160x^7 + 99x^8 + 50x^9 + 20x^{10} + 6x^{11} + x^{12}$ and $\theta_\lambda(x) = 1 + 6x + 20x^2 + 50x^3 + 99x^4 + 160x^5 + 216x^6 + 240x^7 + 223x^8 + 170x^9 - (-100 + \lambda)x^{10} + 46x^{11} + 13x^{12}, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

Proof. Let $g(x) = (x - a)(x - b)$ be any quadratic polynomial, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ are roots. By applying the iterative scheme given in (3) on $g(x)$, we gain a rational function $F_{g,\lambda}(x)$, which is only related to a, b, λ . Subsequently, we utilized the Möbius transformation in $F_{g,\lambda}(x)$ with

$$r(\varepsilon) = \frac{\varepsilon - a}{\varepsilon - b},$$

which satisfies $r(a) = 0, r(b) = \infty$, and $r(\infty) = 1$, and we obtain

$$R_\lambda(x) = (r \circ F_{g,\lambda} \circ r^{-1})(x) = \frac{x^8 \cdot \gamma_\lambda(x)}{\theta_\lambda(x)}, \tag{5}$$

where $\gamma_\lambda(x) = 13 + 46x - (-100 + \lambda)x^2 + 170x^3 + 223x^4 + 240x^5 + 216x^6 + 160x^7 + 99x^8 + 50x^9 + 20x^{10} + 6x^{11} + x^{12}$ and $\theta_\lambda(x) = 1 + 6x + 20x^2 + 50x^3 + 99x^4 + 160x^5 + 216x^6 + 240x^7 + 223x^8 + 170x^9 - (-100 + \lambda)x^{10} + 46x^{11} + 13x^{12}$, which only depends on $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. \square

It can be seen from Proposition 1 that the analysis of the rational operator (4) is equivalent to the analysis of the iterative scheme (3). After that, we study the fixed point

and its critical point of (4) by using Mathematica, a mathematical symbolic computing software, in Section 2.2.

2.2. Fixed Points and Critical Points

Here, we analyzed the fixed points and stability of $R_\lambda(x)$. Firstly, it can be obtained from (4):

$$R_\lambda(x) - x = \frac{x(x-1) \cdot \rho_\lambda(x)}{\theta_\lambda(x)}, \tag{6}$$

where $\rho_\lambda(x) = 1 + 7x + 27x^2 + 77x^3 + 176x^4 + 336x^5 + 552x^6 + 779x^7 + 956x^8 + (1026 + \lambda)x^9 + 956x^{10} + 779x^{11} + 552x^{12} + 336x^{13} + 176x^{14} + 77x^{15} + 27x^{16} + 7x^{17} + x^{18}$.

Proposition 2. For $\rho_\lambda(x)$ and $\theta_\lambda(x)$, there are the following conclusions:

- When $\lambda = 0$, $\rho_\lambda(x)$ and $\theta_\lambda(x)$ have common factors $(1+x)^2(1+x^2)^2$.
- When $\lambda = -6848$, $\rho_\lambda(x)$ has a factor $(x-1)^2$.
- When $\lambda = 1344$, $\theta_\lambda(x)$ has a factor $(x-1)$.

Proof. By solving the equations $\rho_\lambda(x) = 0$ and $\theta_\lambda(x) = 0$ simultaneously, we have the following:

When $\lambda = 0$, $\rho_\lambda(x)$ and $\theta_\lambda(x)$ have common factors $(1+x)^2(1+x^2)^2$. At this point, $\rho_\lambda(x) = (1+x)^2(1+x^2)^2(1+5x+14x^2+30x^3+51x^4+71x^5+84x^6+71x^7+51x^8+30x^9+14x^{10}+5x^{11}+x^{12})$ and $\theta_\lambda(x) = (1+x)^2(1+x^2)^2(1+4x+9x^2+16x^3+21x^4+20x^5+13x^6)$.

Bring $x = 1$ into $\rho_\lambda(x)$ and $\theta_\lambda(x)$, respectively. We obtain: $\rho_\lambda(1) = 6848 + \lambda$ and $\theta_\lambda(1) = 1344 - \lambda$. As a consequence, $\rho_\lambda(x)$ has a factor $(x-1)^2$ when $\lambda = -6848$ and $\theta_\lambda(x)$ has a factor $(x-1)$ when $\lambda = 1344$. □

Proposition 3. The fixed points of $R_\lambda(x)$ are $x = 0$, $x = \infty$ and the following strange fixed points:

- $ex_1 = 1$ (when $\lambda \neq 1344$) and $ex_i(\lambda)$, which correspond to the 18 roots of polynomial $1 + 7x + 27x^2 + 77x^3 + 176x^4 + 336x^5 + 552x^6 + 779x^7 + 956x^8 + (1026 + \lambda)x^9 + 956x^{10} + 779x^{11} + 552x^{12} + 336x^{13} + 176x^{14} + 77x^{15} + 27x^{16} + 7x^{17} + x^{18}$, where $i = 2, 3, \dots, 19$.

Choose different λ -values; the number of fixed points is also different:

- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 21 fixed points when $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\lambda \notin \{0, 1344\}$.
- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 20 fixed points excluding $ex_1 = 1$ when $\lambda = 1344$.
- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 15 fixed points when $\lambda = 0$.
- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 21 fixed points, and $ex_1 = 1$ is a triple root when $\lambda = -6848$.
- The strange fixed points of $R_\lambda(x)$ satisfy $ex_m = \frac{1}{ex_n}$ for $m \neq n$; each pair is conjugate to each other, being ex_2 and ex_3 , ex_4 and ex_5 , ex_6 and ex_7 , ex_8 and ex_9 , ex_{10} and ex_{11} , ex_{12} and ex_{13} , ex_{14} and ex_{15} , ex_{16} and ex_{17} , and ex_{18} and ex_{19} .

Proof. From (6), we can obtain

$$R_\lambda(x) - x = \frac{x(x-1) \cdot \rho_\lambda(x)}{\theta_\lambda(x)} = 0. \tag{7}$$

When $\lambda = 1344$, $\theta_\lambda(x) = -(x-1)(1+7x+27x^2+77x^3+176x^4+336x^5+552x^6+792x^7+1015x^8+1185x^9+59x^{10}+13x^{11})$, and

$$R_0(x) - x = \frac{x(x-1)(1+5x+14x^2+30x^3+51x^4+71x^5+84x^6+71x^7+51x^8+30x^9+14x^{10}+5x^{11}+x^{12})}{1+4x+9x^2+16x^3+21x^4+20x^5+13x^6}, \tag{8}$$

$$R_{1344}(x) - x = -\frac{x \cdot \rho_1(x)}{\theta_1(x)}, \tag{9}$$

where $\rho_1(x) = 1 + 7x + 27x^2 + 77x^3 + 176x^4 + 336x^5 + 552x^6 + 779x^7 + 956x^8 + 2370x^9 + 956x^{10} + 779x^{11} + 552x^{12} + 336x^{13} + 176x^{14} + 77x^{15} + 27x^{16} + 7x^{17} + x^{18}$ and $\theta_1(x) = 1 + 7x + 27x^2 + 77x^3 + 176x^4 + 336x^5 + 552x^6 + 792x^7 + 1015x^8 + 1185x^9 - 59x^{10} - 13x^{11}$.

$$R_{-6848}(x) - x = \frac{x(x-1)^3 \cdot \rho_2(x)}{\theta_2(x)}, \tag{10}$$

where $\rho_2(x) = 1 + 9x + 44x^2 + 156x^3 + 444x^4 + 1068x^5 + 2244x^6 + 4199x^7 + 7110x^8 + 4199x^9 + 2244x^{10} + 1068x^{11} + 444x^{12} + 156x^{13} + 44x^{14} + 9x^{15} + x^{16}$ and $\theta_2(x) = 1 + 6x + 20x^2 + 50x^3 + 99x^4 + 160x^5 + 216x^6 + 240x^7 + 223x^8 + 170x^9 + 6948x^{10} + 46x^{11} + 13x^{12}$. \square

According to the above proposition, we determined that there are a maximum of 21 and a minimum of 15 fixed points, where $0, \infty$ correspond to a, b and $ex_1 = 1$ (when $\lambda \neq 1344$) corresponds to the divergence of the original method.

Proposition 4. For the stability of $ex_1 = 1, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus 1344$, verify:

- (1) ex_1 is a repulsive point when $|\frac{8192}{-1344 + \lambda}| > 1$, that is $|\lambda - 1344| > 8192$;
- (2) ex_1 is an attractive point when $|\frac{8192}{-1344 + \lambda}| < 1$, that is $|\lambda - 1344| < 8192$;
- (3) ex_1 is a parabolic point when $|\frac{8192}{-1344 + \lambda}| = 1$, that is $|\lambda - 1344| = 8192$;
- (4) ex_1 is never a superattracting point because $|\frac{8192}{-1344 + \lambda}| \neq 0$.

Proof. By (4), we easily obtain

$$R'_\lambda(x) = \frac{2x^7(1+x)^6(1+x^2)^5 \cdot \omega_\lambda(x)}{\theta_\lambda(x)^2}, \tag{11}$$

where $\omega_\lambda(x) = 52 + 168x + (336 - 5\lambda)x^2 + 3(168 + \lambda)x^3 + 2(284 + \lambda)x^4 + 3(168 + \lambda)x^5 + (336 - 5\lambda)x^6 + 168x^7 + 52x^8$.

Substituting $ex_1 = 1$ into (11), we acquire

$$|R'_\lambda(1)| = \left| -\frac{8192}{-1344 + \lambda} \right|.$$

It is easy to obtain

$|\frac{8192}{-1344 + \lambda}| = 1 \iff |-8192| = |-1344 + \lambda|$. Let $\lambda = z + iy, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, then the following formula holds:

$$(z - 1344)^2 + y^2 = 8192^2.$$

Therefore,

$$|R'_\lambda(1)| > 1 \iff |\lambda - 1344| > 8192.$$

\square

Obviously, no matter what the λ -value is, 0 and ∞ are superattracting fixed points, while the stability of other fixed points varies with $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. Table 1 summarizes the stability results of strange fixed points ex_i corresponding to the special λ -values related to Proposition 2.

Table 1. Stability of strange fixed points ex_i for special λ -values.

λ	ex_i			No. of ex_i
	$ R'_\lambda(ex_i) : t^1$			
0	$-1.62291 \pm 0.455126i$ $6.31492 : r$	$-0.611529 \pm 1.28544i$ $4.91253 : r$	$0.234438 \pm 1.48434i$ $7.6094 : r$	6
1344	-2.57424 $4.9157 : r$ $-2.16337 \pm 1.21147i$ $4.67559 : r$ $0.922374 \pm 1.48996i$ $5.75625 : r$	-0.085032 $1.17175 \times 10^{-6} : a$ $-1.09844 \pm 2.04782i$ $4.68214 : r$	0.123846 $6.42351 \times 10^{-6} : a$ $0.10715 \pm 2.1662i$ $5.53101:r$	11
-6848	$-2.81972 \pm 0.753267i$ $4.07847 : r$ $-0.00328839 \pm 0.0431351i$ $7.52394 \times 10^{-9} : a$	$-1.9133 \pm 1.99919i$ $3.98574 : r$ $0.793402 \pm 2.17265i$ $4.60277 : r$	$-0.512724 \pm 2.5536i$ $4.3251 : r$ $1.45563 \pm 0.903056i$ $3.6229 : r$	12

¹ $|R'_\lambda(ex_i)| : t$ implies that ex_i is attractive, parabolic, and repulsive, if $t = a(|R'| < 1)$, $t = p(|R'| = 1)$, and $t = r(|R'| > 1)$, respectively.

Figure 1 shows the stability surface of $ex_1 = 1$. In Figure 1b, the gray surface represents the repulsion area, while the gold surface represents the attraction area. The attraction area is significantly smaller than the exclusion area. For the λ -values inside the disk, ex_1 is a repulsion, while for the λ -values outside the disk, ex_1 is an attractor. We are always interested in values within the disk.

According to Proposition 2, the stability of each pair of conjugate strange fixed points' representations is the same, so the study of their stability can be reduced from eighteen strange fixed points to nine pairs of strange fixed points. Figure 2 shows the stability surfaces of these nine pairs of strange fixed points. The value of λ determines whether these fixed points attract or not. It can be seen from Figure 2 that there are few points that converge to the strange fixed points.

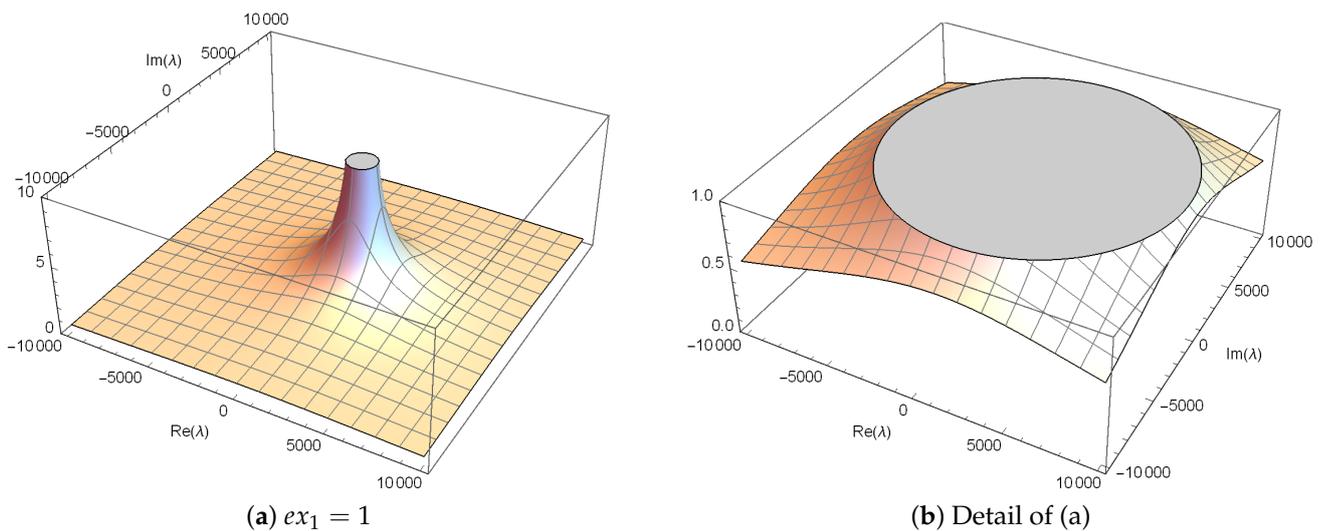


Figure 1. Stability surface of $ex_1 = 1$.

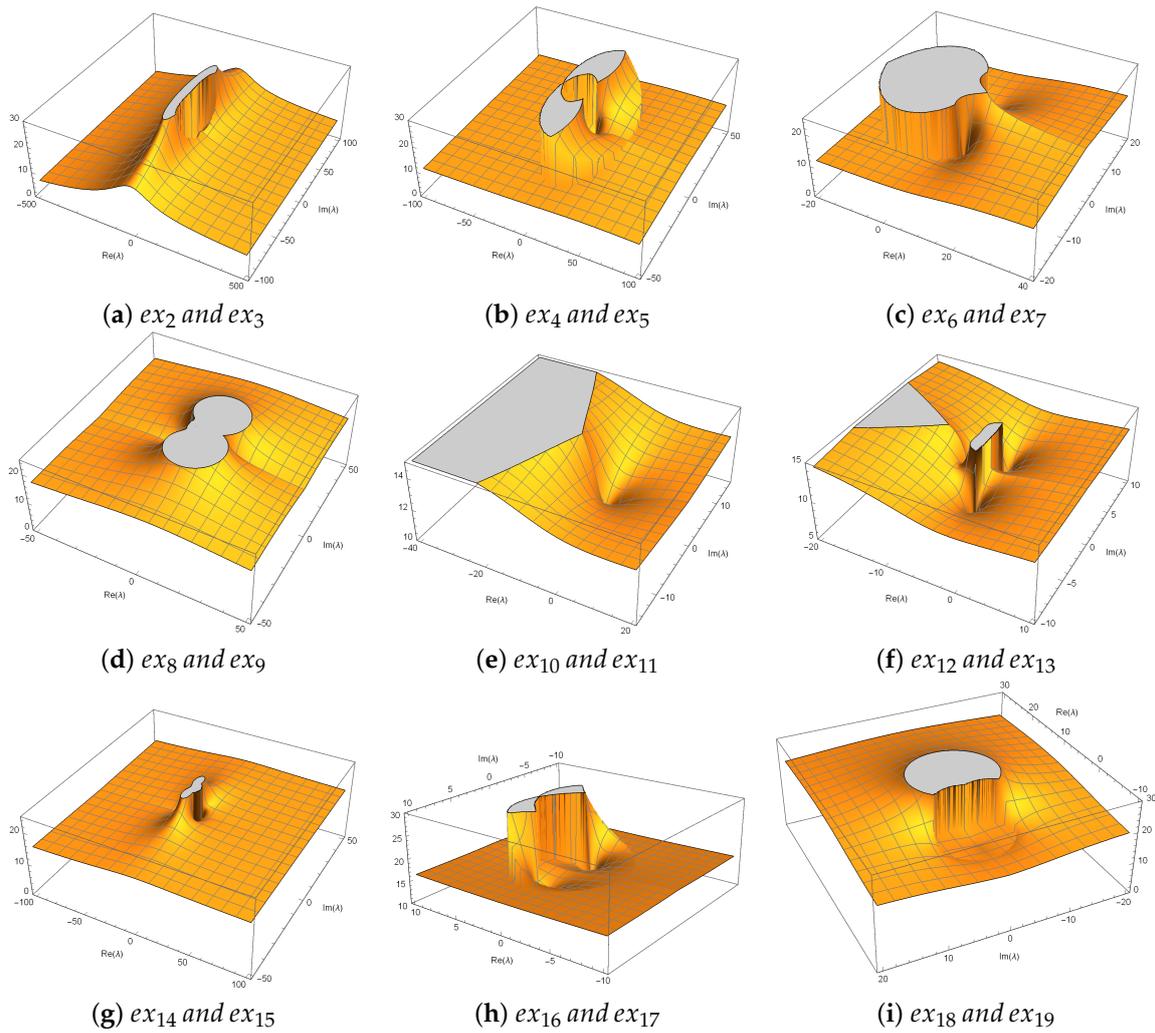


Figure 2. Stability surfaces of other strange fixed points.

According to (11), the critical points of $R_\lambda(x)$ can be obtained.

Proposition 5. According to the definition of the critical points, the critical points of $R_\lambda(x)$ are the roots of $R'_\lambda(x) = 0$, that is to say the process of finding the critical points of $R_\lambda(x)$ is to solve $R'_\lambda(x) = 0$. That is, $x = 0$, $x = \infty$, and the following free critical points:

- $cr_1 = -1$;
- $cr_2 = i$;
- $cr_3 = -i$;
- $cr_4 = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)} - \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)})^2})$;
- $cr_5 = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)} + \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)})^2})$;
- $cr_6 = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)} - \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)})^2})$;
- $cr_7 = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)} + \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) - N(\lambda)})^2})$;
- $cr_8 = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)} - \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)})^2})$;
- $cr_9 = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)} + \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)})^2})$;
- $cr_{10} = \frac{1}{2}(-\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)} - \sqrt{-4 + (\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)})^2})$;

- $$cr_{11} = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\frac{21}{26} - M(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)} + \sqrt{-4 + \left(\frac{21}{26} + M(\lambda) + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{P(\lambda) + N(\lambda)} \right)^2} \right);$$

where:

$$M(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{a(\lambda) + b(\lambda) + c(\lambda)},$$

$$P(\lambda) = \frac{882}{169} + \frac{1}{39}(-128 + 5\lambda) - b(\lambda) - c(\lambda) - N(\lambda);$$

$$N(\lambda) = \frac{g(\lambda)}{h(\lambda)};$$

$$a(\lambda) = \frac{441}{169} + \frac{1}{156}(128 - 5\lambda) + \frac{1}{52}(-128 + 5\lambda);$$

$$b(\lambda) = \frac{d(\lambda)}{156(e(\lambda) + 18\sqrt{f(\lambda)})^{1/3}};$$

$$c(\lambda) = \frac{1}{156}(e(\lambda) + 18\sqrt{f(\lambda)})^{1/3};$$

$$d(\lambda) = 16384 + 4696\lambda + 25\lambda^2;$$

$$e(\lambda) = 2097152 + 1160832\lambda + 139578\lambda^2 - 125\lambda^3;$$

$$f(\lambda) = 3355443200\lambda + 2558365696\lambda^2 + 643302144\lambda^3 + 54034441\lambda^4 - 134875\lambda^5;$$

$$g(\lambda) = \frac{74088}{2197} - \frac{42}{169}(128 - 5\lambda) + \frac{6\lambda}{13};$$

$$h(\lambda) = 4\sqrt{\frac{441}{169} + \frac{1}{156}(128 - 5\lambda) + \frac{1}{52}(-128 + 5\lambda) + b(\lambda) + c(\lambda)}.$$

Choose different λ -values; the number of critical points is also different:

- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 13 critical points, when $\lambda \notin \{0, 1344\}$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$;
- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 7 critical points, when $\lambda = 0$;
- $R_\lambda(x)$ has 11 critical points, when $\lambda = 1344$;
- The free critical points of $R_\lambda(x)$ satisfy $cr_m = \frac{1}{cr_n}$ for $m \neq n$; each pair is conjugate to each other, being cr_2 and cr_3 , cr_4 and cr_5 , cr_6 and cr_7 , cr_8 and cr_9 , and cr_{10} and cr_{11} .

Proof. From (11), let $R'_\lambda(x) = 0$:

$$\frac{2x^7(1+x)^6(1+x^2)^5 \cdot \omega_\lambda(x)}{\theta_\lambda(x)^2} = 0, \tag{12}$$

where $\omega_\lambda(x) = 52 + 168x + (336 - 5\lambda)x^2 + 3(168 + \lambda)x^3 + 2(284 + \lambda)x^4 + 3(168 + \lambda)x^5 + (336 - 5\lambda)x^6 + 168x^7 + 52x^8$.

From (12), the free critical points of $R_\lambda(x)$ are $-1, \pm i$ and the eight roots of polynomial $\omega_\lambda(x) = 0$. Next is the process of solving the expression of the roots of the polynomial $\omega_\lambda(x) = 0$.

First, we can express $\omega_\lambda(x)$ as the product of four quadratic polynomials $(1 + d_i x + x^2), 1 \leq i \leq 4$. We have the following formulas:

$$\omega_\lambda(x) = 52 \prod_{i=1}^4 (1 + d_i x + x^2). \tag{13}$$

Next, by the corresponding coefficients are equal, we can obtain

$$\begin{cases} 52(d_1 + d_2 + d_3 + d_4) = 168, \\ 52(4 + d_1d_2 + d_1d_3 + d_2d_3 + d_1d_4 + d_2d_4 + d_3d_4) = 336 - 5\lambda, \\ 52(3d_1 + 3d_2 + 3d_3 + 3d_4 + d_1d_2d_3 + d_1d_2d_4 + d_1d_3d_4 + d_2d_3d_4) = 504 + 3\lambda, \\ 52(6 + 2d_1d_2 + 2d_1d_3 + 2d_2d_3 + 2d_1d_4 + 2d_2d_4 + 2d_3d_4 + d_1d_2d_3d_4) = 568 + 2\lambda. \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

By eliminating d_2, d_3 , and d_4 , we can obtain a quartic polynomial about d_1 :

$$52d_1^4 - 168d_1^3 + (128 - 5\lambda)d_1^2 + 3\lambda d_1 + 12\lambda = 0. \tag{15}$$

After that, the specific expression of $d_i, 1 \leq i \leq 4$ can be obtained by (15). Finally, by taking d_i into (13), we can obtain the specific expression of the roots of $\omega_\lambda(x) = 0$, that is $cr_4 - cr_{11}$.

Additionally,

$$R'_0(x) = \frac{8x^7(1+x)^4(1+x^2)^3(13+16x+13x^2)}{(1+4x+9x^2+16x^3+21x^4+20x^5+13x^6)^2}, \tag{16}$$

$$R'_{1344}(x) = \frac{8x^7(1+x)^6(1+x^2)^5(13+68x-1473x^2-1880x^3-1473x^4+68x^5+13x^6)}{\theta_{1344}(x)^2}, \tag{17}$$

where $\theta_{1344}(x) = 1 + 7x + 27x^2 + 77x^3 + 176x^4 + 336x^5 + 552x^6 + 792x^7 + 1015x^8 + 1185x^9 - 59x^{10} - 13x^{11}$.

$$R'_{-6848}(x) = \frac{8x^7(1+x)^6(1+x^2)^5(13+42x+8644x^2-5010x^3-3282x^4-5010x^5+8644x^6+42x^7+13x^8)}{\theta_{-6848}(x)^2}, \tag{18}$$

where $\theta_{-6848}(x) = 1 + 6x + 20x^2 + 50x^3 + 99x^4 + 160x^5 + 216x^6 + 240x^7 + 223x^8 + 170x^9 + 6948x^{10} + 46x^{11} + 13x^{12}$. \square

Table 2 shows the number of free critical points corresponding to $R_\lambda(x)$, where λ is given a particular value. According to the above proposition, 0 and ∞ correspond to the roots of $g(x) = 0$, and the number of free critical points of $R_\lambda(x)$ is at most 11 and at least 5. Since the free critical points cr_1, cr_2 , and cr_3 are the pre-images of the strange fixed point ex_1 , the stability of cr_1, cr_2 , and cr_3 corresponds to the stability of ex_1 . In addition, as with the strange fixed point in this section, each pair of conjugate free critical points has the same stability properties, so we only need to study the dynamics of half of the free critical points, which will be discussed in Section 2.3.

Table 2. Free critical points cr_i from $R'_\lambda(cr_i)$ for special λ -values.

λ	cr_i			No. of cr_i
0	-1	$\pm i$	$0.615385 \pm 0.788227i$	5
1344	-1	$\pm i$	-13.0923	9
	-0.0763809	0.109819	9.10591	
	$-0.638919 \pm 0.769274i$			
-6848	-1	$\pm i$	$-1.90256 \pm 25.7656i$	11
	$-0.639 \pm 0.769207i$	$-0.00285034 \pm 0.038601i$	$0.929025 \pm 0.370017i$	

2.3. Parameter Spaces and Dynamical Planes

The dynamic behavior of the rational operator $R_\lambda(x)$ (4) varies with the parameter selection. In this section, we discuss the progressive behavior of the free critical points of $LWM(\lambda)$ through parameter spaces. At first, the parameter space is represented by a 400×400 grid on the complex plane, and the points on the grid correspond to different λ -values. The parameter space shows the convergence analysis of the λ -related iterative method (3), where the free critical points cr_i in Proposition 5 is used as the initial estimate value and the maximum number of iterations is 25. If it converges to 0, it is expressed as orange. If it converges to ∞ , it is expressed as faint yellow, and other cases are expressed as black.

Our goal was to find a relatively stable region in the parameter space, that is the orange and faint yellow regions, because the λ -values in these regions are the best parameter members in terms of numerical stability.

The $LWM(\lambda)$ family has a maximum of eleven free critical points. Proposition 5 states that it is sufficient to study four different parameter spaces. These parameter

spaces are called P_1 (for $x = cr_4, cr_5$), P_2 (for $x = cr_6, cr_7$), P_3 (for $x = cr_8, cr_9$), and P_4 (for $x = cr_{10}, cr_{11}$), as described in Figure 3. Among them, the large area of Figure 3 is orange and faint yellow, that is, in most cases, it converges to the roots. However, by carefully observing the details of the parameter spaces, we can see that the rare black area near the imaginary part of the parameter λ is 0. For example, the points corresponding to $\lambda = -7$, $\lambda = -11.68$, $\beta = -9.69$, and $\beta = -4.999$ in P_1 - P_4 are in the black regions. Combining Figures 1 and 2, we know that only a quite small part of the points in the iterative method (3) converge to the strange fixed points, which corresponds to the results shown in P_1 - P_4 , indicating that the members in $LWM(\lambda)$ are numerically stable.

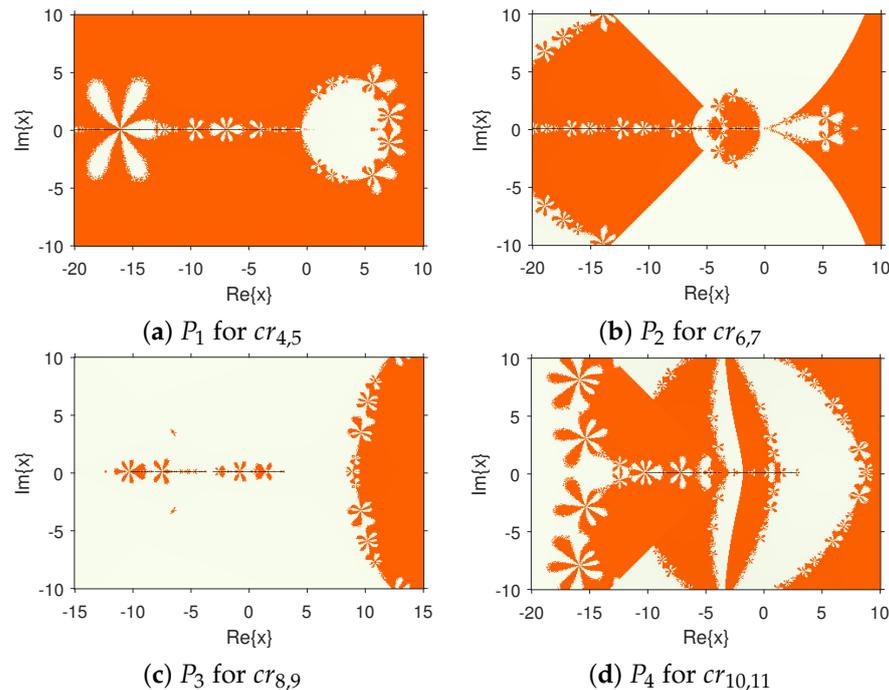


Figure 3. Parameter spaces $P_i, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$.

Then, we explored the stability of the corresponding iterative method by selecting various parameter values to generate a dynamical plane.

Firstly, a grid generated by 400×400 points is defined on the complex plane, where each point on the grid corresponds to a different value of the initial estimate x_0 . Its graphical representation indicates that this method has a maximum of 25 iterations to any root starting from x_0 . Among them, the white asterisk “*” represents the attractive point. Fixed points are illustrated with a red circle “o”. Periodic points are represented as blue squares “◊”. In addition, we represent the orbit of a periodic point in blue and the orbit of a fixed point in red.

Figures 4–7 show the dynamical planes of $LWM(\lambda)$ corresponding to a given λ value. Different colors represent different basins of attraction: gray represents convergence to 0, khaki convergence to ∞ , green convergence to fixed point $ex_1 = 1$, and black non-convergence.

Next, the stability of some $LWM(\lambda)$ was studied by generating a dynamical plane. We discuss the choice of parameter λ in four parts. In the first part, we chose the parameter values in the black regions of the parameter spaces, that is $\lambda = -7, -11.68, -9.69, -4.999$; see Figure 4.

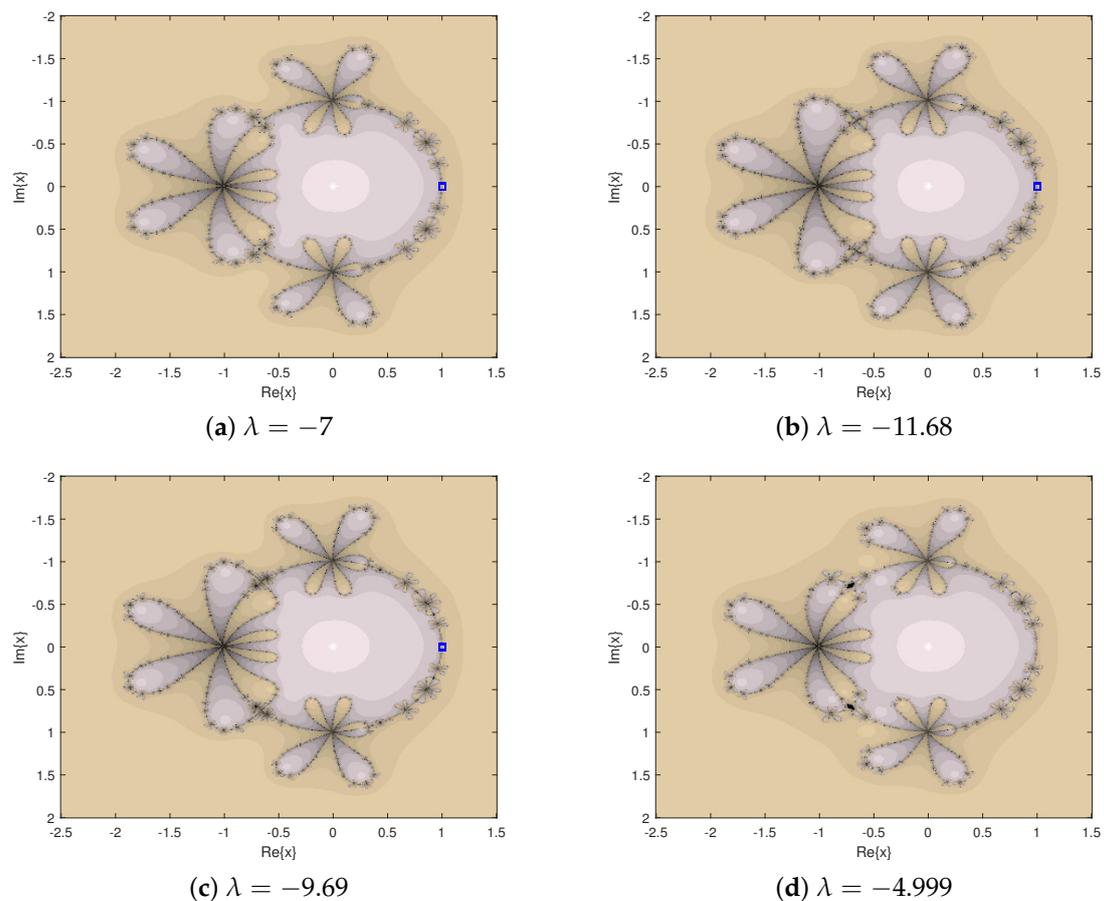


Figure 4. Dynamical planes for special λ -values.

In the second part, we selected the parameter values that satisfy $|\lambda - 1344| < 8192$, which is divided into two parts: one is the smaller value, $\lambda = -5, -50, -100$, and the other part is the larger value, $\lambda = 1300, 1340, -1500$. At this time, $ex_1 = 1$ is the attractive point, which corresponds to the conclusion of Proposition 4(b); see Figure 5.

In the third part, we drew $\lambda = -7000, 10,000$, which correspond to the conclusion of the proposition in Figure 4a; see Figure 6.

Finally, we drew the dynamical plane of $\lambda = 0, -6848, 1344$, where λ are the special values obtained in Proposition 2; see Figure 7.

In Figures 4–7, the dynamical planes of most parameters converge to 0 and ∞ , but there are also parameter values that make the iterative method not converge, such as the parameter $\lambda = -4.999$ in Figure 4 and $\lambda = -5, -100$ in Figure 5. Note from Figure 6 that the iterative method corresponding to the parameters satisfying $|\lambda - 1344| > 8192$ converges to two extra fixed points in addition to $0, \infty, ex_1 = 1$. This indicates that the iterative method corresponding to these parameters is unstable. What we want to study more is stable parameters, that is the dynamical planes only show gray and khaki.

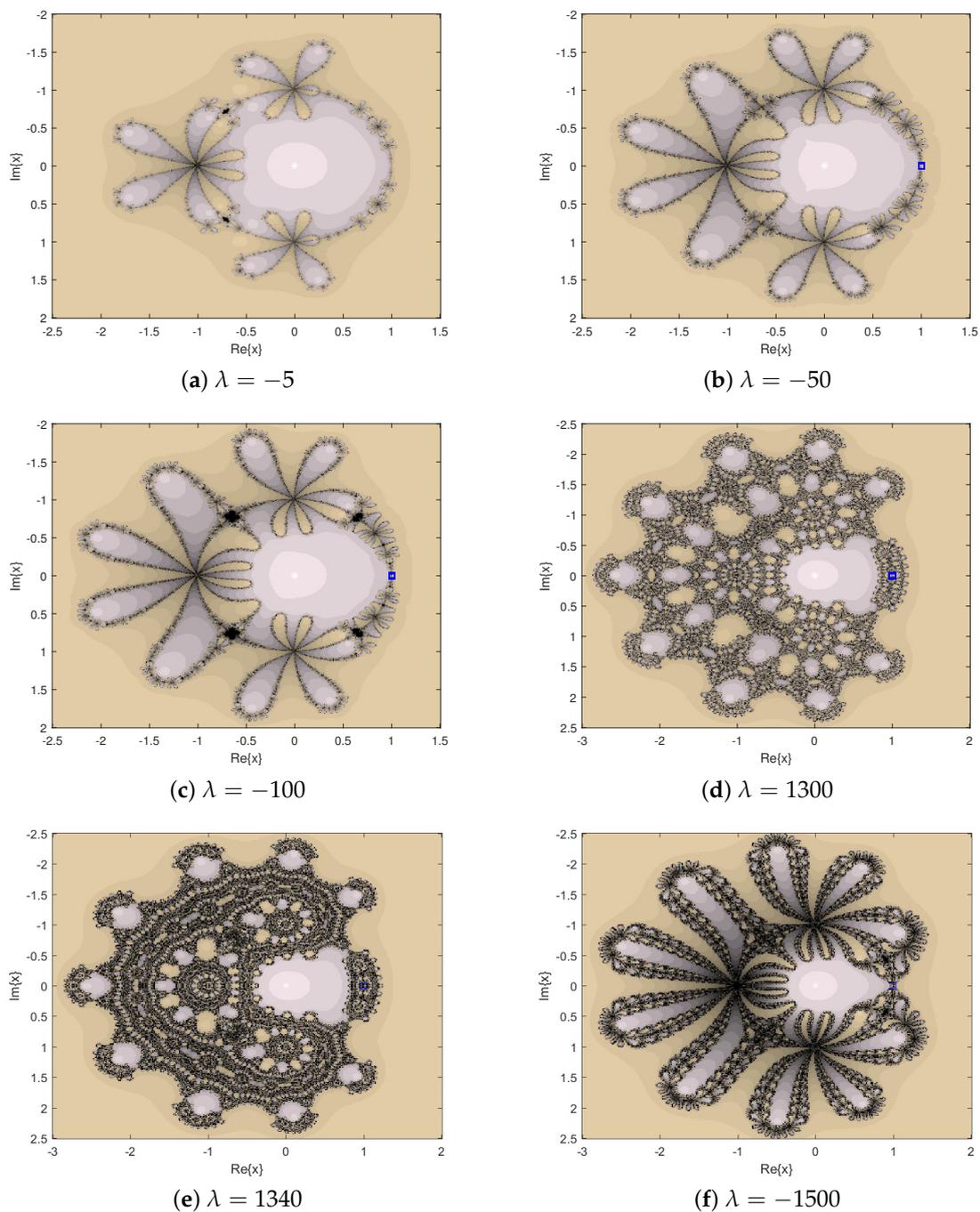


Figure 5. Dynamical planes for special λ -values.

Comparing Figures 4, 5, and 7, we can see that the larger the absolute value of the parameter values, the more complex the dynamical plane displayed. Carefully observing the black area in Figures 4d and 5a,c, we can also observe that the larger the absolute value of the parameter values, the larger the black area is. In summary, the iterative method corresponding to $\lambda = 0$ is more stable.

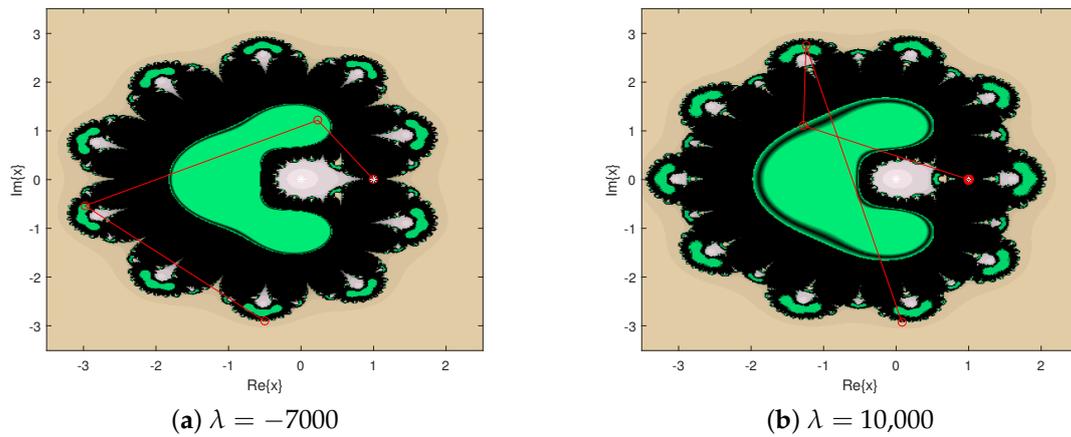


Figure 6. Dynamical planes for special λ -values.

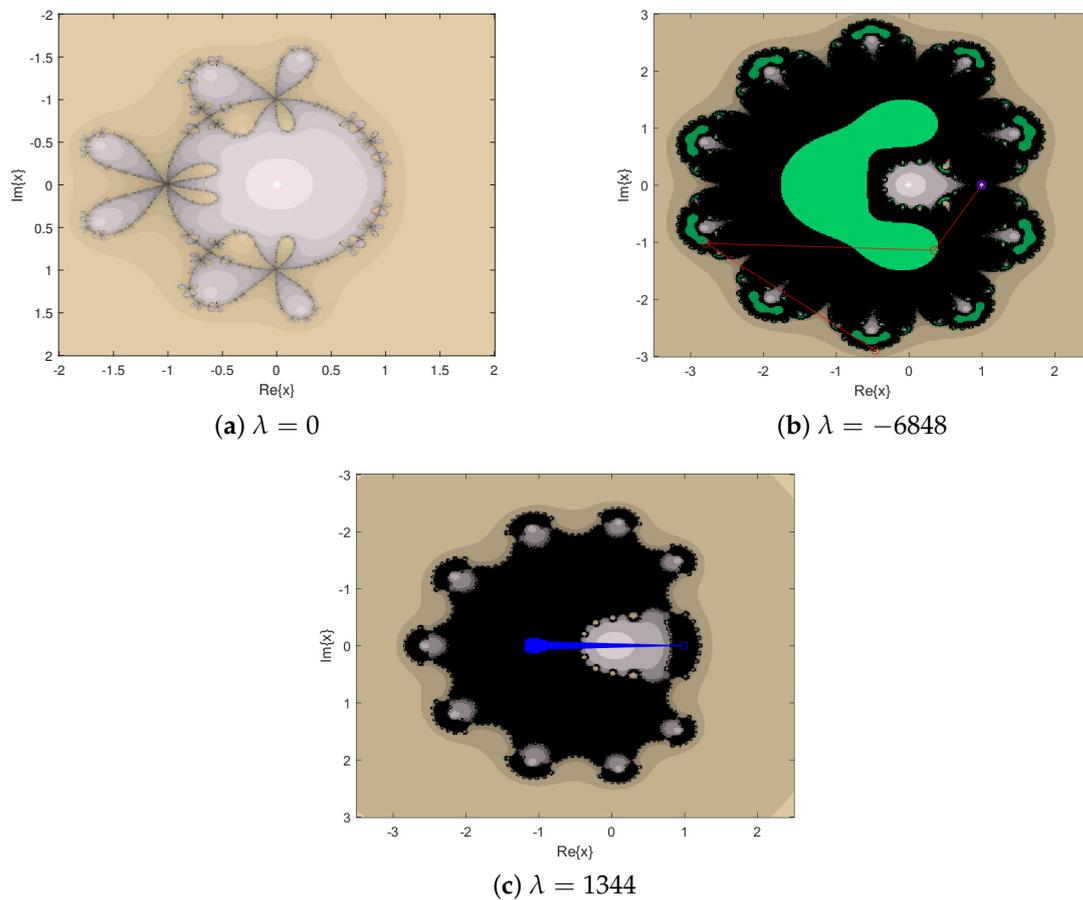


Figure 7. Dynamical planes for special λ -values.

3. Numerical Experiment and Practical Application

In this section, the more stable parameter elements obtained in Section 2, namely $\{0, -50, 1300, 1340, -1500\}$, are verified by a numerical experiment and applied to solve practical problem.

First, we used the iterative method corresponding to these parameters to solve the nonlinear matrix sign function:

$$X^2 - I = 0, I \text{ is an identity matrix.}$$

After that, we obtained the following special cases:

- When $\lambda = 0$, $X_{n+1} = 128X_n^5(I + X_n^2)^4[I - 9X_n^2 + 57X_n^4 + 247X_n^6 + 763X_n^8 + 637X_n^{10} + 331X_n^{12} + 21X_n^{14}]^{-1}$;
- When $\lambda = -50$, $X_{n+1} = 8192X_n^7(I + X_n^2)^6[50(-I + X_n^2)^{10} + 64(X_n + X_n^3)^2(I - 9X_n^2 + 57X_n^4 + 247X_n^6 + 763X_n^8 + 637X_n^{10} + 331X_n^{12} + 21X_n^{14})]^{-1}$;
- When $\lambda = 1300$, $X_{n+1} = 8192X_n^7(I + X_n^2)^6[-1300(-I + X_n^2)^{10} + 64(X_n + X_n^3)^2(I - 9X_n^2 + 57X_n^4 + 247X_n^6 + 763X_n^8 + 637X_n^{10} + 331X_n^{12} + 21X_n^{14})]^{-1}$;
- When $\lambda = 1340$, $X_{n+1} = 8192X_n^7(I + X_n^2)^6[-1340(-I + X_n^2)^{10} + 64(X_n + X_n^3)^2(I - 9X_n^2 + 57X_n^4 + 247X_n^6 + 763X_n^8 + 637X_n^{10} + 331X_n^{12} + 21X_n^{14})]^{-1}$;
- When $\lambda = -1500$, $X_{n+1} = 8192X_n^7(I + X_n^2)^6[1500(-I + X_n^2)^{10} + 64(X_n + X_n^3)^2(I - 9X_n^2 + 57X_n^4 + 247X_n^6 + 763X_n^8 + 637X_n^{10} + 331X_n^{12} + 21X_n^{14})]^{-1}$.

Finally, we used the Matlab software to record the iteration times and computer running time of the experimental results of solving the matrix symbol function corresponding to the random square matrix. The calculation stopping standard is $\|X_n^2 - I\|_2 \leq 10^{-100}$. The experimental results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Results of the comparisons.

Matrices	$\lambda = 0$		$\lambda = -50$		$\lambda = 1300$		$\lambda = 1340$		$\lambda = -1500$	
	n^1	Time	n	Time	n	Time	n	Time	n	Time
$R_{4 \times 4}$	3	0.006994	5	0.079566	6	0.074327	6	0.103540	5	0.108107
$R_{5 \times 5}$	3	0.016522	13	0.066437	13	0.094517	9	0.122004	16	0.129702
$R_{10 \times 10}$	5	0.069684	10	0.139051	27	0.136659	41	0.157447	15	0.059954
$R_{15 \times 15}$	6	0.070848	21	0.160829	22	0.187887	13	0.158099	86	0.279862
$R_{20 \times 20}$	6	0.071416	19	0.180107	19	0.186666	17	0.162618	103	0.718463
$R_{25 \times 25}$	9	0.111521	14	0.143166	20	0.209045	13	0.158114	97	0.380726
$R_{30 \times 30}$	8	0.136161	28	0.203730	16	0.177654	15	0.176462	191	0.832457

¹ n represents the number of iterations.

Through the results in Table 3, we noticed that, in $\{0, -50, 1300, 1340, -1500\}$, when $\lambda = 0$, the iterative method (3) is used to solve the matrix function with the least number of iterations and the shortest computer running time.

In 1873, van der Waals revised the equation of state of the ideal gas and proposed the van der Waals equation of state based on the two assumptions of the ideal gas model, namely the non-occupying volume of molecules and the non-interacting force between molecules. The volume occupied by molecules decreases their free space of movement, and the frequency of molecules hitting the container wall increases at the same temperature, so the pressure increases correspondingly. If $V_m - b$ is used to represent the free movement space per mole of gas molecules, the gas pressure should be $P = RT / (V_m - b)$ by referring to the ideal gas equation of state.

The specific form of Van der Waals equation is:

$$(P + a \frac{n^2}{V^2})(V - nb) = nRT$$

where a and b are the relative constants corrected for gas pressure and volume, respectively, which are called the van der Waals constants. Each gas has a specific value for a and b . n, R, T, V , and P represent the number of moles, the universal gas constant (0.0820578), the absolute temperature, the volume, and the absolute pressure, respectively.

By simplification, the following polynomial of the nonlinear form can be obtained:

$$H(V) = PV^3 - (RT + bP)V^2n + aVn^2 - abn^3.$$

When $n = 1.5$ moles of benzene vapor, $P = 50atm$, $a = 1.378$, and $b = 0.3193$, then there is

$$H_1(V) = 50V^3 - 119.0185191V^2 + 3.1005V - 1.484984475.$$

The exact solution to $H_1(V) = 0$ is

$$V = 2.3594236086921194141576714329391903003579204650023$$

(50 significant digits).

Next, we used the iterative method (3) with $\lambda = 0$ and the other three eighth-order iterative methods to solve $H_1(V) = 0$ and compared the results. According to Theorem 1 in [21], when applying the iterative method LWM (3) to solve nonlinear equations, in order to maintain the convergence rate of the eighth order, we must select the initial point near the exact solution, so that the initial point is close enough to the exact solution. Therefore, we chose the initial estimate of $x_0 = 2.36$. The experimental results are shown in Table 4.

The method by Sharma et al., SM (see [25]), is

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} w_n &= x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ z_n &= w_n - \frac{f(w_n)}{f'(x_n)} \frac{f(x_n) + af(w_n)}{f(x_n) + (a-2)f(w_n)}, \\ x_{n+1} &= x_n - \frac{Pf[z_n, x_n] + Qf'(x_n) + Rf[w_n, x_n]}{Pf[z_n, x_n] + Qf'(x_n) + Rf[w_n, x_n]} f(x_n). \end{aligned} \right. \tag{19}$$

where $P = (x_n - w_n)f(x_n)f(w_n)$, $Q = (w_n - z_n)f(w_n)f(z_n)$ and $R = (z_n - x_n)f(z_n)f(x_n)$. We chose $a = 0$ for the numerical experiment part.

The method by Soleymani, SSM (see [26]), is

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} y_n &= x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}, \\ z_n &= y_n - \frac{f(y_n)}{f'(x_n)} \frac{f(x_n) + \beta f(y_n)}{f(x_n) + (\beta-2)f(y_n)}, \\ x_{n+1} &= z_n - \frac{f(z_n)}{f'(x_n)} \left\{ \frac{f(x_n) + \beta f(y_n)}{f(x_n) + (\beta-2)f(y_n)} \right\} (1 + 2t + \mu + \mu^2 + \rho^2 + 4\rho^3 + 12\rho^4 - \sigma - \tau^2). \end{aligned} \right. \tag{20}$$

where $t = \frac{f(z_n)}{f(x_n)}$, $\mu = \frac{f(z_n)}{f(y_n)}$, $\rho = \frac{f(y_n)}{f(x_n)}$, $\sigma = \frac{f(z_n)}{f'(x_n)}$, and $\tau = \frac{f(y_n)}{f'(x_n)}$. We chose $\beta = 0$ for the numerical experiment part.

Table 4. Comparison of iterative methods for $H_1(V) = 0$.

n	LWM		SM		SSM	
	$ x_n - x_{n-1} $	$ f(x_n) $	$ x_n - x_{n-1} $	$ f(x_n) $	$ x_n - x_{n-1} $	$ f(x_n) $
1	5.7639×10^{-4}	1.818×10^{-21}	1.1528×10^{-3}	1.593×10^{-1}	5.7639×10^{-4}	1.4902×10^{-19}
2	6.5748×10^{-24}	4.1048×10^{-47}	1.1528×10^{-3}	1.5945×10^{-1}	5.3893×10^{-22}	1.6823×10^{-45}
3	1.4846×10^{-49}	9.2685×10^{-73}	1.1528×10^{-3}	1.593×10^{-1}	6.0843×10^{-48}	1.8993×10^{-71}
4	3.352×10^{-75}	2.0928×10^{-98}	1.1528×10^{-3}	1.5945×10^{-1}	6.869×10^{-74}	2.1442×10^{-97}

It can be seen from the experimental results in Table 4 that the LWM with $\lambda = 0$ is more dominant in convergence accuracy.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, as stated by fractal theory, we explored the complex dynamic behavior of a kind of iterative method (3) for solving nonlinear equations. Among them, Liu–Wang’s method is based on the well-known Ostrowski method, which adds a step to make it the optimal eighth-order iterative method with faster convergence speed.

Based on the theory of the Möbius conjugate transformation on the Riemann sphere and the scaling theorem, we obtained the corresponding rational operator by applying any quadratic polynomial to the iterative method. The operator can be simplified by

giving parameters to facilitate the subsequent research. First, we analyzed its fixed points and the critical points and noticed that the strange fixed points always appeared in pairs, because the two strange points were conjugate, as were the free critical points. Given this relationship, then the number of studies on them could be reduced by half. All of this was performed with the Mathematica software. By drawing the stability surfaces of the strange fixed points, we can observe the range of parameters that can attract the sequence generated by the initial point to the strange fixed point during the iteration. Since we expected that these sequences can converge to the roots rather than the strange fixed points. Based on the above parameter range, we can more effectively select the desired parameters and avoid selecting bad parameters. What is more, the parameter space generated by the iteration with the critical point as the initial point was drawn, so as to obtain a stable parameter selection region. Combining the dynamical planes' analysis of the given parameters, we finally obtained some parameter families that made the iterative method stable, such as $\lambda = 0, -50, 1300, 1340, -1500$. When these parameters were selected, the corresponding iterative method had good numerical stability, especially at $\lambda = 0$. Finally, this result was proven by solving the matrix sign function and the van der Waals equation.

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