

Iterates of the logistic map $y = f(x) = r*(1-x)*x$; $0 < r < 4$;
 for various values of r . Note that
 f is a polynomial of degree $2 = 2^1$.
 f^2 is a polynomial of degree $4 = 2^2$.
 f^3 is a polynomial of degree $8 = 2^3$.

quad_f2.pdf

The pictures in this file illustrate the behavior of the second
 iterate of the logistic map, $f^2(x) = f(f(x))$,
 as r grows from 0 to 4.

quad_f3.pdf

The pictures in this file illustrate the behavior of the third
 iterate of the logistic map, $f^3(x) = f(f(f(x)))$,
 as r grows from 0 to 4.

SelfSimQuad.pdf

The pictures in this file illustrate the approx. self-similarity
 of $f^2 = f(f(x))$ as r grows. It does so by showing the behavior of
 $y^2 = f^2(x)$ for $2 < r < r_0$,

and the region $1/r < x < 1-1/r$,

where the y^2 takes values $1/r < y^2 < 1-1/r$.

Here the map reproduces the behavior of $y = f(x)$ for $0 < r < 4$
 (reversed).

Of course, then the second iterate of f^2 (i.e.: f^4) also has a
 region reproducing the behavior of $y = f(x)$, and so on. This
 self-similarity is what is behind the geometric nature of the
 period-2 doubling cascade, characterized by the "universal"
 Feigenbaum numbers.

Notes:

$r = 2$ and $r = r_0 = 3.6785735...$ are the boundaries of the region
 where $y^2(1/2) \geq 1/r$.

The boundaries are the real solutions of the equation $y^2(1/2) = 1/r$.
 This yields a 4-th order polynomial equation, with one trivial real
 solution ($r=2$). The other real solution is r_0 .

The range $2 < r < r_0$ includes the full period doubling and
 chaotic limit region, but stops well before the period 6 window.

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