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On small bases for which 1 has countably many expansions

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Abstract

Let $q \in (1, 2)$. A q -expansion of a number x in $[0, \frac{1}{q-1}]$ is a sequence $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^{\infty} \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ satisfying

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta_i}{q^i}.$$

Let \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} denote the set of q for which there exists x with a countable number of q -expansions, and let $\mathcal{B}_{1, \aleph_0}$ denote the set of q for which 1 has a countable number of q -expansions. In [21] it was shown that $\min \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} = \min \mathcal{B}_{1, \aleph_0} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$, and in [1] it was shown that $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, q_1] = \{q_1\}$, where $q_1 (\approx 1.64541)$ is the positive root of $x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. In this paper we show that the second smallest point of $\mathcal{B}_{1, \aleph_0}$ is $q_3 (\approx 1.68042)$, the positive root of $x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1 = 0$. Enroute to proving this result we show that $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap (q_1, q_3] = \{q_2, q_3\}$, where $q_2 (\approx 1.65462)$ is the positive root of $x^6 - 2x^4 - x^3 - 1 = 0$.

Key Words: beta-expansion, non-integer base, countable expansions

AMS Subject Classifications: 11A63, 37A45

1 Introduction

Let $q \in (1, 2)$ and $I_q := [0, \frac{1}{q-1}]$. For each $x \in I_q$ there exists a sequence $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^{\infty} \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ such that

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta_i}{q^i}.$$

The sequence $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$ is called a q -expansion for x . Without confusion, we simplify $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^{\infty}$ as (δ_i) . It is straightforward to show that a real number x has a q -expansion if and only if $x \in I_q$.

We now introduce some notation. The so-called *coding map* is defined to be $\Pi : \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow I_q$ where

$$\Pi((\delta_i)) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta_i}{q^i}. \quad (1)$$

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Throughout we let $(\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_n)^k$ denote the k fold concatenation of $(\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_n) \in \{0, 1\}^n$, and similarly let $(\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_n)^\infty$ denote the infinite concatenations of $(\varepsilon_1 \dots \varepsilon_n)$. Given $x \in I_q$, let $\Sigma_q(x)$ denote the set of all q -expansions of x , that is

$$\Sigma_q(x) = \{(\delta_i) \in \{0, 1\}^\mathbb{N} : \Pi((\delta_i)) = x\}.$$

The cardinality of the set $\Sigma_q(x)$ plays an important role in the investigation of representations of real numbers in non-integer bases. It was shown in [11] that if $q \in (1, \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2})$ then for each $x \in (0, \frac{1}{q-1})$ there are 2^{\aleph_0} different q -expansions. Sidorov showed in [18, 19] that if $q \in (1, 2)$ then Lebesgue almost every $x \in (0, \frac{1}{q-1})$ has 2^{\aleph_0} different q -expansions. Points belonging to I_q with a unique q -expansion were investigated in [7, 15] for $q \in (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, 2)$. Some results concerning $x \in I_q$ having a fixed number of q -expansions were established in [1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 20, 22].

Let $m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\aleph_0\}$ and define

$$\mathcal{B}_m := \left\{ q \in \left[\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, 2 \right) : \text{there exists } x \in I_q \text{ satisfying } \#\Sigma_q(x) = m \right\}.$$

Here and hereafter $\#A$ denotes the cardinality of a set A . The following results are known to hold:

- $\min \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ [10].
- $\min \mathcal{B}_2 = \tilde{q} \approx 1.71064$ (the positive root of $x^4 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$) [20].
- $\min \mathcal{B}_k = q_f \approx 1.75488, k \geq 3$ (the positive root of $x^3 - 2x^2 - 1 = 0$) [3].
- $\mathcal{B}_2 \cap (\tilde{q}, q_f] = \{q_f\}$ [3].
- The smallest element of \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} strictly greater than $\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ is $q_1 (\approx 1.64541)$ (the positive root of $x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$) [1].

Understanding the q -expansions of 1 is a classical problem, see [15, 16, 17] and the references therein. The motivation of this paper is to provide a clearer understanding of what values $\#\Sigma_q(x)$ can take. Let

$$\mathcal{B}_{1,m} := \left\{ q \in \left[\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, 2 \right) : \#\Sigma_q(1) = m \right\}.$$

It was shown in [16] that $\min \mathcal{B}_{1,1} \approx 1.78723$ (the Komornik-Loreti constant). In [10] it was proved that $\min \mathcal{B}_{1,\aleph_0} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. For any $n \in (\mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}) \cup \{\aleph_0\}$, Erdős and Joó [12, 13] constructed a continuum of real numbers $q \in [q_0, 2)$ ($q_0 > 1.99803$) for which the number 1 has precisely n q -expansions.

Motivated by the results listed above, a natural question arises: what is the second smallest point of \mathcal{B}_{1,\aleph_0} ? In this paper we will answer this question.

Throughout this paper we let q_1, q_2, q_3 be as follows: $q_1 \approx 1.64541$, $q_2 \approx 1.65462$ and $q_3 \approx 1.68042$, which are the positive roots of $x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$, $x^6 - 2x^4 - x^3 - 1 = 0$ and $x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1 = 0$, respectively. Our main result is the following.

Theorem 1.1. *The smallest element of \mathcal{B}_{1,\aleph_0} strictly greater than $\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ is q_3 .*

Enroute to proving this result we show the following.

Theorem 1.2. $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, q_3] = \{q_1, q_2, q_3\}$.

We remark that $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, q_1] = \{q_1\}$ is known [1]. The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Theorem 1.1, $\min \mathcal{B}_2 \approx 1.71064$ [21], $\min \mathcal{B}_k \approx 1.75488$ for $k \geq 3$ [3], $\mathcal{B}_2 \cap (\check{q}, q_f] = \{q_f\}$ [3], and $\min \mathcal{B}_{1,1} \approx 1.78723$ [16].

Corollary 1.3. *If $q \in (1, q_3) \setminus \{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\}$. Then 1 has 2^{\aleph_0} different q -expansions.*

This paper is arranged as follows. Some definitions and results from [1] will be recalled in Section 2. Some results from this paper will be extended to our setting. In Section 3 we prove Theorem 1.2. The final section is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.1.

2 Preliminaries

In this section we shall recall some definitions and results from [1]. An interpretation of q -expansions from the perspective of dynamical systems was given in [1], see also [4, 5, 6]. Let $T_{q,0}(x) = qx$ if $x \in [0, \frac{1}{q^2-q}]$, and let $T_{q,1}(x) = qx - 1$ if $x \in [\frac{1}{q}, \frac{1}{q-1}]$. We see that if $x \in L_q := [0, \frac{1}{q})$ or $x \in R_q := (\frac{1}{q^2-q}, \frac{1}{q-1}]$ then only one $T_{q,i}$ can be applied. However when $x \in S_q := [\frac{1}{q}, \frac{1}{q^2-q}]$, which is usually referred to as the switch region, we have a choice between $T_{q,0}$ and $T_{q,1}$. An element of $\bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n$ is denoted by \mathbf{a} , here $\{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^0$ denotes the identity map. Moreover, if $\mathbf{a} = a_1 \dots a_n$ we shall use $\mathbf{a}(x)$ to denote $a_n(\dots(a_1(x))\dots)$. Given $x \in I_q$ we call a finite sequence of transformations $\mathbf{a} = a_1 \dots a_n$ *minimal* for x if $\mathbf{a}(x) \in S_q$ and $\mathbf{a}|i(x) \notin S_q$ for all $i < n$. Here $\mathbf{a}|i = a_1 \dots a_i$. We call $\mathbf{a}(x)$ a *branching point* of x if $\mathbf{a}(x) \in S_q$.

Define

$$\Omega_q(x) := \{(a_i)_{i=1}^{\infty} \in \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^{\mathbb{N}} : a_n(\dots(a_1(x))\dots) \in I_q \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$$

The set $\Omega_q(x)$ is significant because $\#\Sigma_q(x) = \#\Omega_q(x)$, where our bijection is given by mapping (δ_i) to (T_{q,δ_i}) , see [2].

Construction of the branching tree The branching tree was constructed in [1] to study \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} . We now provide details of its construction. Suppose $x \in I_q$ and $\Omega_q(x)$ (or $\Sigma_q(x)$) is infinite. There exists a unique minimal $\mathbf{a} \in \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n$ such that $\mathbf{a}(x) \in S_q$. Then there are two possibilities.

Case 1: There exists a unique $i \in \{0, 1\}$ such that $\Omega_q(T_{q,i}(\mathbf{a}(x)))$ is finite and $\Omega_q(T_{q,1-i}(\mathbf{a}(x)))$ is infinite. In this case, we draw a horizontal line of finite length that then bifurcates with an upper and lower branch. The lower branch corresponds to $T_{q,i}(\mathbf{a}(x))$ and stops bifurcating, the upper branch corresponds to $T_{q,1-i}(\mathbf{a}(x))$ and goes on bifurcating.

Case 2: Both $\Omega_q(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{a}(x)))$ and $\Omega_q(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{a}(x)))$ are infinite. In this case, we draw a horizontal line of finite length that then bifurcates with an upper and lower branch. The lower branch corresponds to $T_{q,0}(\mathbf{a}(x))$, the upper branch corresponds to $T_{q,1}(\mathbf{a}(x))$. Both of them go on bifurcating.

If $\Omega_q(T_{q,i}(\mathbf{a}(x)))$ is infinite, as in Case 1 or Case 2, then there exists a unique minimal $\mathbf{a}' \in \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n$ such that point $\mathbf{a}'(T_{q,i}(\mathbf{a}(x)))$ goes to Case 1 or Case 2 again. This procedure continues indefinitely. The infinite tree we construct by repeating this process is known as the infinite branching tree corresponding to x . Fig.1 illustrates the bifurcating procedure.

Figure 1: The flow chart of the bifurcating procedure corresponding to $x \in I_q$

A point x for which $\Sigma_q(x)$ is infinite is said to be a q null infinite point if for each branching point of x , $\mathbf{a}(x)$ never goes to Case 2. It is easy to check that if x is a q null infinite point then $\#\Sigma_q(x) = \aleph_0$. The q null infinite points have a critical role in the proofs of the main results of [1].

Lemma A [1, Proposition 2.7] $q \in \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0}$ if and only if I_q contains a q null infinite point

Given $\min \mathcal{B}_2 = \tilde{q} \approx 1.71064$, $\min \mathcal{B}_k = q_f \approx 1.75488$ for $k \geq 3$, and $\mathcal{B}_2 \cap (\tilde{q}, q_f] = \{q_f\}$ we have that if $q \in (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, q_f) \setminus \{\tilde{q}\}$ and x is a q null infinite point, then for each branching point of x , $\mathbf{a}(x)$, we have $\#\Omega_q(T_{q,i}(\mathbf{a}(x))) = \aleph_0$ and $\#\Omega_q(T_{q,1-i}(\mathbf{a}(x))) = 1$. Which implies the following inclusion

$$\left\{ \mathbf{a}(x) : \mathbf{a}(x) \in S_q, \mathbf{a} \in \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n \right\} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap S_q. \quad (2)$$

Here U_q denotes the set of $x \in I_q$ having a unique q -expansion.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to deal with the set S_q . However, by some deductions we can restrict ourselves to a smaller set $J_q := [\frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}, \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1}] \subseteq S_q$. $J_q = S_q$ if and only if $q = q_f$.

Lemma B [1, Lemma 3.1] Let $q \in [\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, q_f)$. Suppose $x \in I_q$ satisfies $\#\Sigma_q(x) > 1$, then there exists a finite sequence of transformations \mathbf{a} such that $\mathbf{a}(x) \in J_q$. Here $q_f (\approx 1.75488)$ is the positive root of $x^3 - 2x^2 - 1 = 0$.

Proposition 2.2 is devoted to characterizing the set $\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ when $q \in [q_1, q_3]$. To prove this proposition we need Lemma C and Lemma 2.1.

Lemma C [14, Theorem 2] *Let $q \in (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, q_f)$. Then*

$$U_q = \left\{ \Pi(0^k(10)^\infty), \Pi(1^k(10)^\infty), 0, \frac{1}{q-1} \right\}.$$

Where $k \geq 0$.

Set

$$\mathbf{y}_j = \Pi(01^j(10)^\infty) \text{ and } \mathbf{z}_j = \Pi(10^j(01)^\infty)$$

for $j \geq 1$. Here and hereafter we let $(S_q \setminus J_q)_L = [\frac{1}{q}, \frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}]$ and $(S_q \setminus J_q)_R = (\frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1}, \frac{1}{q^2-q}]$.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $q \in [q_1, q_3]$. Then the following hold:*

- (i) $\mathbf{y}_j \in J_q$ if and only if $\mathbf{z}_j \in J_q$, and $\mathbf{y}_j \in (S_q \setminus J_q)_R$ if and only if $\mathbf{z}_j \in (S_q \setminus J_q)_L$.
- (ii) $T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) \in J_q$ if and only if $T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) \in J_q$, and $T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) \in (S_q \setminus J_q)_R$ if and only if $T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) \in (S_q \setminus J_q)_L$;
- (iii) $T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) = \mathbf{y}_k$ if and only if $T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) = \mathbf{z}_k$, and $T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) = \mathbf{z}_k$ if and only if $T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) = \mathbf{y}_k$. Here $j \geq 1$ and $k \geq 1$.

Proof. Direct computation shows the following equations hold.

$$\mathbf{y}_j - \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} = -\mathbf{z}_j + \frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}, \quad \mathbf{y}_j - \frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1} = \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} - \mathbf{z}_j, \quad \frac{1}{q^2-q} - \mathbf{y}_j = \mathbf{z}_j - \frac{1}{q}, \quad (3)$$

$$T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) - \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} = -T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) + \frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}, \quad (4)$$

$$T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) - \frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1} = \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} - T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)), \quad \frac{1}{q^2-q} - T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) = T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) - \frac{1}{q}. \quad (5)$$

(i) is implied by equation (3), and (ii) is implied by equations (4) and (5).

Simplifying $T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) = \mathbf{y}_k$ and $T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) = \mathbf{z}_k$, we see that they are both equivalent to

$$(1 + 2q^{-1} - q - q^{-1-j} - q^{-2-m} - q^{-1-m} + q^{-2-k-m})(q^2 - 1)^{-1} = 0.$$

Similarly, simplifying $T_{q,0}^m(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_j)) = \mathbf{z}_k$ and $T_{q,1}^m(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_j)) = \mathbf{y}_k$, we see that they are both equivalent to

$$(-1 - 2q^{-1} + q + q^{-1-j} - q^{-2-m} + q^{-2-k-m} + q^{-m})(q^2 - 1)^{-1} = 0.$$

Thus we obtain (iii). □

Proposition 2.2. *Let $q \in [q_1, q_3]$. Then we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q &= \{\mathbf{y}_j, \mathbf{z}_j, 1 \leq j \leq 3\} = \{\Pi(01^j(10)^\infty), \Pi(10^j(01)^\infty), 1 \leq j \leq 3\}, \\ \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap (S_q \setminus J_q)_R &= \{\mathbf{y}_j, j \geq 4, 1/(q^2 - q)\} = \{\Pi(01^j(10)^\infty), j \geq 4, 1/(q^2 - q)\}, \\ \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap (S_q \setminus J_q)_L &= \{\mathbf{z}_j, j \geq 4, 1/q\} = \{\Pi(10^j(01)^\infty), j \geq 4, 1/q\}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. It follows from Lemma C that

$$\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) = \left\{ \Pi(0^j(10)^\infty), \Pi(01^{j-1}(10)^\infty), \Pi(10^{j-1}(10)^\infty), \Pi(1^j(10)^\infty), 0, \frac{1}{q^2-q}, \frac{1}{q}, \frac{1}{q-1} \right\}.$$

Here $j \geq 1$. Then by some straightforward computation we have

$$\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap S_q = \left\{ \mathbf{y}_j, \mathbf{z}_j, j \geq 1, \frac{1}{q^2-q}, \frac{1}{q} \right\}. \quad (6)$$

Next, we prove that

$$\mathbf{y}_j - \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} \begin{cases} \leq 0 & \text{when } j < 4 \\ > 0 & \text{when } j \geq 4 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

when $q \in [q_1, q_3]$. It suffices to show that

$$q^{-1} + q + q^2 - q^3 - q^{-1-j} - q^{1-j} \begin{cases} \leq 0 & \text{when } j < 4 \\ > 0 & \text{when } j \geq 4. \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

By noting that

$$\mathbf{y}_j - \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} = (q^{-1} + q + q^2 - q^3 - q^{-1-j} - q^{1-j})(q^4-1)^{-1},$$

we see that (8) is equivalent to

$$\ln \frac{(q^2+1)}{-q^4+q^3+q^2+1} (\ln q)^{-1} \begin{cases} \geq j & \text{when } j < 4 \\ < j & \text{when } j \geq 4. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

The inequalities in (9) are true when $q \in [q_1, q_3]$, since $\ln \frac{(q^2+1)}{-q^4+q^3+q^2+1} (\ln q)^{-1}$ is strictly increasing on the interval $[q_1, q_4]$, and $\ln \frac{(q_4^2+1)}{-q_4^4+q_4^3+q_4^2+1} (\ln q_4)^{-1} = 4$ and $\ln \frac{(q_1^2+1)}{-q_1^4+q_1^3+q_1^2+1} (\ln q_1)^{-1} = 3$. Here $q_4 (\approx 1.69784)$ is the positive root of $x^7 - x^5 - x^4 - 2x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. A direct computation shows that $\mathbf{y}_j \in [\frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}, \frac{1}{q^2-q}]$ for all $j \geq 1$. This statement combined with (7) shows that $\mathbf{y}_j \in J_q$ if $1 \leq j \leq 3$ and $\mathbf{y}_j \in (S_q \setminus J_q)_R$ if $j \geq 4$. Using (i) of Lemma 2.1, we also have $\mathbf{z}_j \in J_q$ if $1 \leq j \leq 3$ and $\mathbf{z}_j \in (S_q \setminus J_q)_L$ if $j \geq 4$. Our proof now follows from (6). \square

3 Proof of Theorem 1.2

In this section we shall give a algorithm to find all elements of the set $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap [q_1, q_3]$. Recall that $\min \mathcal{B}_2 = \tilde{q} \approx 1.71064$.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $q \in [q_1, q_f] \setminus \{\tilde{q}\}$ and suppose $\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ is a finite set. Then $q \in \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0}$ if and only if there exists $w \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ satisfying the following two properties.*

(i) *There exist a finite sequence of transformations $\mathbf{b} \in \bigcup_{n=0}^\infty \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n$ such that*

$$\mathbf{b}(w) = w.$$

(ii) Let \mathbf{b} be as above. Define

$$B(w) := \{\mathbf{b}|i : \mathbf{b}|i(w) \in S_q, 1 \leq i \leq |\mathbf{b}|\}.$$

Then $B(w) \subset \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap S_q$. Here $|\mathbf{b}|$ denotes the length of \mathbf{b} .

Proof. We begin with the rightwards implication. Suppose $q \in \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0}$. By Lemma A, there exists $x \in (0, \frac{1}{q-1})$ such that x is a q null infinite point. Furthermore, we may assume $x \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ by Lemma B and equation (2). Repeatedly applying Lemma B and equation (2), there exist $\mathbf{a}^1, \dots, \mathbf{a}^m \in \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n$ satisfying

$$\mathbf{a}^i(\mathbf{a}^{i-1}(\dots(\mathbf{a}^1(x))\dots)) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$$

for each $1 \leq i \leq m$. Note that the set $\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ is finite. Therefore by the pigeonhole principle for m sufficiently large, there must exist $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$ with $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ such that

$$\mathbf{a}^j(\mathbf{a}^{j-1}(\dots(\mathbf{a}^1(x))\dots)) = \mathbf{a}^i(\mathbf{a}^{i-1}(\dots(\mathbf{a}^1(x))\dots)). \quad (10)$$

Set $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a}^{i+1} \dots \mathbf{a}^j$, $\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \mathbf{a}^1 \dots \mathbf{a}^i$ and suppose $\hat{\mathbf{a}}(x) = w$, here $w \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$. Then equation (10) implies that

$$\mathbf{b}(w) = w.$$

Since x is a q null infinite point so are all its branching points. Thus we have the second property.

To complete our if and only if it suffices to remark that (i) and (ii) imply that w is a q null infinite point. So $q \in \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0}$. \square

Now we search for all points belonging to $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap [q_1, q_3]$ by applying Theorem 3.1. Suppose x is a q null infinite point and $x \in J_q$. First we point out that

$$\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q = \{\mathbf{y}_j = \Pi(01^j(10)^\infty), \mathbf{z}_j = \Pi(10^j(01)^\infty), 1 \leq j \leq 3\}$$

when $q \in [q_1, q_3]$ by Proposition 2.2. By Theorem 3.1, we only need to consider the behavior of elements of $\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ under maps belonging to $\bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q,0}, T_{q,1}\}^n$. Without loss of generality we only need to consider the points \mathbf{y}_j , for $1 \leq j \leq 3$. We establish the following lemma.

Lemma 3.2. (i) If $q \in [q_1, q_3]$ and \mathbf{y}_1 is a q null infinite point, then

$$T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}^j(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) \in L_q, j = 1, 2, \quad T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q \quad (11)$$

(ii) If $q \in [q_1, q']$ then \mathbf{y}_2 is not a q null infinite point. If $q \in [q', q_3]$ and \mathbf{y}_2 is a q null infinite point, then

$$T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q. \quad (12)$$

Here $q'(\approx 1.66184)$ is the positive root of $x^5 - x^3 - x^2 - 2x - 2 = 0$.

(iii) If $q = q_1$ and \mathbf{y}_3 is a q null infinite point, then

$$T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q. \quad (13)$$

If $q \in (q_1, q_3]$ and \mathbf{y}_3 is a q null infinite point, then q must be q_3 or $q''(\approx 1.67365)$, the positive root of $x^5 - 2x^4 + x^3 - x^2 + x - 1 = 0$.

Proof. Direct computation yields (i). We prove (ii) now. A simple computation yields

$$T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) \in \begin{cases} \left[\frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}, \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} \right] & \text{if } q \in [q', q_3] \\ \left(\frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1}, \frac{1}{q^2-q} \right] & \text{if } q \in [q_1, q'). \end{cases}$$

Here $q'(\approx 1.66184)$ is the positive root of $x^5 - x^3 - x^2 - 2x - 2 = 0$. Thus we obtain (12). We now assume \mathbf{y}_2 is q null infinite for some $q \in [q_1, q')$ and derive a contradiction. If \mathbf{y}_2 is a q null infinite point for some $q \in [q_1, q')$ then $T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap (S_q \setminus J_q)_R$ and it can be shown that

$$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)))) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q.$$

Therefore by Proposition 2.2 there exists $s \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap (S_q \setminus J_q)_R = \{\mathbf{y}_k, k \geq 4, 1/(q^2 - q)\}$ and $u \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ such that

$$T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) = s \quad \text{and} \quad T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)))) = u. \quad (14)$$

We will show that this is not possible. That is \mathbf{y}_2 is not a q null infinite point when $q \in [q_1, q')$. In fact,

$$T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) = s$$

means that

$$q^5 - q^4 - 2q^3 + 2q + 1 = q^{-k}.$$

That is

$$k = \frac{-\ln(q^5 - q^4 - 2q^3 + 2q + 1)}{\ln q}.$$

The function $-\ln(q^5 - q^4 - 2q^3 + 2q + 1)(\ln q)^{-1}$ is strictly decreasing on the interval $[q_1, q')$. Table 1 therefore implies that the only possible value of k that may occur within the interval $[q_1, q')$ is $k = 4$. It is not possible that $s = 1/(q^2 - q)$, since $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{y}_k = 1/(q^2 - q)$ and $-\ln(q^5 - q^4 - 2q^3 + 2q + 1)(\ln q)^{-1}$ is monotonic. Table 1 includes the values of q for which $T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)))) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$. Inspecting Table 1 shows that there are no values of q for which both equations in (14) hold. Therefore we may conclude (ii).

Table 1: the values of q for \mathbf{y}_2

	k	q	Polynomials
$T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) = \mathbf{y}_k$	4	1.65027	$x^4 - x^3 - x^2 - x + 1$
	5	1.63923	$x^6 - 2x^4 - 2x^3 + x + 1$
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)))) = \mathbf{y}_k$	1	1.65637	$x^5 - 2x^3 - x^2 - x - 1$
	2	1.64308	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - 1$
	3	1.63420	$x^7 - 2x^5 - x^4 - x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)))) = \mathbf{z}_k$	1	1.64114	$x^2 - x - 1$
	2	1.65363	$x^5 - 2x^3 - x^2 + 1$
	3	1.66065	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 + 1$

It remains to prove (iii). By direct computation, we have

$$T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3) \in L_q, \quad T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) \in \begin{cases} \left[\frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1}, \frac{1+q^3}{q^4-1} \right] & \text{if } q = q_1 \\ \left[\frac{1}{q}, \frac{q+q^2}{q^4-1} \right) & \text{if } q \in (q_1, q_3] \end{cases}$$

and we obtain (13). Furthermore if \mathbf{y}_3 is a q null infinite point for some $q \in (q_1, q_3]$ then it is straightforward to show that

$$T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)))) \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q.$$

Moreover, there must exist $s \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap (S_q \setminus J_q)_L = \{\mathbf{z}_k, k \geq 4, 1/q\}$ and $u \in \bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ such that

$$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = s \quad \text{and} \quad T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)))) = u. \quad (15)$$

The equation $T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = s$ means that

$$k = \frac{-\ln(1 - q^{-1} + q^2 + q^3 - q^4)}{\ln q}.$$

The function $-\ln(1 - q^{-1} + q^2 + q^3 - q^4)(\ln q)^{-1}$ is strictly increasing on the interval (q_1, q_3) and

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow q_3} -\ln(1 - q^{-1} + q^2 + q^3 - q^4)(\ln q)^{-1} = +\infty. \quad (16)$$

Table 2 records the first few solutions of $-\ln(1 - q^{-1} + q^2 + q^3 - q^4)(\ln q)^{-1} = k$. It is easy to show that the case where $s = 1/q$ is only possible when $q = q_3$. In Table 2, we also list the q 's for which $T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)))) = u$ holds. By inspecting Table 2 and using the fact $-\ln(1 - q^{-1} + q^2 + q^3 - q^4)(\ln q)^{-1}$ is increasing with q , we see that the only values of q for which both equations in (15) hold simultaneously are $q \approx 1.67365$ and when $q = q_3$.

□

Table 3 lists the values of q for which equations (11-13, 15) hold true independently. In fact, it follows from Lemma 3.2 and the symmetric property of \mathbf{y}_k and \mathbf{z}_k shown in Lemma 2.1 that equations in (11-13, 15) give all the possible values of q such that $q \in \mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{N}_0} \cap [q_1, q_3]$.

Table 2: the values of q for \mathbf{y}_3

	k	q	Polynomials
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = \mathbf{z}_k$	4	1.66041	$x^6 - x^5 - x^3 - x^2 - 1$
	5	1.66883	$x^8 - x^6 - x^5 - 2x^4 - x^3 - x^2 - x - 1$
	6	1.67365	$x^5 - 2x^4 + x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$
	7	1.67644	$x^{10} - x^8 - x^7 - 2x^6 - x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = q^{-1}$		1.68042	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1$
$T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)))) = \mathbf{y}_k$	1	1.68042	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1$
	2	1.65963	$x^7 - 2x^5 - x^4 - x^3 + x + 1$
	3	1.64541	$x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)))) = \mathbf{z}_k$	1	1.65462	$x^6 - 2x^4 - x^3 - 1$
	2	1.67365	$x^5 - 2x^4 + x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$
	3	1.68400	$x^8 - 2x^6 - x^5 - x^2 - x - 1$

We are now ready to prove Theorem 1.2.

Proof of Theorem 1.2. By applying Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 3.2, we can find all points belonging to $\mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0} \cap [q_1, q_3]$ in Table 3. One can see from Table 3 that

$$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = \mathbf{z}_3, T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_3)) = \mathbf{y}_3, T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)))) = \mathbf{y}_3,$$

when $q_1 (\approx 1.64541)$, which is the positive root of $x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$,

$$T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) = \mathbf{z}_1, T_{q,1}^3(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_1)) = \mathbf{y}_1, T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}^4(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_1))) = \mathbf{z}_1,$$

when $q_2 (\approx 1.65462)$, which is the positive root of $x^6 - 2x^4 - x^3 - 1 = 0$, and

$$T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) = \mathbf{y}_1,$$

when $q_3 (\approx 1.68042)$, which is the positive root of $x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1 = 0$. So, the conditions in Theorem 3.1 are satisfied when $q = q_1, q_2, q_3$, respectively. That is $q_j \in \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0}$ for each $1 \leq j \leq 3$.

Finally, it is easy to check that $q \notin \mathcal{B}_{\aleph_0}$ if q takes the values listed in Table 3, except when $q = q_j, 1 \leq j \leq 3$. For example, we have

$$T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) = \mathbf{y}_2$$

when $q (\approx 1.65963)$ is the positive root of $x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1 = 0$. However, there exists no point in $\bigcup_{i=0}^1 T_{q,i}^{-1}(U_q) \cap J_q$ such that condition (i) of Theorem 3.1 holds for this value of q . The other values of q are dealt with similarly. \square

4 Proof of Theorem 1.1

To prove Theorem 1.1 it suffices to prove 1 has \aleph_0 q -expansions when $q = q_3$ and 1 a continuum of q -expansions when $q = q_1$ and $q = q_2$. We only prove the case of $q = q_1$, the case of $q = q_2$ can be verified in a similar way.

Table 3: the values of q for \mathbf{y}_k and $\mathbf{z}_k, 1 \leq k \leq 3$

	k	q	Polynomials
$T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) = \mathbf{y}_k$ (or $T_{q,1}^3(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_1)) = \mathbf{z}_k$)	1	1.68042	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1$
	2	1.65963	$x^7 - 2x^5 - x^4 - x^3 + x + 1$
	3	1.64541	$x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,0}^3(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_1)) = \mathbf{z}_k$ (or $T_{q,1}^3(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_1)) = \mathbf{y}_k$)	1	1.65462	$x^6 - 2x^4 - x^3 - 1$
	2	1.67365	$x^5 - 2x^4 + x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$
	3	1.68400	$x^8 - 2x^6 - x^5 - x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) = \mathbf{y}_k$ (or $T_{q,1}^2(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_2)) = \mathbf{z}_k$)	1	1.72208	$x^4 - x^3 - x^2 - x + 1$
	2	1.68929	$x^6 - 2x^4 - 2x^3 + x + 1$
	3	1.6663	$x^6 - x^5 - x^4 - x^3 + x^2 + 1$
$T_{q,0}^2(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_2)) = \mathbf{z}_k$ (or $T_{q,1}^2(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_2)) = \mathbf{y}_k$)	1	1.67602	$x^5 - 2x^3 - x^2 - 1$
	2	1.7049	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - 1$
	3	1.72004	$x^7 - 2x^5 - x^4 - x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = \mathbf{z}_k$ (or $T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_3)) = \mathbf{y}_k$)	3	1.64541	$x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1$
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = \mathbf{z}_6, T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_6)) = \mathbf{z}_2$ (or $T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_3)) = \mathbf{y}_6, T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_6)) = \mathbf{y}_2$)		1.67365	$x^5 - 2x^4 + x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$
$T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(\mathbf{y}_3)) = 1/q, T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(1/q)) = \mathbf{y}_1$ (or $T_{q,1}(T_{q,0}(\mathbf{z}_3)) = 1/(q^2 - q), T_{q,0}(T_{q,1}(1/(q^2 - q))) = \mathbf{z}_1$)		1.68042	$x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1$

Theorem 4.1. *If $q_3(\approx 1.68042)$ is the positive root of $x^5 - x^4 - x^3 - x + 1 = 0$. Then 1 is a q_3 null infinite point and therefore has \aleph_0 q_3 -expansions.*

Proof. It is straightforward to show that for all $k \geq 0$

$$(T_{q_3,0}^3 \circ T_{q_3,1})^k(T_{q_3,1}(1)) \in S_{q_3}.$$

Moreover these are the only $\mathbf{a} \in \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} \{T_{q_3,0}, T_{q_3,1}\}^n$ such that $\mathbf{a}(1) \in S_{q_3}$. This is sufficient to imply that 1 is a q_3 null infinite point. Namely that for each $k \geq 0$ we have

$$T_{q_3,0} \left((T_{q_3,0}^3 \circ T_{q_3,1})^k(T_{q_3,1}(1)) \right) = \Pi(1(10)^\infty).$$

Therefore

$$\Sigma_{q_3}(1) = \{1(10^3)^k 01(10)^\infty, 1(10^3)^\infty\}.$$

□

Figure 2 demonstrates the construction of $\Sigma_{q_3}(1)$.

Theorem 4.2. *Let $q_1(\approx 1.64541)$ be the positive solution of the equation $x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. Then 1 has 2^{\aleph_0} q_1 -expansions.*

Proof. We proceed via a proof by contradiction. We assume that 1 has \aleph_0 q_1 -expansions and obtain a contradiction. It is a simple calculation to show that

$$w := (T_{q_1,0}^5 \circ T_{q_1,1}^2)(1) \in S_{q_1}.$$

Figure 2: The construction of $\Sigma_{q_3}(1)$

Therefore w has either \aleph_0 q_1 -expansions or 2^{\aleph_0} q_1 -expansions. Since we have assumed 1 has \aleph_0 q_1 -expansions, w must also have \aleph_0 q_1 -expansions. Therefore w can be mapped to a q_1 null infinite point, and by Lemma *C* it can be mapped to a point with a periodic q_1 -expansion. The above implies that 1 has a q_1 expansion that begins $(1100000(\delta_i)_{i=1}^\infty)$ where $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^\infty$ is eventually periodic. This is obviously equivalent to

$$1 = \frac{1}{q_1} + \frac{1}{q_1^2} + \frac{1}{q_1^7} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta_i}{q_1^i}. \quad (17)$$

Since $(\delta_i)_{i=1}^\infty$ is eventually periodic we may use properties of geometric series to deduce that (17) is equivalent to

$$1 = \frac{1}{q_1} + \frac{1}{q_1^2} + \frac{f(q_1)}{g(q_1)} \quad (18)$$

where $f(x), g(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. Equation (18) is just an algebraic relation and so must also be satisfied by the conjugates of q_1 , that is the other roots of $x^6 - x^4 - x^3 - 2x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. We now show that this cannot be the case for a particular choice of conjugate, namely $q_1^* \approx -1.20458$. Equation (18) is equivalent to equation (17), so (17) must also hold with q_1 replaced by q_1^* . We observe the following

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{q_1^*} + \frac{1}{(q_1^*)^2} + \frac{1}{(q_1^*)^7} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\delta_i}{(q_1^*)^i} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{q_1^*} + \frac{1}{(q_1^*)^2} + \frac{1}{(q_1^*)^7} \frac{q_1^*}{(q_1^*)^2 - 1} \\ &< 1. \end{aligned}$$

Where the final strict inequality follows from a simple calculation. Thus we have our desired contradiction. \square

The proof that $q_2 \notin \mathcal{B}_{1, \aleph_0}$ is done analogously. In this case we similarly use a conjugate of q_2 , namely the number $q_2^* \approx -1.26493$.

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