

Babbage equation on the circle

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Abstract. Given a positive integer n a description of all continuous self-mappings of the unit circle, having the identity as the n -th iterate, is presented.

Introduction

It seems that it was CH. BABBAGE ([1]; cf. also [5, Chap. XV] and [6, Chap. 11]) who still in 1815 dealt with the equation

$$\varphi^n(x) = x \tag{1}$$

where φ is an unknown self-mapping of a set and, for a given positive integer n , φ^n stands for the n -th iterate of φ . Equation (1) is intensively investigated till now (cf., for instance, [3, Section 2] and the bibliography therein). Its solutions are named *n -th iterative roots of identity*. In the case $n = 2$ such roots are called *involutions*. If n is the smallest positive integer such that φ is an n -th root we say that n is the *order of φ* .

Studying solutions of (1) we may actually confine ourselves to roots of order n which can be read from the following.

Proposition 1. *Let $\varphi : X \rightarrow X$ be an iterative root of order n of identity. If $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\varphi^m = \text{id}_X$ then n divides m .*

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PROOF. Fix a positive integer m such that $\varphi^m = \text{id}_X$. Then $m = pn + r$ with $p \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$. Moreover,

$$\varphi^r = \text{id}_X \circ \varphi^r = (\varphi^n)^p \circ \varphi^r = \varphi^{pn+r} = \varphi^m = \text{id}_X.$$

Therefore, in view of the definition of n , we have $r = 0$, that is $m = pn$. $\square$

Thus, given a positive integer m , to determine all m -th roots of identity it is enough to find all roots of order n for every divisor n of m .

Corollary 1. *Let $f : X \rightarrow X$, $x_0 \in X$ and let n be the smallest positive integer such that $f^n(x_0) = x_0$. If $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f^m(x_0) = x_0$ then n divides m .*

PROOF. Apply Proposition 1 to the restriction of f to $\{x_0, \dots, f^{n-1}(x_0)\}$ or simply repeat the argument proving it. $\square$

Clearly every solution of (1) is a bijection of its domain. What concerns monotonic and/or continuous solutions of (1) defined on a set of reals we have what follows.

1. *Every monotonic self-mapping of a set of reals satisfying (1) is either the identity function, or a decreasing involution* (E. VINCZE [8], N. MCSHANE [7]; cf. also M. KUCZMA [5, Theorem 15.2], M. KUCZMA, B. CHOCZEWSKI, R. GER [6, Theorems 11.7.1 and 11.2.1]).
2. *For solutions of (1) defined on a real interval monotonicity and continuity are equivalent* (cf. [5, Theorem 5.3] and [6, Theorem 11.2.1]).
3. *All decreasing involutions defined on a real interval I are given by*

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{cases} \varphi_0(x) & \text{for } x \in I \cap (-\infty, x_0], \\ \varphi_0^{-1}(x) & \text{for } x \in I \cap (x_0, \infty), \end{cases}$$

where $x_0 \in I$ and φ_0 is an arbitrary decreasing bijection mapping $I \cap (-\infty, x_0]$ onto $I \cap [x_0, \infty)$ (cf. [5, Lemma 15.2] and [6, Theorem 11.7.2]).

Thus, for an interval domain, continuous solutions of (1), different from the identity function, *depend on an arbitrary function*. The aim of the present paper is to show a similar effect for self-mappings of the unit circle S^1 ; we will find all continuous iterative roots of identity defined

on S^1 , that is all continuous functions $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ satisfying the Babbage equation

$$\phi^n(z) = z \quad (2)$$

with a positive integer n . As continuous bijections of a compact set they are necessarily homeomorphisms. (In particular, every continuous involution defined on S^1 is a homeomorphism.) For this reason we recall a terminology useful in studying homeomorphisms of the circle. In what follows, homeomorphicity of a self-mapping F of S^1 means, among others, that F maps S^1 onto S^1 .

Given points $z_0, \dots, z_{m-1} \in S^1$ with $m \geq 2$ we write

$$z_0 < \dots < z_{m-1}$$

if there are reals $t_1, \dots, t_{m-1}$ such that

$$0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{m-1} < 1 \text{ and } z_j = z_0 e^{2\pi i t_j} \text{ for } j \in \{1, \dots, m-1\}.$$

This is a modification of the notion of *cyclic order* proposed by M. BAJGER [2]. The following is almost obvious and is a simple consequence of the above definition.

Remark 1. If $z_0, \dots, z_{m-1} \in S^1$ with $m \geq 2$ and $z_0 < \dots < z_{m-1}$ then

$$z_{j \pmod m} < \dots < z_{(j+m-1) \pmod m}$$

for every $j \in \mathbb{N}$.

For any different points $z_1, z_2 \in S^1$ define the *arcs* (z_1, z_2) , $[z_1, z_2)$ and $(z_1, z_2]$ by

$$(z_1, z_2) := \{z \in S^1 : z_1 < z < z_2\},$$

$$[z_1, z_2) := (z_1, z_2) \cup \{z_1\} \quad \text{and} \quad (z_1, z_2] := (z_1, z_2) \cup \{z_2\},$$

respectively. A standard argument allows us to state that

$$(z_1, z_2) = \{e^{2\pi i t} \in S^1 : t \in (t_1, t_2)\}$$

where t_1, t_2 are the unique reals satisfying the conditions

$$z_1 = e^{2\pi i t_1}, \quad z_2 = e^{2\pi i t_2}, \quad 0 \leq t_1 < t_2 < t_1 + 1 < 2.$$

It is well-known (cf., for instance, [4, Chap. 2, Section 3] or [9, Chap. 6]) that for every homeomorphism $F : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ there is a (unique up to an additive integer constant) homeomorphism $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$F(e^{2\pi it}) = e^{2\pi i f(t)} \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}$$

and f satisfies the Abel equations

$$f(t+1) = f(t) + 1$$

if it is increasing and

$$f(t+1) = f(t) - 1$$

if f is decreasing; every such an f is called a *lift of F* . In the first case we say that F *preserves orientation*. Otherwise F *reverses orientation*.

1. Roots of identity having fixed points

We start with

Theorem 1. *Let ϕ be a homeomorphism of S^1 satisfying (2) and having a fixed point.*

- (i) *If ϕ preserves orientation then it is the identity function.*
- (ii) *If ϕ reverses orientation then it is an involution.*

PROOF. Denote by φ a lift of ϕ . Therefore $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a homeomorphism and

$$\phi(e^{2\pi it}) = e^{2\pi i \varphi(t)} \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (3)$$

Let $t_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that $\phi(e^{2\pi i t_0}) = e^{2\pi i t_0}$. Then, by (3), $\varphi(t_0) = t_0 + p$ for an integer p . Replacing the lift φ by $\varphi - p$, if necessary, we may additionally assume that $p = 0$, that is $\varphi(t_0) = t_0$. Since ϕ satisfies (2) and (3) and it is continuous, there is an integer k such that

$$\varphi^n(t) = t + k \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (4)$$

Applying (4) to t_0 we get

$$t_0 = \varphi^n(t_0) = t_0 + k,$$

which means that $k = 0$ and, consequently, φ satisfies equation (1).

Put $\varepsilon = 1$ if the homeomorphism φ is increasing and $\varepsilon = 2$ otherwise. Then φ^ε is strictly increasing. Thus, if $\varphi^\varepsilon(t) \neq t$, say $\varphi^\varepsilon(t) > t$ for a $t \in \mathbb{R}$ then, since φ satisfies (1), we would have

$$t < \varphi^\varepsilon(t) < \cdots < \varphi^{n\varepsilon}(t) = t$$

which is impossible. Consequently, $\varphi^\varepsilon(t) = t$ for each $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and both the statements follow. $\square$

As an immediate corollary we obtain the first of our main results.

Theorem 2. *The only homeomorphism of S^1 satisfying (2), preserving orientation and having a fixed point is the identity function.*

Now, following Theorem 1, we will study involutions reversing orientation.

Proposition 2. *For every different points $z_0, z_1 \in S^1$ and every invertible function ϕ_0 mapping $[z_0, z_1)$ onto $(z_1, z_0]$ and sending z_0 to z_0 the formula*

$$\phi(z) = \begin{cases} \phi_0(z), & \text{if } z \in [z_0, z_1), \\ z_1, & \text{if } z = z_1, \\ \phi_0^{-1}(z), & \text{if } z \in (z_1, z_0), \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

defines a unique extension $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ of ϕ_0 to an involution.

PROOF. It is enough to observe that $\phi_0((z_0, z_1)) = (z_1, z_0)$ and make a standard computation. $\square$

Theorem 3. *For every different points $z_0, z_1 \in S^1$ any homeomorphism ϕ_0 mapping $[z_0, z_1)$ onto $(z_1, z_0]$ can be uniquely extended to an involution $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$. Moreover, ϕ is a reversing orientation homeomorphism with z_0 and z_1 as unique fixed points and it is defined by (5).*

Conversely: if $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ is a continuous involution and reverses orientation then it has exactly two fixed points $z_0, z_1 \in S^1$ and maps $[z_0, z_1)$ onto $(z_1, z_0]$.

PROOF. Fix $z_0, z_1 \in S^1, z_0 \neq z_1$, and a homeomorphism ϕ_0 mapping $[z_0, z_1)$ onto $(z_1, z_0]$. Then $\phi_0(z_0) = z_0$ and $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_1} \phi_0(z) = z_1$. Thus, by

Proposition 2, formula (5) defines a unique extension $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ of ϕ_0 to an involution which, in addition, is a homeomorphism having z_0 and z_1 as unique fixed points. Since ϕ_0 cannot be the identity function, Theorem 2 implies that ϕ reverses orientation.

Now let $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ be a continuous involution which reverses orientation and take an arbitrary lift $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of ϕ . As a decreasing continuous function, defined on the real line, φ has exactly one fixed point, say t_0 . Then

$$\varphi(t_0) - t_0 + 1 = 1 > 0.$$

Moreover, since

$$\varphi(t+1) = \varphi(t) - 1 \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R},$$

we have

$$\varphi(t_0+1) - (t_0+1) + 1 = -1 < 0.$$

Thus, by continuity and strict monotonicity of the function $\mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto \varphi(t) - t + 1$, we can find a unique $t_1 \in (t_0, t_0+1)$ such that $\varphi(t_1) = t_1 - 1$; in addition, $\varphi([t_0, t_1]) = (t_1 - 1, t_0]$ and t_0, t_1 are the unique reals $t \in [t_0, t_0+1)$ satisfying the condition $\varphi(t) \in t + \mathbb{Z}$. Consequently, according to (3), $z_0 := e^{2\pi i t_0}$ and $z_1 := e^{2\pi i t_1}$ are the unique fixed points of ϕ and $\phi([z_0, z_1]) = (z_1, z_0]$. $\square$

2. Roots of identity without fixed points

Any lift of a reversing orientation homeomorphism of a circle, being a decreasing continuous function defined on $\mathbb{R}$, has a fixed point. Therefore, homeomorphisms with no fixed points necessarily preserve orientation.

Proposition 3. *For every integer $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ relatively prime to n , points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \in S^1$ such that $z_0 < \dots < z_{n-1}$ and every invertible function ϕ_0 mapping $[z_0, z_{n-1})$ onto $[z_k, z_{k-1})$ and satisfying the condition*

$$\phi_0([z_{j-1}, z_j]) = [z_{j-1+k}, z_{j+k}) \quad \text{for } j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\} \quad (6)$$

(with $z_j := z_{j \pmod n}$ for $j \geq n$) the formula

$$\phi(z) = \begin{cases} \phi_0(z), & \text{if } z \in [z_0, z_{n-1}), \\ (\phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1})^{-1}(z), & \text{if } z \in [z_{n-1}, z_0), \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where

$$\phi_j := \phi_0|_{[z_{j(n-k)-1}, z_{j(n-k)})} \quad \text{for } j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\} \quad (8)$$

defines a unique extension $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ of ϕ_0 to a solution of (2); if $z \in S^1$, $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\phi^j(z) = z$ then $j = n$.

PROOF. Fix an integer $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ relatively prime to n , and points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \in S^1$ with $z_0 < \cdots < z_{n-1}$. Put $z_j := z_{j \pmod n}$ for $j \geq n$. Let ϕ_0 be an invertible function mapping $[z_0, z_{n-1})$ onto $[z_k, z_{k-1})$ and satisfying (6). By (8) and (6) we have

$$\phi_{j+1}([z_{(j+1)(n-k)-1}, z_{(j+1)(n-k)})) = [z_{j(n-k)-1}, z_{j(n-k)})$$

for $j \in \{1, \dots, n-2\}$ whenever $n \geq 3$ and

$$\phi_1([z_{n-k-1}, z_{n-k})) = [z_{n-1}, z_n) = [z_{n-1}, z_0).$$

Since $(n-1)(n-k) = n(n-k-1) + k$, we have $[z_{(n-1)(n-k)-1}, z_{(n-1)(n-k)}) = [z_{k-1}, z_k)$. Thus $\phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1}$ maps $[z_{k-1}, z_k)$ onto $[z_{n-1}, z_0)$ and formula (7) defines a function $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$; in particular (cf. also (6)),

$$\phi([z_{j-1}, z_j)) = [z_{j-1+k}, z_{j+k}) \quad \text{for } j \in \{1, \dots, n\}. \quad (9)$$

Fix an arbitrary $z \in S^1$. Then $z \in [z_{l-1}, z_l)$ for a unique $l \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Since n and k are relatively prime, there is exactly one $m \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ satisfying $(l + mk) \pmod n = 0$. If $m = 0$ then $l = n$, $z \in [z_{n-1}, z_0)$ and, by (7), (8) and (6),

$$\phi^n(z) = \phi^{n-1} \circ \phi(z) = \phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1} \circ (\phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1})^{-1}(z) = z.$$

In the case $m \geq 1$ we have $[z_{l-1}, z_l) = [z_{m(n-k)-1}, z_{m(n-k)})$, whence, again by (7), (8) and (6),

$$\phi^m(z) = \phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_m(z) \in [z_{n-1}, z_0)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\phi^{m+1}(z) &= (\phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1})^{-1}(\phi^m(z)) \\ &= \phi_{n-1}^{-1} \circ \cdots \circ \phi_1^{-1} \circ \phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_m(z) \in [z_{k-1}, z_k) \\ &= [z_{(n-1)(n-k)-1}, z_{(n-1)(n-k)}).\end{aligned}$$

If $m = n - 1$ we get $\phi^n(z) = \phi^{m+1}(z) = z$. Otherwise

$$\phi^{m+1}(z) = \phi_{n-1}^{-1} \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{m+1}^{-1}(z)$$

whence

$$\begin{aligned}\phi^n(z) &= \phi^{n-m-1} \circ \phi^{m+1}(z) \\ &= \phi_{m+1} \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1} \circ \phi_{n-1}^{-1} \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{m+1}^{-1}(z) = z.\end{aligned}$$

Consequently, in all the cases we obtain $\phi^n(z) = z$. Suppose that $\phi^j(z) = z$ for a $j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$. By (9) we have $\phi^j([z_{l-1}, z_l]) = [z_{l-1+jk}, z_{l+jk})$. Hence $[z_{l-1}, z_l] \cap [z_{l-1+jk}, z_{l+jk}) \neq \emptyset$, so $[z_{l-1}, z_l] = [z_{l-1+jk}, z_{l+jk})$, that is $z_{l+jk} = z_l$, which means that n divides jk contrary to the fact that $j < n$ and k is relatively prime to n . Thus ϕ is a solution of (2) and for every $z \in S^1$ the number n is the smallest positive integer j with $\phi^j(z) = z$. In particular, ϕ is of order n and it has no fixed points. Clearly $\phi|_{[z_0, z_{n-1})} = \phi_0$. Moreover, if $z \in [z_{n-1}, z_0)$ then

$$\phi(z) = (\phi^{n-1})^{-1}(z) = (\phi_1 \circ \cdots \circ \phi_{n-1})^{-1}(z).$$

Therefore ϕ is the unique extension of ϕ_0 to a solution of (2). $\square$

The next result provides a complete description (cf. also Proposition 1) of continuous solutions of (2) having no fixed points.

Theorem 4. *For every integer $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ relatively prime to n and points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \in S^1$ such that $z_0 < \cdots < z_{n-1}$ any homeomorphism ϕ_0 mapping $[z_0, z_{n-1})$ onto $[z_k, z_{k-1})$ and satisfying condition (6) (with $z_j := z_{j \pmod n}$ for $j \geq n$) can be uniquely extended to a solution $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ of (2). Moreover, ϕ is a homeomorphism with no fixed points, it is defined by (7) and (8), and is a root of identity of order n .*

Conversely: if $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ is a continuous solution of (2) of order n and has no fixed points then there are an integer $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ relatively prime to n and points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \in S^1$ such that $z_0 < \cdots < z_{n-1}$

and ϕ maps $[z_{j-1}, z_j]$ onto $[z_{(j-1+k) \pmod n}, z_{(j+k) \pmod n}]$ for every $j \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$.

PROOF. Fix an integer $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ relatively prime to n , points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \in S^1$ such that $z_0 < \dots < z_{n-1}$ and a homeomorphism ϕ_0 mapping $[z_0, z_{n-1})$ onto $[z_k, z_{k-1})$. Put $z_j := z_{j \pmod n}$ for $j \geq n$ and assume (6). By Proposition 3 formulas (7) and (8) give a unique extension of ϕ_0 to a solution $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ of (2). It is a root of order n and has no fixed points. Clearly, (7) and (8) give the continuity of ϕ at every point of (z_0, z_{n-1}) and (z_{n-1}, z_0) . Moreover,

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_{n-1}} \phi_0(z) = z_{k-1} = (\phi_1 \circ \dots \circ \phi_{n-1})^{-1}(z_{n-1}) = \phi(z_{n-1})$$

whence

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_{n-1}} \phi|_{[z_0, z_{n-1})}(z) = \phi(z_{n-1}).$$

By (7) we have also

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \phi|_{[z_{n-1}, z_0)}(z) &= \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} (\phi_1 \circ \dots \circ \phi_{n-1})^{-1}(z) = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \phi_{n-1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \phi_1^{-1}(z) \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow z_{n-k}} \phi_{n-1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \phi_2^{-1}(z) = \dots = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_{(n-2)(n-k)}} \phi_{n-1}^{-1}(z) \\ &= z_{(n-1)(n-k)} = z_k = \phi_0(z_0) = \phi(z_0). \end{aligned}$$

This means that ϕ is also continuous at z_0 and z_{n-1} whence, consequently, it is a homeomorphism.

To prove the converse let $\phi : S^1 \rightarrow S^1$ be a continuous solution of (2) of order n , having no fixed points. As ϕ is a bijection it is a homeomorphism. Since it has no fixed points, ϕ preserves orientation. Thus there is an increasing homeomorphism φ mapping $\mathbb{R}$ onto $\mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\varphi(t+1) = \varphi(t) + 1 \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R} \quad (10)$$

and (3) holds.

Since ϕ has no fixed points and it is continuous, by (3) there is an integer p such that

$$t + p < \varphi(t) < t + p + 1 \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Replacing the lift φ by $\varphi - p$, if necessary, we may assume without loss of generality that $p = 0$. In other words

$$t < \varphi(t) < t + 1 \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (11)$$

As ϕ satisfies (2) and is continuous we can find, by (3), an integer k such that (4) holds. Using [10, Lemma 6] or simply repeating a part of its proof we infer that $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ and k is relatively prime to n .

Since ϕ is a root of identity of order n , there is a $z_0 \in S^1$ with the orbit consisting of exactly n points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1} \in S^1$. Choose $t_0, \dots, t_{n-1} \in [0, 1)$ in such a way that $z_j = e^{2\pi i t_j}$ for $j \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $0 \leq t_0 < \dots < t_{n-1} < 1$. Clearly $z_0 < \dots < z_{n-1}$.

We will verify that

$$\phi(z_m) = z_{(m+k) \pmod n} \quad \text{for } m \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}. \quad (12)$$

Fix an $m \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$. Then, according to Remark 1,

$$z_m \pmod n < \dots < z_{(m+n-1) \pmod n}. \quad (13)$$

If $\varphi^{n-1}(t_m) \leq t_m + k - 1$ then, by (4), (10) and (11), we would have

$$\begin{aligned} t_m + k &= \varphi^n(t_m) \\ &= \varphi(\varphi^{n-1}(t_m)) \leq \varphi(t_m + k - 1) = \varphi(t_m) + k - 1 < t_m + k, \end{aligned}$$

which is impossible. Thus $\varphi^{n-1}(t_m) > t_m + k - 1$. Moreover, on account of (11) and (4),

$$t_m < \varphi(t_m) < \dots \leq \varphi^{n-1}(t_m) < \varphi^n(t_m) = t_m + k.$$

Therefore, for every $j \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}$ there is an $r_j \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ satisfying the condition

$$\varphi^{r_j-1}(t_m) < t_m + j \leq \varphi^{r_j}(t_m).$$

Hence, taking into account strict monotonicity of φ and (10), we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^{r_j-1}(t_m) &< t_m + j \leq \varphi^{r_j}(t_m) < \varphi(t_m + j) \\ &= \varphi(t_m) + j \leq \varphi^{r_j+1}(t_m) \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

for every $j \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}$. This means that

$$\{\phi^{r_0}(z_m), \dots, \phi^{r_{k-1}}(z_m)\} \subset [z_m, \phi(z_m)). \quad (15)$$

By (14) and (11) we have

$$t_m + j \leq \varphi^{r_j}(t_m) < \varphi(t_m) + j < t_m + j + 1 \quad \text{for } j \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}$$

whence $r_0, \dots, r_{k-1}$ are distinct and, consequently, the set on the left-hand side of the inclusion (15) consists of exactly k elements of the orbit $\{z_0, \dots, z_{n-1}\}$. On the other hand, if $\phi^s(z_m) \in [z_m, \phi(z_m))$ for an $s \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ then (cf. also (4))

$$t_m + j \leq \varphi^s(t_m) < \varphi(t_m) + j$$

with an $j \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}$. Thus, since the sequence $(\varphi^i(t_m) : i \in \mathbb{N})$ is strictly increasing, from (14) we get that $s = r_j$. Summarizing, the arc $[z_m, \phi(z_m))$ contains exactly k of the points $z_0, \dots, z_{n-1}$. Thus, according to (13), we have $\phi(z_{m \pmod n}) = z_{(m+k) \pmod n}$. This completes the proof of (12).

The function $\phi_0 := \phi|_{[z_0, z_{n-1})}$ is a homeomorphism preserving orientation which, by virtue of (12), satisfies condition (6). In particular, $\phi_0([z_0, z_{n-1})) = [z_{k \pmod n}, z_{(n-1+k) \pmod n}) := [z_k, z_{k-1})$ and the theorem follows. $\square$

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