Salem numbers, Siegel disks, and automorphisms of K3 surfaces

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Salem numbers

arXiv:1408.0195 Chris Smyth, Survey article: Seventy years of Salem numbers.

DEFINITION: A Salem number is a real algebraic number $\lambda > 1$ which is Galois conjugate to λ^{-1} , such that the rest of its conjugates satisfy $|\lambda_i| = 1$.

REMARK: Since λ and λ^{-1} have the same minimal polynomial $P(t) = t^n + a_{n-1}t^{n-1} + ... + a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$, this polynomial is **palindromic:** $a_i = a_{n-i}$, and $a_0 = 1$.

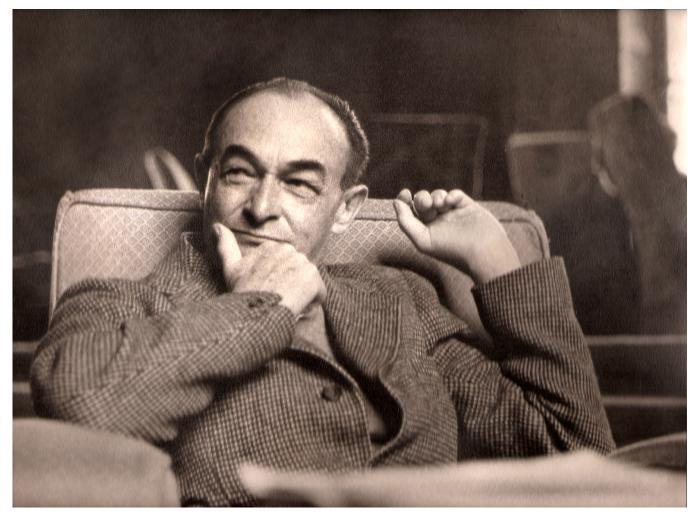
LEMMA: (Salem)

Let $\lambda>1$ be a real algebraic number such that all its conjugates belong to the closed disk $|z|\leqslant 1$, with at least one on its boundary. Then λ is a Salem number.

Proof: Let τ be the Galois conjugate on the boundary, then $\tau^{-1} = \overline{\tau}$ is also a conjugate. Therefore, λ is conjugate to λ^{-1} , and all other conjugates ν are conjugate to ν^{-1} . Since both ν and ν^{-1} belong to the disk $|z| \leq 1$, they lie on its boundary.

REMARK: If λ is a Salem number, all its integer powers λ^k , $k \neq 0$, are also Salem numbers. Indeed, the Galois conjugates of λ^k are powers of Galois conjugates of λ .

Raphaël Salem (1898-1963)



Raphaël Salem (1898-1963)

Salem, R. Algebraic numbers and Fourier analysis, Heath mathematical monographs, 1963

Number fields containing Salem numbers

DEFINITION: An arithmetic field is a finite extension of \mathbb{Q} . An arithmentic field is **totally real** if the images of all its embeddings to \mathbb{C} belong to \mathbb{R} . **THEOREM:** (Salem)

A number field K is generated by a Salem number τ if and only if it contains an index 2 totally real subfield $K_1 = \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$, such that $\alpha > 2$ is an irrational real algebraic integer, and all its Galois conjugates belong to the interval]-2,2[.

Proof. Step 1: Let $\alpha := \tau + \tau^{-1}$. Then all Galois conjugates of α are $\nu + \overline{\nu}$, where ν is on a circle, hence they are real and belong to]-2,2[. We proved that $\mathbb{Q}[\tau]$ is degree 2 extension of a totally real field $K_1 = \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$.

Step 2: Conversely, consider an index 2 totally real subfield $K_1=\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$ with the above properties, and let τ be the solution of the quadratic equation $\tau+\tau^{-1}=\alpha$. Then all its Galois conjugates satisfy $\tau_1+\tau_1^{-1}=\alpha_1$, where $\alpha_1\in]-2,2[$. The quadratic equation $\tau_1^2-\alpha_1\tau_1+1=0$ has discriminant $\alpha_1^2-4<0$, hence it has two complex conjugate solutions; since these solutions are inverse, they lie on a circle. The number τ is a solution of $\tau^2-\alpha\tau+1=0$ which has positive discriminant α^2-4 giving $\tau=\frac{\alpha+\sqrt{\alpha^2-4}}{2}$. Then $\tau>\alpha>1$ and its inverse $\tau^{-1}=\frac{\alpha-\sqrt{\alpha^2-4}}{2}$ is its Galois conjugate.

Example of a Salem number

EXAMPLE: The argument of the last step gives a way to construct explicit examples of Salem numbers. Let $\alpha = x + \sqrt{y} > 1$ be a real quadratic irrational number such that $x - \sqrt{y} \in]-2,2[$. Then, as follows from Step 2, the solution τ of the equation $\tau + \tau^{-1} = \alpha$ is a Salem number. One of the numbers which have this property is $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{5})$; since $\sqrt{5} \approx 2.23607$, $\alpha \approx 2.6$ and its Galois conjugate $\frac{1}{2}(3 - \sqrt{5}) \approx 0.4$.

Salem numbers contained in number fields

THEOREM: (Salem)

Let K be a number field generated by a Salem number τ . Then for any Salem number $\tau' \in K$, $\tau \neq \tau'$, the fraction $\frac{\tau}{\tau'}$ is also a Salem number.

Proof. Step 1: Let $\alpha := \tau + \tau^{-1}$. Since $\mathbb{Q}(\tau)$ is a quadratic extension of $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$, we can write $\tau' = p(\alpha) + \tau q(\alpha)$, for some polynomials $p, q \in \mathbb{Q}[z]$. We are going to show that τ' has the same degree as τ . Otherwise, some real conjugates $\tau'_i = p(\alpha_i) + \tau_i q(\alpha_i)$ would be real for τ_i non-real, implying that q = 0, which is impossible.

Step 2: The element τ' is expressed polynomially through τ : $\tau' = P(\tau)$, where $P \in \mathbb{Q}[z]$. Consider the Galois element ι which takes τ to τ^{-1} . This automorphism maps τ' to a real conjugate of τ' , because P has rational coefficients. The only real conjugates of τ' are τ' and $(\tau')^{-1}$. Since τ' has the same degree as τ , it cannot be fixed by ι , which implies $\iota(\tau') = (\tau')^{-1}$.

Step 3: We obtained that $\tau \tau'$ is conjugate to its reciprocal. Since the rest of conjugates of τ and τ' lie on the circle, the same is true for $\tau \tau'$, hence it is a Salem number.

The hyperbolic space and its isometries

REMARK: The group O(m,n), m,n > 0 has 4 connected components. We denote the connected component of 1 by $SO^+(m,n)$. We call a vector v positive if its square is positive.

DEFINITION: Let V be a vector space with quadratic form q of signature (1,n), $Pos(V) = \{x \in V \mid q(x,x) > 0\}$ its **positive cone**, and \mathbb{P}^+V projectivization of Pos(V). Denote by g any SO(V)-invariant Riemannian structure on \mathbb{P}^+V . Then (\mathbb{P}^+V,g) is called **hyperbolic space**, and the group $SO^+(V)$ the group of oriented hyperbolic isometries.

Classification of hyperbolic isometries

Theorem-definition: Let n > 0, and $\alpha \in SO^+(1,n)$ is a non-trivial oriented isometry acting on $V = \mathbb{R}^{1,n}$. Then one and only one of these three cases occurs

- (i) α has an eigenvector x with q(x,x) > 0 (α is "elliptic isometry")
- (ii) α has an eigenvector x with q(x,x)=0 and a real eigenvalue λ_x satisfying $|\lambda_x|>1$ (α is "hyperbolic isometry")
- (iii) α has a unique eigenvector x with q(x,x)=0 (α is "parabolic isometry").

REMARK: All eigenvalues of elliptic and parabolic isometries have absolute value 1. **Hyperbolic and elliptic isometries are semisimple** (that is, diagonalizable over \mathbb{C}), parabolic are not.

DEFINITION: The quadric $\{l \in \mathbb{P}V \mid q(l,l) = 0\}$ is called **the absolute**. It is realized as the boundary of the hyperbolic space \mathbb{P}^+V . Then **elliptic** isometries have no fixed points on the absolute, parabolic isometries have 1 fixed point on the absolute, and hyperbolic isometries have 2.

Hyperbolic lattices

DEFINITION: A quadratic lattice (Λ, q) is \mathbb{Z}^n equipped with \mathbb{Z} -valued quadratic form q. An arithmetic hyperbolic lattice is the group of $O(\Lambda, q)$ isometries of (Λ, q) of signature (1, n - 1).

REMARK: Clearly, $O(\Lambda,q)\subset O(1,n-1)$, hence $O(\Lambda,q)$ acts on the hyperbolic space \mathbb{H}^{n-1} by isometries. It is possible to show that the Haar measure of the quotient $\frac{O(1,n-1)}{O(\Lambda,q)}$ is finite, and the Riemannian volume of the quotient $\frac{\mathbb{H}^{n-1}}{O(\Lambda,q)}$ is also finite.

DEFINITION: Let $\Gamma \subset O(1, n-1)$ be a discrete subgroup. It is called a lattice subgroup if the Haar measure of the quotient $\frac{O(1, n-1)}{\Gamma}$ is finite.

DEFINITION: It is not hard to see that the Riemannian volume of \mathbb{H}^{n-1}/Γ is finite if and only if it is a lattice. In this situation, the quotient \mathbb{H}^{n-1}/Γ is called a hyperbolic manifold.

Salem numbers and hyperbolic automorphisms

PROPOSITION: Let (Λ,q) be a quadratic lattice of signature (1,n-1), and $O(\Lambda,q)\subset O(1,n-1)$ the corresponding arithmetic subgroup. Consider an element $u\in O(\Lambda,q)$ as an isometry of \mathbb{H}^{n-1} . Suppose that this isometry hyperbolic, and let $\lambda>1$ be the corresponding eigenvalue of u. Then λ is a Salem number.

Proof: By definition, u can be represented by an invertible integer matrix. Let $P(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ be an irreducible factor if its minimal polynomial which satisfies $P(\lambda) = 0$. Since all roots of P(t) except λ and λ^{-1} lie on a circle, λ is a Salem number. \blacksquare

Salem numbers and complex surfaces

DEFINITION: Let M be a complex surface, and $H^2(M) = H^{2,0}(M) \oplus H^{1,1}(M) \oplus H^{0,2}(M)$ its second cohomology with their Hodge decomposition. By Hodge index theorem, the intersection form on $H^{1,1}(M)$ has signature (1,m). An automorphism of M is called hyperbolic, parabolic or elliptic if its action on $H^{1,1}(M)$ is hyperbolic, parabolic or elliptic.

REMARK: If the surface M is also projective, then $H^{1,1}(M)$ can be decomposed onto its integer part $H^{1,1}(M)\cap H^2(M,\mathbb{Z})$, called **the Hodge part**. The Hodge part of $H^{1,1}(M)$ has signature (1,r), by projectivity. Then any hyperbolic automorphism of M acts on $H^{1,1}(M)\cap H^2(M,\mathbb{Z})$ with an eigenvalue λ which satisfies $|\lambda|>1$; as we have shown above, $|\lambda|$ is a Salem number.

This is how Salem numbers crop up in McMullen's work on K3 surfaces.

McMullen, Curtis T. *Dynamics on K3 surfaces: Salem numbers and Siegel disks.* J. Reine Angew. Math. 545 (2002), 201-233.

Siegel disks

DEFINITION: A linear map $A: (z_1, z_2, ..., z_n) \longrightarrow (\lambda_1 z_1, \lambda_2 z_2, ..., \lambda_n z_n)$ is called **an irrational rotation** if $|\lambda_i| = 1$ and the action of A on $(S^1)^n$ has dense orbits. In this case the numbers λ_i are called **multiplicatively independent**.

DEFINITION: We say that a holomorphic self-map $f: M \longrightarrow M$ admits a Siegel disk if f has a fixed point p and a neighbourhood of p admitting coordinates where f acts linearly as an irrational rotation.

THEOREM: (McMullen)

Let M be a complex n-manifold, and $f: M \longrightarrow M$ a holomorphic map which has a fixed point p such that df acts on T_pM as an irrational rotation. Assume that all eigenvalues of this action are algebraic. Then (M, f) admits a Siegel disk.

The proof of this result **takes a lot of number theory,** originally developed by Gel'fond and Fel'dman in their work on Hilbert 7-th problem on transcendence of numbers such as $2^{\sqrt{2}}$.

Diophantine numbers

DEFINITION: Let $\lambda_1,...,\lambda_n$ be non-zero complex numbers. We say that they are **multiplicatively independent** if the only solution of $\prod \lambda_i^{k_i} = 1$ is $k_1 = 0,...,k_n = 0$. We say they are **jointly Diophantine** if there exist numbers C, M > 0 such that for all n-tuples $(k_1,...,k_n) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, we have

$$\left|\prod \lambda_i^{k_i} - 1\right| > C(\max |k_i|)^{-M}.$$

THEOREM: (S. Sternberg, 1961)

Let M be a complex n-manifold, and $f: M \longrightarrow M$ a holomorphic map which has a fixed point p such that df acts on T_pM with jointly Diophantine eigenvalues. Then f can be linearized in a neighbourhood of p. In other words, (M, f) admits a Siegel disk.

THEOREM: (N. I. Fel'dman, 1968)

Let λ_i be multiplicatively algebraic numbers. Chose their logarithms $\log \lambda_i$. Then there exists a positive number M such that

$$|k_0 2\pi \mathbf{1} + k_1 \log \lambda_1 + \dots + k_n \log \lambda_n| > e^{-M(d + \max |k_i|)},$$

where d is the degree of the field generated by λ_i .

COROLLARY: Any collection of multiplicatively independent algebraic numbers **is jointly Diophantine**.

Comparing this result and Sternberg's theorem, we immediately obtain the result of McMullen.

K3 surfaces

DEFINITION: A holomorphically symplectic manifold is a complex manifold equipped with a non-degenerate, holomorphic (2,0)-form.

DEFINITION: Take a 2-dimensional complex torus T, then all 16 singular points of $T/\pm 1$ are of form $\mathbb{C}^2/\pm 1$. Its resolution $T/\pm 1$ is called a Kummer surface. It is holomorphically symplectic.

DEFINITION: A K3 surface is a complex deformation of a Kummer surface.

CLAIM: 1. $\pi_1(K3) = 0$,

- 2. The second homology and cohomology of K3 is torsion-free.
- 3. $b_2(K3) = 22$, and the signature of its intersection form is (3, 19).
- 4. The intersection form of K3 is even, and the corresponding quadratic lattice is $U^3 \oplus (-E_8)^2$, where $U = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and E_8 is the Coxeter matrix for the group E_8 .

THEOREM: Any complex compact surface with $c_1(M) = 0$ and $\pi_1(M) = 0$ is isomorphic to K3. Moreover, it is Kähler.

Siegel disk on K3 surfaces

THEOREM: (McMullen)

Let M be a projective K3 surface, and f its holomorphic automorphism. Then f cannot admit a Siegel disk. Moreover, the set isomorphism classes of K3 surfaces admitting an automorphism with Siegel disk is countable.

DEFINITION: Let f be an automorphism of a K3 surface, and Ω a holomorphic symplectic form of M. Then, clearly, $f^*\Omega$ is proportional to Ω with a complex coefficient: $f^*\Omega = \delta\Omega$. Then δ is called **the determinant** of f.

REMARK: Let f be an automorphism of a K3 surface which admits a Siegel disk with eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 . Then $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = \delta$. In particular, δ is not a root of unity.

THEOREM: (McMullen)

Let M be a non-projective K3 surface, and f its holomorphic automorphism. Assume that $\mathrm{Tr}\,f^*\big|_{H^2(M)}=-1$, and one of its eigenvalues is a Salem number. Assume, moreover, that its determinant δ satisfies $\tau:=\delta+\delta^{-1}>1-2\sqrt{2}$. Assume, finally, that τ has a Galois conjugate τ' such that $\tau'<1-2\sqrt{2}$. Then f has a unique fixed point p. Moreover, (M,f,p) admits a Siegel disk.

Automorphisms of K3 surfaces and Salem numbers

PROPOSITION: Let f be an automorphism of a K3 surface, Then either all eigenvalues of f^* on $H^2(M)$ are roots of unity, or there is a unique, simple eigenvalue λ with $|\lambda| > 1$, and $|\lambda|$ is a Salem number.

Proof. Step 1: Let δ be the determinant of f. Any diffeomorphism of M preserves the volume: $\int_M \operatorname{Vol} = \int_M f^* \operatorname{Vol}$. Choosing $\Omega \wedge \overline{\Omega} = \operatorname{Vol}$, and using $f^* \operatorname{Vol} = \delta \overline{\delta} \operatorname{Vol}$, we obtain that $|\delta| = 1$. Therefore, any eigenvector of $f^*|_{H^2(M,\mathbb{C})}$ belongs to $H^{1,1}(M,\mathbb{R})$. From the classification of the isometries of the hyperbolic space, we obtain that either all eigenvalues of $f^*|_{H^{1,1}(M)}$ satisfy $|\alpha_i| = 1$ or there exists a unique simple eigenvalue λ with $|\lambda| > 1$.

Step 2: In the first case, we use Kronecker's theorem: if an algebraic number α and all its conjugates lie in the unit circle, it is a root of unity.

Step 3: In the second case, the Galois conjugates of λ are roots of the minimal polynomial of $f^*|_{H^2(M)}$, hence they are all eigenvalues of $f^*|_{H^2(M)}$, but there are at most two eigenvalues which do not lie on the circle. Therefore, $|\lambda|$ is a Salem number. \blacksquare

Automorphisms of projective K3 surfaces

The following theorem immediately implies that as projective K3 cannot have Siegel disks.

PROPOSITION: Let f be an automorphism of a projective K3 surface M, and δ its determinant. Then δ is a root of unity.

Proof: Consider the group $NS(M) := H^2(M,\mathbb{Z}) \cap H^{1,1}(M)$. Since M is projective, NS(M) contains a positive vector, hence the group $NS(M) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$, called **the Hodge lattice** has signature (1,k), and its orthogonal complement $\mathbb{T}(M)$, called **the transcendental lattice**, has signature (2,19-k). Since f^* preserves $\text{Re}(H^{2,0}(M) \oplus H^{0,2}(M)) \subset \mathbb{T}(M)$, which has signature (2,0), it belongs to a maximal compact subgroup:

$$f^*|_{\mathbb{T}(M)} \subset O(2) \times O(19-k) \subset O(\mathbb{T}(M) \otimes \mathbb{R}) = O(2,19-k).$$

However, f^* is an integer automorphism of $\mathbb{T}(M)$, hence it lies in a discrete subgroup of $O(\mathbb{T}(M)\otimes\mathbb{R})$. Intersection of a discrete group and a compact group is always finite, hence f^* has finite order on $\mathbb{T}(M)$. This implies that f^* acts Ω as a root of unity. \blacksquare

Hodge structures

DEFINITION: Let $V_{\mathbb{R}}$ be a real vector space. **A** (real) Hodge structure of weight w on a vector space $V_{\mathbb{C}} = V_{\mathbb{R}} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ is a decomposition $V_{\mathbb{C}} = \bigoplus_{p+q=w} V^{p,q}$, satisfying $\overline{V^{p,q}} = V^{q,p}$. It is called rational Hodge structure if one fixes a rational lattice $V_{\mathbb{Q}}$ such that $V_{\mathbb{R}} = V_{\mathbb{Q}} \otimes \mathbb{R}$, and an integer Hodge structure if one fixes an integer lattice $V_{\mathbb{Z}} \subset V_{\mathbb{Q}}$. A Hodge structure is equipped with U(1)-action, with $u \in U(1)$ acting as u^{p-q} on $V^{p,q}$. Morphism of Hodge structures is a rational map which is U(1)-invariant.

DEFINITION: A rational Hodge structure $V_{\mathbb{C}} = \bigoplus_{\substack{p+q=2\\p,q\geqslant 0}} V^{p,q}$ of weight 2 with $\dim V^{2,0} = 1$ is called a Hodge structure of K3 type.

THEOREM: (global Torelli theorem for K3)

Let M be a K3 surface, $q \in \operatorname{Sym}^2(H^2(M)^*)$ the intersection form, and S a Hodge structure $H^2(M) = H^{2,0}(M) \oplus H^{1,1}(M) \oplus H^{0,2}(M)$ of K3 type on $H^2(M)$. Assume that q(l,l) = 0 and $q(l,\bar{l}) > 0$ for a non-zero vector $l \in H^{2,0}(M)$. Then there exists a complex structure on M inducing this Hodge decomposition. Moreover, it is unique up to a diffeomorphism acting trivially on $H^2(M,\mathbb{R})$.

REMARK: This implies that the Teichmüller space of K3 surfaces is $Gr_{++}(H^2(M,\mathbb{R}))$.

Global Torelli for K3 with automorphisms

We use the following version of Torelli theorem.

THEOREM: (global Torelli theorem for K3 with automorphisms)

Let M be a K3 surface, and $\underline{f} \in O^+(H^2(M,\mathbb{Z}),q)$ an isometry of its intersection lattice preserving the orientation in the (3,0)-part. Assume that there exists a Hodge structure on $H^2(M)$ preserved by f, and satisfying q(l,l)=0 and $q(l,\overline{l})>0$ for a non-zero vector $l\in H^{2,0}(M)$. Then there exists a complex structure I on M inducing this Hodge decomposition, and an automorphism f of (M,I) inducing \underline{f} on $H^2(M,\mathbb{R})$. Moreover, the pair (M,I,f) is defined uniquely up to a diffeomorphism acting trivially on $H^2(M,\mathbb{R})$.

Only countably many K3 surfaces admit Siegel disks

THEOREM: (McMullen)

Let $H^2(M,\mathbb{Z}),q$ be an intersection lattice of a K3 surface, and f an automorphism admitting a Siegel disk. Then the action of f on $H^2(M,\mathbb{Z})$ on the transcendental lattice has countably many Hodge structures of K3 type which are compatible with the action of f.

Proof: The action of f on its eigenspace $H^{2,0}(M)$ has an eigenvalue which is conjugate to a Salem number, hence it is a simple eigenvalue. Then $H^{2,0}(M)$ can be one of finitely many simple 1-dimensional eigenspaces of f, and $H^{2,0}(M)$ determines the complex structure by Torelli theorem.

REMARK: This theorem immediately implies that the set of K3 admitting Siegel disks is countable. Indeed, the Hodge lattice is integral, hence there are only countably many choices. The transcendental lattice admits only countably many Hodge decompositions which are compatible with f by the above theorem.

Atyah-Bott fixed point formula

Let f be a holomorphic automorphism of compact Kähler n-manifold, and $L^r(f):=\sum_{s=0}^n (-1)^s \operatorname{Tr} f^*|_{H^{r,s}(M)}$

THEOREM: (Atyah-Bott fixed point formula)

Assume that all fixed points of f are simple. Then

$$L^r(f) = \sum_{p_i} \frac{\operatorname{Tr}\left(Df\big|_{\mathsf{\Lambda}^r T_{p_i} M}\right)}{\det\left(\operatorname{Id} - D_{p_i} f\right)}.$$

where $\{p_i\}$ is the set of fixed points of f.

REMARK: Let f be an automorphism of a K3 surface with a unique fixed point p. Then this formula gives $L^2(f) = 1 + \delta = \frac{\delta}{1 - \text{Tr} D_p f + \delta}$, which can be rewritten as

$$\operatorname{Tr} D_p f = \frac{1 + \delta + \delta^2}{1 + \delta}.$$

Existence of Siegel disks

REMARK: Existence of automorphism of the following type is implied by the Torelli theorem.

THEOREM: (McMullen)

Let M be a non-projective K3 surface, and f its holomorphic automorphism. Assume that $\operatorname{Tr} f^*|_{H^2(M)} = -1$, and one of its eigenvalues is a Salem number. Assume, moreover, that its determinant δ satisfies $\tau := \delta + \delta^{-1} > 1 - 2\sqrt{2}$. Assume, finally, that τ has a Galois conjugate τ' such that $\tau' < 1 - 2\sqrt{2}$. Then f has a unique fixed point p. Moreover, (M,f,p) admits a Siegel disk.

Proof. Step 1: By Lefschetz fixed point formula, f has $1 = \text{Tr } f^*|_{H^2(M)} + 2$ fixed points, hence the fixed point p of f is unique and simple. It remains to find the eigenvalues of dF on T_pM .

Step 2: The eigenvalues α, β of the action of Df on T_pM are computed using the formula $\alpha + \beta = \operatorname{Tr} D_p f = \frac{1+\delta+\delta^2}{1+\delta}$. and $\alpha\beta = \det D_p f = \delta$. Computing α, β in terms of δ yields the multiplicative independence, which implies existence of a Siegel disk by application of Fel'dman's theorem.