## A sufficient condition for the logarithm of the derivative of a Denjoy $C^1$ diffeomorphism to be a measurable coboundary

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#### ABSTRACT

We give a sufficient condition under which the logarithm of the derivative of a Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphism of the circle is a measurable coboundary on the unique Cantor minimal set. This condition also guarantees the existence of an automorphic measure which is equivalent to the unique invariant Borel probability measure.

### 1 Introduction

One of the most important examples of uniquely ergodic homeomorphisms are the orientation preserving homeomorphisms of the circle  $S^1$  which have irrational rotation numbers and are not topologically conjugate to rotations. Among them special place occupy the Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphisms, named after A. Denjoy who gave explicit constructions of such  $C^1$  examples and proved that they cannot be  $C^2$  in [4]. Prior to A. Denjoy, similar examples had been constructed by P. Bohl in [3]. For an exposition of the theory of Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphisms of  $S^1$  we refer to [2], [7] and [10].

Let  $T: S^1 \to S^1$  be a Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphism with unique Cantor minimal set Kand unique invariant Borel probability measure  $\mu$ . Then K is the nonwandering set of Tand  $\mu$  is supported on K. The original motivation of this note was to examine whether  $\mu$ is in some sense geometric with respect to T. This is closely related to a problem stated in [1]. To be more precise, we want to find conditions under which  $\mu$  is equivalent to a Borel probability measure  $\nu$  on K such that

$$\int_{K} \phi d\nu = \int_{K} (\phi \circ T) T' d\nu$$

for every continuous function  $\phi : K \to \mathbb{R}$ . A measure  $\nu$  with this property is called automorphic for T. It is clear from the change of variable formula that the (normalized) Lebesgue measure of  $S^1$  is automorphic for T, but is not equivalent to  $\mu$ .

The automorphic measures for T are defined as automorphic measures of exponent 1 in [6], but they have appeared in the literature much earlier in the more general setting of homeomorphisms on compact metric spaces. Let X be a compact metric space,  $T: X \to X$  be a homeomorphism and let  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function

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such that  $\int_X f d\mu = 0$  for some ergodic *T*-invariant Borel probability measure  $\mu$ . A Borel probability measure  $\nu$  on *X* is called a  $e^f$ -conformal measure for *T* if  $\nu$  is equivalent to  $T_*\nu$  and  $\frac{d\nu}{d(T_*\nu)} = e^f$ . This kind of measure has been used without a particular name in [8]. If  $\mu$  is an ergodic *T*-invariant Borel probability measure on *X*, as it is explained in section 2, the existence of a  $e^f$ -conformal measure for *T* which is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu$  (actually equivalent to  $\mu$ ) is equivalent to the existence of a measurable solution of the cohomological equation  $f = u - u \circ T$ . In particular, if *T* is a Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphism with unique minimal Cantor set *K*, then there exists an automorphic measure for *T* which is equivalent to its unique invariant Borel probability measure if and only if log *T'* is a measurable coboundary on *K*.

In this note we study the existence of conformal measures for a uniquely ergodic homeomorphism which is absolutely continuous to its invariant Borel probability measure. In section 3 we present a sufficient condition for that, using the Schauder-Tychonoff fixed point theorem applied to the dual Perron-Frobenius operator on an appropriate convex set. This approach was inspired by [6]. As a corollary we get the following, which is the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $T: S^1 \to S^1$  be a Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphism with unique minimal set K and unique T-invariant Borel probability measure  $\mu$ . If there exists a positive  $g \in L^1(\mu)$  and an integer  $m \ge 0$  such that

$$(T^n)' \le g \int_K (T^n)' d\mu$$

on K for every  $n \ge m$ , then there exists an automorphic measure for T which is equivalent to  $\mu$  and  $\log T'$  is a measurable coboundary on K.  $\Box$ 

## 2 Conformal measures

Let  $T: X \to X$  be a homeomorphism of a compact metric space X and let  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function. A  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure for T is a Borel probability measure  $\nu$  on X such that

$$\int_X \phi d\nu = \int_X (\phi \circ T) e^f d\nu$$

for every continuous function  $\phi : X \to \mathbb{R}$ . Evidently, a  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure for T is T-quasi-invariant and is an  $e^{-f \circ T^{-1}}$ -conformal measure for  $T^{-1}$ .

It is easy to see that if  $h: X \to X$  is a homeomorphism and  $S = h \circ T \circ h^{-1}$ , then  $h_*\nu$  is a  $e^{f \circ h^{-1}}$ -conformal measure for S for every  $e^f$ -conformal measure  $\nu$  for T.

The construction of a conformal measure can be described as follows (see [5]). Let  $(a_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of real numbers and let  $c = \limsup_{n\to+\infty} \frac{a_n}{n}$ . The series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{a_n - ns}$  converges for s > c, diverges for s < c and we cannot tell for s = c, by the root test. There exists a sequence of positive real numbers  $(b_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$  such that  $\lim_{n\to+\infty} \frac{b_n}{b_{n+1}} = 1$  and  $\infty$ 

the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n e^{a_n - ns}$  converges for s > c and diverges for  $s \le c$ .

Let  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function such that  $\int_X f d\mu = 0$  for some ergodic *T*-invariant Borel probability measure  $\mu$ . It is well known that the set of points  $x \in X$  such that the limit

$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(T^{-k}(x))$$

exists in  $\mathbb{R}$  has measure 1 with respect to every *T*-invariant Borel probability measure, and is therefore non-empty. So there exists a point  $x \in X$  such that

$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} f(T^{-k}(x)) = 0.$$

Let  $a_n = -\sum_{k=1}^n f(T^{-k}(x))$  and  $M_s = \sum_{n=1}^\infty b_n e^{a_n - ns}$ , where  $(b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is the corresponding sequence as above. Each accumulation point in the weak\* topology as  $s \neq 0$  of the

sequence as above. Each accumulation point in the weak\* topology as  $s \downarrow 0$  of the directed family

$$\mu_s = \frac{1}{M_s} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n e^{a_n - ns} \delta_{T^{-n}(x)}, \quad s > 0$$

is a  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure for T.

There is a close relation between  $e^f$ -conformal measures for a homeomorphism  $T : X \to X$  of a compact metric space and solvability of the cohomological equation  $f = u - u \circ T$ , where  $f : X \to \mathbb{R}$  is continuous.

Let  $\mu$  be any *T*-invariant Borel probability measure. If there exists a measurable solution *u* of the above cohomological equation defined  $\mu$ -almost everywhere such that  $e^{-u} \in L^1(\mu)$ , then there exists a  $e^f$ -conformal measure  $\nu$  for *T* equivalent to  $\mu$  with density

$$\frac{d\nu}{d\mu} = \frac{e^{-u}}{\int_X e^{-u} d\mu}$$

Thus, if there exists a continuous solution u, then for every T-invariant Borel probability measure we get an equivalent  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure for T. Moreover, in this case, every  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure  $\nu$  for T is obtained in this way. Indeed, we have

$$\int_X \phi e^u d\nu = \int_X (\phi \circ T) e^u d\nu$$

for every continuous function  $\phi: X \to \mathbb{R}$ , and so the equivalent measure  $\mu$  to  $\nu$  with density

$$\frac{d\mu}{d\nu} = \frac{e^u}{\int_X e^u d\iota}$$

is T-invariant. Consequently, if f is a continuous coboundary, then the  $e^{f}$ -conformal measures for T are in one-to-one correspondence with the T-invariant Borel probability measures and each  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure for T is equivalent to its corresponding T-invariant measure.

Conversely, suppose that  $\mu$  is an ergodic *T*-invariant Borel probability measure and  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$  is a continuous function such that  $\int_X f d\mu = 0$ . Suppose further that there exists a  $e^f$ -conformal measure  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$  for *T* which is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu$  and let  $g = \frac{d\nu}{d\mu}$ . For every measurable set  $A \subset X$  we have

$$\int_X (\chi_A \circ T)(g \circ T)d\mu = \nu(A) = \int_X (\chi_A \circ T)e^f d\nu = \int_X (\chi_A \circ T)e^f g d\mu$$

and therefore

$$\int_{T^{-1}(A)} [ge^f - (g \circ T)]d\mu = 0.$$

Since  $\mu$  is *T*-invariant, it follows that  $g \circ T = ge^f \mu$ -almost everywhere. The ergodicity of  $\mu$  implies now that g > 0  $\mu$ -almost everywhere. So,  $u = -\log g$  is a measurable solution of the cohomological equation  $f = u - u \circ T$ . If  $\log g \in L^{\infty}(\mu)$  and *T* is a minimal homeomorphism, then there exists some continuous function  $u: X \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f = u - u \circ T$ , by Proposition 4.2 on page 46 in [7].

Note that  $\nu$  is equivalent to  $\mu$ , because g > 0. We remark that this is actually a more general fact which holds for every *T*-quasi-invariant Borel probability measure. To see this, let  $T: X \to X$  be a homeomorphism of a compact metric space X and  $\mu$  be an ergodic *T*-invariant Borel probability measure. Let  $\nu$  is a *T*-quasi-invariant Borel probability measure which is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu$ . Let  $g = \frac{d\nu}{d\mu}$  and  $A = g^{-1}(0)$ . If  $S = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} T^n(A)$ , then S is *T*-invariant and  $\nu(S) = 0$ . On the other hand  $\mu(X \setminus S) > 0$ , and since  $\mu$  is ergodic we get  $\mu(S) = 0$ , that is g > 0  $\mu$ -almost everywhere. In particular, if T is uniquely ergodic, then every *T*-quasi-invariant measure for T which is absolutely continuous with respect its unique invariant Borel probability measure is equivalent to it.

# 3 Absolutely continuous conformal measures for uniquely ergodic homeomorphisms

Let X be a compact metric space and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$ . The set

$$A_{\mu} = \{\nu \in \mathcal{M}(X) : \nu \ll \mu\}$$

is not empty, since it contains  $\mu$ , and is convex. In general,  $A_{\mu}$  is not a closed subset of  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  with respect to the weak\* topology. For example, if we let  $\mu$  be the Lebesgue measure on the unit interval [0,1] and for  $0 < \epsilon < 1$  we let  $\mu_{\epsilon}$  denote the Borel probability measure on [0,1] with density  $\frac{1}{\epsilon}\chi_{[0,\epsilon]}$ , then  $\lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \mu_{\epsilon}$  is the Dirac point measure at 0.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let X be a compact metric space and  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$ . Let  $(\nu_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence in  $A_{\mu}$  converging weakly\* to some  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$  and let  $f_n = \frac{d\nu_n}{d\mu}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If

there exist non-negative  $h, g \in L^1(\mu)$  such that  $h \leq f_n \leq g$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\nu \in A_\mu$ and  $h \leq \frac{d\nu}{d\mu} \leq g$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\nu$  is a finite measure, there exists a (countable) basis  $\mathcal{U}$  of the topology of X such that  $\nu(\partial U) = 0$  for every  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . So  $\mathcal{U}$  is contained in the algebra

$$\mathcal{C}(\nu) = \{A | A \subset X \text{ Borel and } \nu(\partial A) = 0\}$$

and since it generates the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra of X, so does  $\mathcal{C}(\nu)$ . Let now  $A \subset X$  be a Borel set with  $\mu(A) = 0$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ . There exists  $0 < \delta < \epsilon$  such that  $\int_B gd\mu < \epsilon$  for every Borel set  $B \subset X$  with  $\mu(B) < \delta$ , because  $g \in L^1(\mu)$ . There exists some  $A_0 \in \mathcal{C}(\nu)$ such that  $\mu(A \triangle A_0) < \delta$  and  $\nu(A \triangle A_0) < \delta$ . Thus  $\mu(A_0) < \delta$  and  $|\nu(A) - \nu(A_0)| < \delta$ . By weak\* convergence,  $\nu(A_0) = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \nu_n(A_0)$  and so there exists some  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $|\nu_n(A_0) - \nu(A_0)| < \epsilon$  for  $n \ge n_0$ . Therefore,

$$\nu(A_0) < \nu_n(A_0) + \epsilon = \int_{A_0} f_n d\mu + \epsilon \le \int_{A_0} g d\mu + \epsilon < 2\epsilon$$

It follows that  $0 \leq \nu(A) < 3\epsilon$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , which means that  $\nu(A) = 0$ . This shows that  $\nu \in A_{\mu}$ .

To prove the last assertion, we note first that there exists a sequence of (finite) partitions  $(\mathcal{P}_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$  of X such that  $\mathcal{P}_{n+1}$  is a refinement of  $\mathcal{P}_n$ , the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra of X is generated by  $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_n$  and  $\mu(\partial B) = 0$  for every  $B \in \mathcal{P}_n$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . It can be constructed starting with a countable basis  $\{U_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  of the topology of X such that  $\mu(\partial U_n) = 0$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and defining inductively  $\mathcal{P}_n$  to be the finite family consisting of Borel sets with positive  $\mu$  measure of the form  $B \cap U_n$  or  $B \cap (X \setminus U_n)$ , for  $B \in \mathcal{P}_{n-1}$ , taking  $\mathcal{P}_0 = \{X\}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{P}_n(x)$  denote the element of  $\mathcal{P}_n$  which contains  $x \in X$ . Then,

$$\frac{d\nu}{d\mu}(x) = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{\nu(\mathcal{P}_n(x))}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_n(x))},$$

 $\mu$ -almost everywhere on X and in  $L^1(\mu)$  (see page 8 in [9]). On the other hand, by the weak<sup>\*</sup> convergence and since  $\nu \in A_{\mu}$ , for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $x \in X$  there exists some  $n_k \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$|\nu(\mathcal{P}_k(x)) - \nu_{n_k}(\mathcal{P}_k(x))| < \frac{1}{k}\mu(\mathcal{P}_k(x)).$$

It follows that

$$0 \le \frac{\nu(\mathcal{P}_k(x))}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_k(x))} < \frac{1}{k} + \frac{\nu_{n_k}(\mathcal{P}_k(x))}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_k(x))} = \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_k(x))} \int_{\mathcal{P}_k(x)} f_{n_k} d\mu \le \frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_k(x))} \int_{\mathcal{P}_k(x)} g d\mu.$$

Since

$$\lim_{k \to +\infty} \frac{1}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_k(x))} \int_{\mathcal{P}_k(x)} g d\mu = g(x)$$

 $\mu$ -almost everywhere on X and in  $L^1(\mu)$ , it follows that  $0 \leq \frac{d\nu}{d\mu}(x) \leq g(x) \mu$ -almost everywhere on X.

Similarly, from

$$\frac{\nu(\mathcal{P}_{k}(x))}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_{k}(x))} > -\frac{1}{k} + \frac{\nu_{n_{k}}(\mathcal{P}_{k}(x))}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_{k}(x))} = -\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_{k}(x))} \int_{\mathcal{P}_{k}(x)} f_{n_{k}} d\mu \ge -\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{\mu(\mathcal{P}_{k}(x))} \int_{\mathcal{P}_{k}(x)} h d\mu$$

follows that  $h(x) \leq \frac{d\nu}{d\mu}(x)$   $\mu$ -almost everywhere on X.  $\Box$ 

Let now  $T: X \to X$  be a uniquely ergodic homeomorphism  $T: X \to X$ . Conformal measures for T can be obtained as fixed points of the dual Perron-Frobenius operator. Let  $\mu$  be the unique T-invariant Borel probability measure and  $c = \int_X f d\mu$ , where  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function. Let  $\mathcal{M}(X)$  denote the set of Borel probability measures on Xequipped with the weak\* topology. The dual Perron-Frobenius operator is the continuous map  $W: \mathcal{M}(X) \to \mathcal{M}(X)$  defined by

$$W(\nu)(\phi) = \frac{1}{\int_X e^f d\nu} \cdot \int_X (\phi \circ T) e^f d\nu$$

for every continuous function  $\phi: X \to \mathbb{R}$  (see page 185 in [8]). Since T is a homeomorphism, W is a homeomorphism and its inverse is given by the formula

$$W^{-1}(\nu)(\phi) = \frac{1}{\int_X e^{-f \circ T^{-1}} d\nu} \cdot \int_X (\phi \circ T^{-1}) e^{-f \circ T^{-1}} d\nu.$$

It follows from the Schauder-Tychonoff theorem that W has a fixed point in  $\mathcal{M}(X)$ . If  $\nu$  is a fixed point of W, then  $\int_X e^f d\nu = e^c$ , and therefore  $\nu$  is a  $e^{f-c}$ -conformal measure for T. Indeed, if  $\nu$  is a fixed point of W, then for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$\left(\int_X e^f d\nu\right)^n = \int_X \exp\left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^k\right) d\nu,$$

as one easily verifies by induction. It follows that

$$n \left| \log \left( \int_X e^{f-c} d\nu \right) \right| = \left| \log \left( \int_X \exp\left( -nc + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^k \right) d\nu \right) \right| \le \| -nc + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^k \|,$$

and therefore

$$\left|\log\left(\int_X e^{f-c} d\nu\right)\right| \le \|\lim_{n \to +\infty} \left(-c + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^k\right)\| = 0.$$

For any continuous function  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$  we put

$$E_n(f) = \begin{cases} \exp\sum_{k=1}^n f \circ T^{-k}, & \text{if } n > 0, \\ 1, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ \exp\left(-\sum_{k=0}^{|n|-1} f \circ T^k\right), & \text{if } n < 0. \end{cases}$$

We can use the Schauder-Tychonoff theorem to get the following result for the existence of absolutely continuous conformal measures in the case of uniquely ergodic homeomorphisms.

**Theorem 3.2.** Let X be a compact metric space and  $T: X \to X$  a uniquely ergodic homeomorphism with unique invariant Borel probability measure  $\mu$ . Let  $f: X \to \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function such that  $\int_X f d\mu = 0$ . If there exists a non-negative  $g \in L^1(\mu)$  and an integer  $m \ge 0$  such that

$$E_n(f) \le g \int_X E_n(f) d\mu$$

for every  $n \ge m$ , then there exists a  $e^{f}$ -conformal measure for T equivalent to  $\mu$  and f is a measurable coboundary.

*Proof.* Let  $W : \mathcal{M}(X) \to \mathcal{M}(X)$  be the dual Perron-Frobenius operator. One can prove by induction that

$$W^n(\nu)(\phi) = \frac{1}{\int_X (\exp\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^k) d\nu} \cdot \int_X (\phi \circ T^n) (\exp\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f \circ T^k) d\nu$$

and

$$W^{-n}(\nu)(\phi) = \frac{1}{\int_X (\exp(-\sum_{k=1}^n f \circ T^{-k})) d\nu} \cdot \int_X (\phi \circ T^{-n})(\exp(-\sum_{k=1}^n f \circ T^{-k})) d\nu$$

for every  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(X)$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . From the invariance of  $\mu$  we get

$$W^{n}(\mu)(\phi) = \frac{1}{\int_{X} E_{n}(f)d\mu} \cdot \int_{X} \phi E_{n}(f)d\mu$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Note also that

$$\int_X (\phi \circ T) e^f E_n(f) d\mu = \int_X \phi E_{n+1}(f) d\mu$$

for every continuous  $\phi: X \to \mathbb{R}$ .

If now  $A \subset X$  is a measurable set, it follows from regularity that

$$W^{n}(\mu)(A) = \frac{1}{\int_{X} E_{n}(f)d\mu} \cdot \int_{A} E_{n}(f)d\mu$$

which implies that  $W^n(\mu) \in A_{\mu}$  and

$$\frac{dW^n(\mu)}{d\mu} = \frac{E_n(f)}{\int_X E_n(f)d\mu}$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $C_m$  is the convex hull of  $\{W^n(\mu) : n \ge m\}$ , then  $W(C_m) \subset C_m$ . Indeed, let

$$t_n = \frac{\int_X E_{n+1}(f)d\mu}{\int_X E_n(f)d\mu}$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $a_1,...,a_n \ge 0$  are such that  $a_1 + \cdots + a_n = 1$  and  $j_1,...,j_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$W\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} a_k W^{j_k}(\mu)\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{a_k t_{j_k}}{a_1 t_{j_1} + \dots + a_n t_{j_n}} \cdot W^{j_k + 1}(\mu).$$

This shows that  $W(C_m) \subset C_m$  and by continuity  $W(\overline{C_m}) \subset \overline{C_m}$ . Since  $\overline{C_m}$  is a compact convex subset of  $\mathcal{M}(X)$ , it follows from the Schauder-Tychonoff theorem that W has a fixed point in  $\overline{C_m}$  or in other words there is a  $e^f$ -conformal measure for T in  $\overline{C_m}$ . Moreover, our assumption and Lemma 3.1 imply that  $\overline{C_m} \subset A_\mu$ . This proves the conclusion.  $\Box$ 

The conclusion of Theorem 3.2 remains true under the assumption that there exists an integer  $m \leq 0$  such that

$$E_n(f) \le g \int_X E_n(f) d\mu$$

for every  $n \leq m$ , by considering  $W^{-1}$ .

# 4 The derivative of Denjoy $C^1$ diffeomorphisms

Let  $T: S^1 \to S^1$  be an orientation preserving  $C^1$  diffeomorphism with irrational rotation number  $\rho(T)$ . It is well known (see [2], [7], [10]) that T is uniquely ergodic and there exists a unique minimal set  $K \subset S^1$  which is the support of the unique T-invariant Borel probability measure  $\mu$ , and either  $K = S^1$ , in which case T is topologically conjugate to the rotation by the angle  $2\pi\rho(T)$  or K is a Cantor set and T is only topologically semi-conjugate to the rotation by the angle  $2\pi\rho(T)$ . In the latter case T is a Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphism and the semi-conjugation is never  $C^1$ . In both cases, K is the nonwandering set of T and

$$\int_{S^1} \log(T^n)' d\mu = 0$$

for every  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

A T'-conformal measure  $\nu$  for T on K will be called automorphic for T and is a Borel probability measure on K such that

$$\int_{K} \phi d\nu = \int_{K} (\phi \circ T) T' d\nu$$

for every continuous function  $\phi : K \to \mathbb{R}$ . By the change of variable formula, the (normalized) Lebesgue measure of  $S^1$  is automorphic for T. It is also T-quasi-invariant from the mean value theorem.

If  $h: S^1 \to S^1$  be an orientation preserving  $C^1$  diffeomorphism and  $S = h \circ T \circ h^{-1}$ , then S is a Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphism with unique minimal set h(K) and unique Sinvariant Borel probability measure  $h_*\mu$ . If  $\nu$  is an automorphic measure for T, then

$$\nu' = \frac{h'}{\int_K h' d\nu} \cdot h_* \iota$$

is automorphic for S. It follows that if  $\nu \ll \mu$ , then  $\nu' \ll h_*\mu$ .

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is now an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.2 and the chain rule.

If  $\log T'$  is a continuous coboundary on K, then there exists a unique automorphic measure for T which is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu$ , since T is uniquely ergodic. We note however that one can construct examples of Denjoy  $C^1$  diffeomorphisms where the logarithm of the derivative is not a continuous coboundary on the unique minimal set and others where it is. In any case,  $\log T'$  is never a continuous coboundary on  $S^1$ , by an argument due to M. Herman [7]. See also section 6 in [2].

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