

# Absolutely Continuous Invariant Measures for One-Parameter Families of One-Dimensional Maps

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**Abstract.** Given a one-parameter family  $f_\lambda(x)$  of maps of the interval  $[0, 1]$ , we consider the set of parameter values  $\lambda$  for which  $f_\lambda$  has an invariant measure absolutely continuous with respect to Lebesgue measure. We show that this set has positive measure, for two classes of maps: i)  $f_\lambda(x) = \lambda f(x)$  where  $0 < \lambda \leq 4$  and  $f(x)$  is a function  $C^3$ -near the quadratic map  $x(1-x)$ , and ii)  $f_\lambda(x) = \lambda f(x) \pmod{1}$  where  $f$  is  $C^3$ ,  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$  and  $f$  has a unique nondegenerate critical point in  $[0, 1]$ .

## 0. Introduction

Dynamical systems generated by noninvertible maps of an interval into itself have been intensely studied recently. The most widely considered was the family  $f_\lambda : x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x)$ ,  $x \in [0, 1]$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 4$ .

It is well-known that if  $f_\lambda$  has an attracting periodic orbit  $\bar{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  then all probabilistic  $f_\lambda$ -invariant measures are singular with respect to a Lebesgue measure  $dx$ , and the iterations  $f_{\lambda*}^n dx$  converge in the weak \*-topology to the discrete invariant measure supported by  $\bar{\alpha}$ .

It is probable (but not proved) that this situation is typical from the topological point of view, i.e. for a general one-parameter family of smooth mappings  $f_\lambda : I \rightarrow I$ ,  $\lambda \in A$ , there is an open and dense subset  $A_0$  of  $A$  such that for  $\lambda \in A_0$ , the set of limit points for  $f_{\lambda*}^n dx$  consists of a finite number of measures supported by periodic attracting orbits.

We show in the present paper that this is not so from the metric point of view. Namely we prove for a certain class of one-parameter families  $f_\lambda$  that the set  $A_1 = \{\lambda : f_\lambda \text{ has an invariant finite measure } \mu_\lambda \text{ absolutely continuous with respect to } dx (\mu_\lambda \ll dx)\}$

has a positive measure in  $A$ .

In the classical case  $x \rightarrow 4x(1-x)$  considered by Ulam and von Neumann in [1], the invariant measure  $\mu(dx)$  has density  $\varrho(x) = \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{x(1-x)}}$ . In [2] Bunimovič

constructed absolutely continuous measures for the piecewise smooth mappings  $x \rightarrow ns \sin \pi x \pmod{1}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Ruelle in [3] considered  $f_\lambda: x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x)$  and proved that an invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda < dx$  exists for  $\lambda = 3, 678 \dots$  – chosen in such a way that the third iterate of the critical point,  $f_\lambda^3(\frac{1}{2})$ , falls into the unstable fixed point  $x = 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda}$ .

Bowen in [4] found sufficient conditions for the existence of an invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda < dx$  for  $f_\lambda(x) = \lambda x(1-x)$ , when  $\frac{1}{2}$  is a preimage of a periodic unstable point. In [5] it was shown that the cardinality of  $\{\lambda: f_\lambda \text{ has an invariant measure } \mu_\lambda < dx\}$  is that of the continuum for the family  $x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x)$  and any  $C^2$ -family  $f_\lambda$  sufficiently close to  $\lambda x(1-x)$ . Similar results were obtained by Misiurewicz [6] and Szlenk [7] for a class of mappings with negative Schwarzian derivative. Ognev in [8] proved for  $x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x)$  that if  $\frac{1}{2}$  is a preimage of a periodic unstable point, then the density of the invariant measure is analytic. Ito, Tanaka, Nakada in [9] studied the space of parameters of unimodal linear transformations and found explicitly the densities of the invariant measures.

Collet and Eckmann in [10] proved for a particular family  $f_\delta(x)$  that  $f_\delta$  has sensitive dependence with respect to initial conditions in the sense of Guckenheimer [11] for a set of  $\delta$  of positive measure. The mappings  $f_\gamma$  obtained with our construction are also sensitive dependent. It is unknown whether sensitive dependence implies existence of absolutely continuous invariant measure.

We shall consider two kinds of one-parameter families  $f_\lambda(x)$ .

1. Piecewise smooth families  $x \mapsto \lambda f(x) \pmod{1}$ , where  $f(x): [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a  $C^3$ -map with a single nondegenerate critical point,  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$ , and  $\lambda$  is a big parameter.

2. Smooth families  $x \mapsto \lambda x(1-x)$   $0 \leq \lambda \leq 4$ , and  $\lambda \cdot f(x)$  with  $f(x)$  sufficiently close to  $x(1-x)$  in  $C^3([0, 1], [0, 1])$ .

We formulate now our main results.

**Theorem A.** *Let  $f_\lambda: x \rightarrow \lambda f(x) \pmod{1}$  be a piecewise smooth family. There exists  $T_0 > 0$ , such that for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $L(\varepsilon)$ , so that if  $L \geq L(\varepsilon)$  then the interval  $[L, L + T_0]$  on the  $\lambda$ -axis contains a set  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfying*

- i)  $\text{mes } \mathcal{M} > T_0 - \varepsilon$ ;
- ii)  $\forall \lambda \in \mathcal{M}$   $f_\lambda$  admits an invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda < dx$ .

**Theorem B.** *Let  $f_\lambda(x)$  be one of the smooth families mentioned above. Then there is a set of positive measure  $A_1$  so that for  $\lambda \in A_1$   $f_\lambda$  admits an invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda < dx$ .*

*Remark.* The parameter values  $\lambda_1$  such that the critical point of  $f_{\lambda_1}$  is contained in the preimage of an unstable periodic orbit (e.g.  $\lambda_1 = 4$  for  $\lambda \cdot x(1-x)$ ), or in the preimage of a certain invariant unstable Cantor set (see [5]) turn out to be one-sided Lebesgue points of  $A_1$ , i.e.  $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \delta > 0$ , such that

$$\text{mes} \{ \lambda \in A_1 : \lambda_1 \geq \lambda \geq \lambda_1 - \delta \} > \delta(1 - \varepsilon).$$

In Sects. 1–12 we prove Theorem A for the family  $x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x) \pmod{1}$ . In Sect. 13 we point out modifications concerning the case of an arbitrary family  $x \rightarrow \lambda \cdot f(x) \pmod{1}$  and show how to reduce the proof of Theorem B to the proof of Theorem A.

## 1. Idea of Proof

The number  $T_0$  for the family  $f_\lambda : x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x) \pmod{1}$  equals 4: as  $\lambda$  varies from  $L$  to  $L+4$ , the image of the critical point  $f_\lambda(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{\lambda}{4} \pmod{1}$  passes over the entire interval  $[0, 1]$ . In order to prove Theorem A we must find for a given  $\varepsilon > 0$  an  $L(\varepsilon)$  such that, if  $L \geq L(\varepsilon)$  then the interval  $[L, L+4]$  contains a set  $\mathcal{M}$  so that  $\text{mes } \mathcal{M} > 4 - \varepsilon$  and for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}$   $f_\lambda$  has an invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda < dx$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $\lambda$  varies from  $N_0 = 4k_0$  to  $N_0 + 4$ ,  $k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ . For a smooth map  $g(\lambda, x)$  we shall use the notation  $Dg, D^2g$  for  $\frac{\partial g(\lambda, x)}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2 g(\lambda, x)}{\partial x^2}$ .

The central part of the proof of Theorem A is the construction for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}$  of a special partition  $\xi_\lambda$  of  $[0, 1]$ . The elements of  $\xi_\lambda$  are intervals  $\Delta_i(\lambda)$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , which satisfy the following conditions:

- i)  $\text{int } \Delta_i(\lambda) \cap \text{int } \Delta_j(\lambda) = \emptyset$ .
- ii)  $\forall i \exists n_i \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  such that  $f_\lambda^{n_i}$  maps  $\Delta_i(\lambda)$  diffeomorphically onto  $[0, 1]$ .
- iii)  $\inf_{\Delta_i \in \xi_\lambda} \min_{x \in \Delta_i} |Df_\lambda^{n_i}(x)| > \lambda^{c_0}$  for some  $c_0 > 0$  ( $\lambda$  is a big parameter here, so  $\lambda \gg 0$ ).
- iv)  $\sup_{\Delta_i \in \xi_\lambda} \max_{x \in \Delta_i} \left| \frac{D^2 f_\lambda^{n_i}(x)}{D f_\lambda^{n_i}(x)} \right| \cdot |\Delta_i(\lambda)| < 1 + \lambda^{-t_1}$ , for some  $t_1 > 0$ .

Let  $\mathcal{X}(\lambda)$  be the union of all elements  $\Delta_i(\lambda)$  of  $\xi_\lambda$ . Then  $\mathcal{X}(\lambda) = [0, 1] \pmod{0}$ .

The set  $\mathcal{M}$  and the sets  $\mathcal{X}(\lambda)$  for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}$  are constructed by induction.  $\mathcal{M}$  is obtained as an intersection  $\mathcal{M} = \bigcap_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}_n$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_0 &= [N_0, N_0 + 4], & \mathcal{M}_{n+1} &\subset \mathcal{M}_n, \\ \text{mes } \mathcal{M}_{n+1} &> (1 - \varepsilon_{n+1}) \text{mes } \mathcal{M}_n, & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \varepsilon_n &= O(\lambda^{-t_2}), \quad t_2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

At the  $n$ th induction step, we define for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}_{n-1}$  a set  $\mathcal{X}_n(\lambda) \subset [0, 1]$  which is the union of a countable number of intervals  $\Delta_i^{(k)}(\lambda)$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, n$ . The intervals constructed at step  $k$  do not change at the next steps. The sets  $\mathcal{X}_n(\lambda)$  satisfy the following properties:

$$\mathcal{X}_n(\lambda) \subset \mathcal{X}_{n+1}(\lambda); \quad \text{mes } \mathcal{X}_n(\lambda) > 1 - \lambda^{-t_3 n}, \quad t_3 > 0.$$

Finally we set  $\mathcal{X}(\lambda) = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{X}_n(\lambda)$ . Any element  $\Delta_i(\lambda)$  of  $\xi_\lambda$  coincides with one of  $\Delta_i^{(n)}(\lambda)$ .

Let us define the map  $T_\lambda : \mathcal{X}(\lambda) \rightarrow [0, 1]$  by  $T_\lambda | \Delta_i(\lambda) = f_\lambda^{n_i}$ . The results of Adler [12] and Walters [13] imply the existence and the uniqueness of a  $T_\lambda$ -invariant measure  $\nu_\lambda < dx$ . The endomorphism  $([0, 1], T_\lambda, \nu_\lambda)$  is exact, and its natural extension is a Bernoulli shift. The  $f_\lambda$ -invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda$  is constructed from  $\nu_\lambda$ .

## 2. First Steps of the Inductive Construction

The graph of the map  $f_\lambda$  consists of a lot of monotone branches which we denote by  $f(\lambda, x)$  and the middle parabola denoted by  $h(\lambda, x)$ . The domains of  $f(\lambda, x)$  and

$h(\lambda, x)$  depend continuously on  $\lambda$ . When  $\lambda = 4k_0$ , a new middle branch is born, which exists for  $\lambda \leq 4(k_0 + 1)$  and then breaks up into two monotone branches.

We shall denote by  $\Delta f(\lambda, x)$  the domain of  $f(\lambda, x)$ , by  $x_{\min}(\lambda)$  the endpoint nearest to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the interval  $\Delta f(\lambda, x)$ , and by  $x_{\max}(\lambda)$  the other endpoint of  $\Delta f(\lambda, x)$ . We shall distinguish  $[a, b]$  from  $[b, a]$  according to its position relative to  $\frac{1}{2}$  and not according to its orientation.

We fix a positive number  $s < \frac{1}{3}$ .

### Step 1

Pick the branch  $f'(\lambda, x)$  of  $f_\lambda$  whose domain  $\Delta f'(\lambda, x) = \Delta'(\lambda) = [x'_{\min}(\lambda), x'_{\max}(\lambda)]$  is contained in  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$  and is closest to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , subject to the condition

$$|x'_{\min}(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}| > \lambda^{-s} \quad \text{for all } \lambda \in \mathcal{M}_0.$$

Denote by  $\Delta''(\lambda) = \Delta f''(\lambda, x)$  the analogous interval in  $[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ . Define  $\delta_1(\lambda) = [x'_{\min}(\lambda), x''_{\min}(\lambda)]$ , noting that  $\delta_1(\lambda)$  has the form

$$\delta_1(\lambda) = [\frac{1}{2} - r_1(\lambda), \frac{1}{2} + r_1(\lambda)], \quad r_1(\lambda) > \lambda^{-s} \quad (2.1)$$

and let  $\mathcal{X}_1(\lambda) = [0, 1] \setminus \delta_1(\lambda)$ . Thus,

$$[0, 1] = \mathcal{X}_1(\lambda) \cup \delta_1(\lambda).$$

Both  $\mathcal{X}_1(\lambda)$  and  $\delta_1(\lambda)$  are the union of several domains of branches,  $\Delta f(\lambda, x)$ , varying continuously with  $\lambda$ .

Since

$$|Df(\lambda, x)| = 2\lambda|x - \frac{1}{2}|,$$

we have

$$|\Delta'(\lambda)| < \frac{1}{2}\lambda^{-1+s}$$

and

$$\left| \frac{dx'_{\min}(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial f(\lambda, x)/\partial \lambda}{\partial f(\lambda, x)/\partial x} \right|_{x=x'_{\min}(\lambda)} < \frac{1}{8\lambda^{1-s}}.$$

This implies

$$\frac{1}{\lambda^s} < r_1(\lambda) < \frac{1}{\lambda^s} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{1-s}} = \frac{1}{\lambda^s} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\lambda^{1-2s}} \right]. \quad (2.1a)$$

In order to construct the set  $\mathcal{M}_1$  we consider the domains  $\Delta f(\lambda, x) = [x_{\min}(\lambda), x_{\max}(\lambda)]$  satisfying

$$|x_{\min}(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}| > 1/\lambda^{s/2}.$$

We obtain as above that for any such domain

$$|\Delta f(\lambda, x)| < \frac{1}{2}\lambda^{-1+s/2}$$

$$\left| \frac{dx_{\min}(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \right| < \frac{1}{8}\lambda^{-1+s/2}.$$

The top of the graph,  $h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$ , moves with velocity

$$\frac{dh(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})}{d\lambda} = \frac{1}{4}. \quad (2.1b)$$

A comparison of velocities shows that to each branch  $f_i(\lambda, x)$  with domain  $\Delta_i(\lambda)$  there corresponds a uniquely defined interval  $\mathcal{J}_i = \mathcal{J}(\Delta_i)$  of  $\lambda$ -values such that, as  $\lambda$  ranges over  $\mathcal{J}_i$ , the top  $h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  ranges over  $\Delta_i(\lambda)$  and its image  $f_i(\lambda, h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}))$  ranges over  $[0, 1]$ .

So we define  $\mathcal{M}_1$  as the union of these  $\mathcal{J}_i$ :

$$\mathcal{M}_1 = \bigcup \{ \mathcal{J}_i = \mathcal{J}(\Delta_i) \mid (\forall \lambda \in \mathcal{M}_0) |x_{\min}(\lambda) - \frac{1}{2}| > 1/\lambda^{s/2} \}.$$

It follows from the estimates (2.1), (2.1a) and (2.1b) that

$$\text{mes } \mathcal{M}_1 > 4 \left[ 1 - \max_{N_0 \leq \lambda \leq N_0 + 4} \text{mes } \mathcal{X}_1(\lambda) \right] > 4 \left[ 1 - \frac{2(1 + \gamma_1)}{N_0^{s/2}} \right], \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$\gamma_1 < 1/N_0^{1-s}.$$

*Step 2. Construction of  $\mathcal{X}_2(\lambda)$*

Let us denote by  $f_1$  the branches  $f(\lambda, x)$  such that  $\Delta f \subset \mathcal{X}_1(\lambda)$  and by  $g$  the branches with  $\Delta g \subset \delta_1(\lambda)$ . Let us consider compositions  $f_1 \circ g$ . Any domain  $\Delta g$  can be represented in the form

$$\Delta g = \bigcup \Delta(f_1 \circ g) \cup \bigcup g^{-1}(\delta_1). \quad (2.3)$$

Choose an interval

$$\delta_2(\lambda) = \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{c_{21}}{\lambda^{2s}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{c_{22}}{\lambda^{2s}} \right], \quad 1 < c_{21}, c_{22} < 1 + O(1/\lambda^{1-3s})$$

which is a union of domains  $\Delta(f_1 \circ g)$  and  $g^{-1}\delta_1$ . We shall use  $g_1$  to denote  $g|_{\delta_1} \setminus \delta_2$  and  $f_{21}$  to denote  $f_1 \circ g_1$ . Then (2.3) implies

$$\delta_1 = \bigcup \Delta f_{21} \cup \bigcup g_1^{-1} \delta_1 \cup \delta_2. \quad (2.4)$$

For any particular branch  $\tilde{g}_1$  we have

$$\tilde{g}_1^{-1}(\delta_1) = \bigcup \tilde{g}_1^{-1}(\Delta f_{21}) \cup \bigcup \tilde{g}_1^{-1} \circ g_1^{-1}(\delta_1) \cup \tilde{g}_1^{-1} \delta_2,$$

where the large unions are over all  $f_{21}$  and  $g_1$  respectively. Denote the branches  $f_{21} \circ g_1$  by  $f_{22}$ . Since  $\Delta(f_{21} \circ g_1) = g_1^{-1}(\Delta f_{21})$ , we can rewrite (2.4) as

$$\delta_1 = \bigcup \Delta f_{21} \cup \bigcup \Delta f_{22} \cup \bigcup g_1^{-2}(\delta_1) \cup \bigcup g_1^{-1}(\delta_2) \cup \delta_2, \quad (2.5)$$

where  $g_1^{-2}$  denotes any composition of the form  $\tilde{g}_1^{-1} \circ \tilde{g}_1^{-1}$ . Proceeding in the same way we obtain the representation

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_1 = & \bigcup \Delta f_{21} \cup \bigcup \Delta f_{22} \cup \dots \cup \bigcup \Delta f_{2k} \cup \bigcup g_1^{-(k-1)}(\delta_2) \\ & \cup \dots \cup \bigcup g_1^{-1}(\delta_2) \cup \delta_2 \cup \bigcup g_1^{-k} \delta_1, \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_{2\ell} &= f_{21} \circ g_{1i_1} \circ \dots \circ g_{1i_{\ell-1}} \\ g_1^{-r} &= g_{1i_r}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ g_{1i_1}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Any branch  $g_1$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} |Dg_1| &> 2\lambda^{1-2s} \\ |D^2g_1| &= 2\lambda \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

from which it follows (see for example [11]) that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{mes} \left[ \bigcup g_1^{-k}(\delta_1) \right] = 0.$$

Therefore, we can write

$$\delta_1 = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} (\Delta f_{2k}) \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} g_1^{-k}(\delta_2) \cup \delta_2 \pmod{0}, \quad (2.8)$$

where mod 0 means we neglect sets with zero Lebesgue measure. (Hereafter, in analogous equalities, “mod 0” will be understood.) Using the notation  $f_2$  for all the  $f_{2k}$ ,  $k=1, 2, \dots$ , we obtain

$$[0, 1] = \bigcup \Delta f_1 \cup \bigcup \Delta f_2 \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} g_1^{-k}(\delta_2) \cup \delta_2 \quad (2.9)$$

or

$$[0, 1] = \mathcal{X}_2(\lambda) \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} g_1^{-k}(\delta_2) \cup \delta_2, \quad (2.10)$$

where by construction  $\mathcal{X}_2(\lambda)$  is partitioned by the various domains  $\Delta f_1$  and  $\Delta f_2$  constructed in steps 1 and 2. These domains will be elements of the partition  $\xi_2$ .

Now (2.3) and (2.8) induce an analogous structure inside  $\delta_2$ :

$$\delta_2 = \bigcup \Delta(f_1 \circ g) \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \Delta(f_{2k} \circ g) \cup \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} g^{-1} \circ g_1^{-n}(\delta_2). \quad (2.11)$$

Notice that one of the  $g$ 's in (2.11) stands for  $h$ . Suppose  $h(\frac{1}{2}) \in \Delta \tilde{f}_1$ . Then for any other branch  $f_1 \neq \tilde{f}_1$  either  $f_1 \circ h$  has two monotone branches or none; similarly  $h^{-1}$  on  $\delta_2$  has two or no monotone branches. The only branch of parabolic type in (2.11) is  $\tilde{f}_1 \circ h$ .

We see from (2.10) that  $\mathcal{X}_2(\lambda)$  is the complement (mod 0) of the preimages of  $\delta_2$  under the various branches  $g_1^k$  ( $k \geq 0$ ). At the end of the next section, we will see that  $\mathcal{M}_2$  is the set of those  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}_1$  for which the appropriate branch  $f_1$  takes the critical value  $h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  into the complement of the  $g_1^k$ -preimages of an interval  $\hat{\delta}_2$  which is also small but much larger than  $\delta_2$ .

### 3. Step $n+1$ . Geometrical Part

We assume after step  $n$  that the set  $\mathcal{M}_n$  has been defined and for every  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}_n$  the set  $\mathcal{X}_n(\lambda)$  has been constructed. Every  $\mathcal{X}_n(\lambda)$  is a countable union of domains  $\Delta f_k(\lambda, x)$ ,

$k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , where we use  $f_k$  to denote a branch constructed at step  $k$ . The interval  $[0, 1]$  can be represented (mod 0) in the following form:

$$[0, 1] = \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^n (\bigcup \Delta f_k) \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) \right] \cup \delta_n. \quad (3.1)$$

Here the interval

$$\delta_n = \delta_n(\lambda) = \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{c_{n1}}{\lambda^{sn}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{c_{n2}}{\lambda^{sn}} \right], \quad 1 \leq c_{n1}, c_{n2} \leq 1 + 0 \left( \frac{1}{\lambda^{in}} \right), \quad t = \frac{\alpha}{10},$$

and  $\delta_n^{-m}$  are various diffeomorphic preimages of  $\delta_n$ . We shall denote by  $G_n: \delta_n^{-m} \rightarrow \delta_n$  the corresponding diffeomorphisms without pointing out their dependence on  $m$ ; if  $m=0$ ,  $G_n = \text{Id}$ .

In order to describe the representation of  $\delta_n$  analogous to (3.1) we need some additional notation. Let  $F_{n-1}$  be a composition of maps  $f_k$  constructed at the previous steps:

$$F_{n-1} = f_{i_{n-1}} \circ f_{i_{n-2}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_2} \circ f_{i_1}, \quad i_1 = 1, \quad i_2 \in [1, 2], \dots, i_{n-1} \in [1, n-1].$$

We shall distinguish two kinds of branches for various powers of  $f$  with domains inside  $\delta_n$ : the first have the form  $F_{n-1} \circ g(\lambda, x)$  ( $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$  for the central branch) where  $g$  denotes the initial map  $x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x)$ : and the second kind are all the remaining branches, mapping their domains diffeomorphically onto  $[0, 1]$ , and denoted by  $\hat{f}_n(\lambda, x)$ . So we assume  $\delta_n$  has the following representation after Step  $n$ :

$$\delta_n = (\bigcup \Delta F_{n-1} \circ g) \cup (\bigcup \Delta \hat{f}_n) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=m_n}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) \right]. \quad (3.2)$$

Now for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}_n$  we describe the construction of  $\mathcal{X}_{n+1}(\lambda)$ . The estimates which allow us to realize this construction are adduced in subsequent sections.

a) We consider the compositions  $f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  and  $f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$  for all  $f_k (k \in [1, n])$ ,  $F_{n-1} \circ g$ , and  $\hat{f}_n$ . Then the domains  $\Delta F_{n-1} \circ g$  and  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$  have the following representations

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Delta F_{n-1} \circ g &= \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^n (\bigcup \Delta f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g) \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} (\bigcup (F_{n-1} \circ g)^{-1}(\delta_n^{-m})) \right] \\ \Delta \hat{f}_n &= \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^n (\bigcup \Delta f_k \circ \hat{f}_n) \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} (\bigcup \hat{f}_n^{-1}(\delta_n^{-m})) \right] \end{aligned} \right\}. \quad (3.3)$$

Notice that the representation (3.3) for  $\Delta F_{n-1} \circ h$  contains only the members corresponding to  $\Delta f_k$  and  $\delta_n^{-m}$  which lie in the image of  $F_{n-1} \circ h$ .

b) In (3.3) some new preimages of  $\delta_n$  arose, namely  $(F_{n-1} \circ g)^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}$  and  $\hat{f}_n^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}$ . We still denote them  $\delta_n^{-m}$ , but the corresponding diffeomorphisms  $G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  and  $G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$  will be denoted by  $G'_n$ . Let us rewrite (3.3) in the form

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Delta F_{n-1} \circ g &= (\bigcup \Delta f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g) \cup (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) \\ \Delta \hat{f}_n &= (\bigcup \Delta f_k \circ \hat{f}_n) \cup (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) \end{aligned} \right\}. \quad (3.4)$$

Now we choose an interval  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$  composed of whole elements of the partition generated in (3.2) and (3.4):

$$\delta_{n+1}(\lambda) = \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{c_{n+1,1}(\lambda)}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{c_{n+1,2}(\lambda)}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}} \right], \quad 1 \leq c_{n+1,i} \leq 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{t(n+1)}}\right) \quad (3.5)$$

c) We shall distinguish the maps with domains in  $\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ , thus we use some additional notation.

Let  $g_n = \lambda x(1-x) \pmod{1} | \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . We shall use  $f_{n+1 k}$  to denote the branches  $f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n$  and  $f_k \circ \hat{f}_n | \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . Finally, we shall use  $\tilde{G}_n$  to denote the  $G_n$  or  $G'_n$  with domain inside  $\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . Using (3.2) and (3.4) we obtain the following representation of  $\delta_n$ :

$$\delta_n = \left( \bigcup \Delta f_{n+1 k} \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{m=m_n}^{\infty} \delta_n^{-m} \right) \cup \delta_{n+1}. \quad (3.6)$$

Let us define recurrently the branches  $f_{n+1 k}$ ,  $k=2, 3, \dots$ . If  $\Delta f_{n+1 k-1} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  and  $\tilde{G}_n: \delta_n^{-m} \rightarrow \delta_n$ , then  $f_{n+1 k} = f_{n+1 k-1} \circ \tilde{G}_n$ . Any branch  $f_{n+1 k}$  maps  $\tilde{G}_n^{-1}(\Delta f_{n+1 k-1})$  onto  $[0, 1]$ . For any given  $N \in \mathbb{Z}_+$  we can rewrite (3.6) proceeding as in Sect. 2:

$$\delta_n = \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^N \left( \bigcup \Delta f_{n+1 k} \right) \right] \cup \left( \bigcup_{m=m_n}^{\infty} \delta_n^{-m} \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{m=N \cdot m_n}^{\infty} \delta_n^{-m} \right) \cup \delta_{n+1} \quad (3.7)$$

The preimages  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m}$  and  $\delta_n^{-m}$  in (3.7) have the form  $(\tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_2} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_p})^{-1} \delta_{n+1}$  (respectively  $\delta_n$ ) and the branches  $f_{n+1 k}$  have the form

$$f_{n+1 k} = f_{n+1 k} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_2} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_p}.$$

If  $n > I$ , there is an infinite number of  $\tilde{G}_n$ , and there is no uniform estimate  $|D^2 \tilde{G}_n| < \text{const}$ . However using a generalization of one result of [14] (see Lemma 1 below) we obtain

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \text{mes} \left( \bigcup_{m=N \cdot m_n}^{\infty} \delta_n^{-m} \right) = 0. \quad (3.8)$$

This implies

$$\delta_n = \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \bigcup \Delta f_{n+1 k} \right) \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=m_n}^{\infty} \left( \bigcup \delta_n^{-m} \right) \right] \cup \delta_{n+1}. \quad (3.9)$$

Apart from  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  we have  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$  and  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_{n+1}$  (domains of  $G_n$  and  $G'_n$  from (3.1), (3.2), (3.4)). Then (3.9) induces in any such domain  $\delta_n^{-m} = G_n^{-1} \delta_n$  the corresponding decomposition

$$\delta_n^{-m} = \left( \bigcup \Delta f_{n+1 k} \circ G_n \right) \cup \left( \bigcup \delta_n^{-m} \right), \quad (3.10)$$

where  $\delta_n^{-m} = G_n^{-1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_p}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1}$ .

We shall use  $f_{n+1 k}$  to denote  $f_{n+1 k-1} \circ G_n$  for any  $G_n$  with domain  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$ ;  $f_{n+1 k}$  to denote  $f_{n+1 k}$  for any  $k$ ;  $F_n$  to denote  $f_k \circ F_{n-1}$ ;  $\hat{f}_{n+1}$  to denote  $f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$  for  $f_n$  such that  $\Delta f_n \subset \delta_{n+1}$ , and also  $\hat{f}_{n+1}$  to denote  $f_{n+1} \circ G_n$  and



$f_{n+1} \circ G'_n$  with  $\Delta G_n$  (respectively  $\Delta G'_n$ )  $\subset \delta_{n+1}$ ;  $G_{n+1}$  to denote any composition of the form  $\tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_2} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_p} | \delta_{n+1}^{-m}$ , or  $G_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ G_{n_p} \circ G_n | \delta_{n+1}^{-m}$  or  $\tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_p} \circ G'_n | \delta_{n+1}^{-m}$ .

With these notations we have:

$$[0, 1] = \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} (\bigcup \Delta f_k) \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_{n+1}^{-m}) \right] \cup \delta_{n+1} \quad (3.11)$$

and

$$\delta_{n+1} = (\bigcup \Delta F_n \circ g) \cup (\bigcup \Delta \hat{f}_{n+1}) \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=m_{n+1}}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_{n+1}^{-m}) \right]. \quad (3.12)$$

(3.11) and (3.12) correspond to (3.1) and (3.2) with  $n$  replaced by  $n+1$ . So we have described Step  $n+1$  on the  $x$ -axis for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}_n$ .

d) According to the induction hypothesis  $\mathcal{M}_n$  is the union of a countable set of closed intervals with disjoint interiors and some set  $\mathcal{F}_n$  consisting of limit points of such intervals.

$$\mathcal{M}_n = (\bigcup \mathcal{I}_n) \cup \mathcal{F}_n.$$

We assume inductively that  $\mathcal{F}_n \subset \mathcal{M}$ , and define  $\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}_n$  for all  $\mathcal{I}_n$ . We fix some positive  $\alpha \leq s/4$ . As  $\lambda$  varies over  $\mathcal{I}_n$ , the top of the central branch  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  varies over some  $\Delta f_{k_0}$  and  $f_{k_0} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  varies over  $[0, 1]$ . Moreover when  $\lambda$  varies in  $\mathcal{I}_n$  all the maps  $F, G, f, \hat{f}$  constructed at previous steps vary continuously. Let  $\mathcal{I}'_n$  be one of these components of  $\mathcal{M}_n$ . In order to construct the set  $\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}'_n$  we shall point out the admissible positions for the top  $f_{k_0} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$ . Let  $\mathcal{I}'_n = [a_n, b_n]$ . When constructing  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$ , we shall choose it varying continuously when  $\lambda \in \mathcal{I}'_n$  and still satisfying (3.5). Then we shall expand  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$  almost homothetically and obtain an interval  $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}(\lambda)$  varying continuously with  $\lambda \in \mathcal{I}'_n$ , composed of whole domains  $\Delta f_k$  and  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m}$  and satisfying for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{I}'_n$  the following

$$\lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} |\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)| \leq |\hat{\delta}_{n+2}(\lambda)| \leq \lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} \left( 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{\lambda^{t(n+1)}}\right) \right) |\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)| \quad (3.13)$$

For any preimage  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m} = G_{n+1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  the corresponding domain  $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-m} = G_{n+1}^{-1} \hat{\delta}_{n+1}$  turns out to be defined and the lengths of  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m}$  and  $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-m}$  are still related by (3.13). Then we define

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}_n = \left\{ \lambda : f_{k_0} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_m \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-m}(\lambda) \right\}.$$

The condition  $f_{k_0} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-m}$  defines an interval in  $\mathcal{I}_n$ . Thus  $\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}_n$  is the complement of the union of these intervals.  $\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}_n$  consists of intervals  $\mathcal{I}'_{nk} = \{ \lambda : f_{k_0} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \Delta f_k(\lambda) \}$  and of a limit set  $\mathcal{F}_{n+1}(\mathcal{I}_n)$ . As  $\lambda$  varies over  $\mathcal{I}'_{nk}$ ,  $f_k \circ f_{k_0} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  varies over  $[0, 1]$ .

So we have

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}_n = \left( \bigcup_k \mathcal{I}'_{nk} \right) \cup \mathcal{F}_{n+1}(\mathcal{I}_n) \quad (3.14)$$

and finally

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} = \left( \bigcup_{\mathcal{I}_n} (\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{I}_n) \right) \cup \mathcal{F}_n. \quad (3.15)$$

#### 4. Estimates for Fluctuation of Derivative

Let  $f: \Delta \rightarrow I$  be a  $C^2$ -diffeomorphism of some closed interval. Then by differentiating  $\log|Df(z)|$ , we see that

$$\max_{x, y \in \Delta} \left| \frac{Df(x)}{Df(y)} \right| \leq \exp \left( \max_{z \in \Delta} \left| \frac{D^2f(z)}{Df(z)} \right| \cdot |\Delta| \right). \quad (4.1)$$

We shall use the notation  $\mu(f, \Delta) = \max_{x \in \Delta} \left| \frac{D^2f(x)}{Df(x)} \right| \cdot |\Delta|$  and when there is no doubt about the domain of  $f$ , we shall often write  $\mu(f)$ . Let  $f_1: \Delta_1 \xrightarrow{\text{onto}} I$ ,  $f_2: \Delta_2 \xrightarrow{\text{onto}} J \supset \Delta_1$  be as above,  $\Delta_{12} = f_2^{-1}\Delta_1 \subset \Delta_2$ . Then  $f_1 \circ f_2(\Delta_{12}) = I$ . Using the mean value theorem and (4.1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(f_1 \circ f_2, \Delta_{12}) &= \max_{x \in \Delta_{12}} \left| \frac{D^2(f_1 \circ f_2)(x)}{D(f_1 \circ f_2)(x)} \right| |\Delta_{12}| \\ &= \max_{x \in \Delta_{12}} \left| \frac{D^2f_1(f_2(x)) \cdot [Df_2(x)]^2 + Df_1(f_2(x)) \cdot D^2f_2(x)}{Df_1(f_2(x)) \cdot Df_2(x)} \right| |\Delta_{12}| \\ &\leq \left[ \max_{y \in \Delta_1} \left| \frac{D^2f_1(y)}{Df_1(y)} \right| |\Delta_1| \right] \cdot \left[ \max_{x \in \Delta_{12}} |Df_2(x)| \cdot \frac{|\Delta_{12}|}{|\Delta_1|} \right] \\ &\quad + \max_{x \in \Delta_{12}} \left| \frac{D^2f_2(x)}{Df_2(x)} \right| \cdot |\Delta_2| \cdot \frac{|\Delta_{12}|}{|\Delta_2|} \\ &\leq \mu(f_1) \cdot \max_{x, \theta \in \Delta_{12}} \left| \frac{Df_2(x)}{Df_2(\theta)} \right| + \mu(f_2) \cdot \frac{|\Delta_{12}|}{|\Delta_2|}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Since by (4.1)

$$\max_{x, \theta \in \Delta_{12}} \left| \frac{Df_2(x)}{Df_2(\theta)} \right| \leq \exp \left[ \mu(f_2) \cdot \frac{|\Delta_{12}|}{|\Delta_2|} \right]$$

and

$$\frac{|\Delta_{12}|}{|\Delta_2|} = \left| \frac{Df_2(\eta_2)}{Df_2(\eta_{12})} \right| \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|} \leq [\exp \mu(f_2)] \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|}$$

we obtain

$$\max_{x, \theta \in \Delta_{12}} \left| \frac{Df_2(x)}{Df_2(\theta)} \right| \leq \exp \left[ \mu(f_2) \{ \exp \mu(f_2) \} \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|} \right]. \quad (4.3)$$

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(f_1 \circ f_2, \Delta_{12}) &\leq \mu(f_1) \exp \left[ \{ \mu(f_2) \exp \mu(f_2) \} \cdot \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|} \right] \\ &\quad + \{ \mu(f_2) \exp \mu(f_2) \} \cdot \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

Using the notation  $v(f, \Delta) = \mu(f, \Delta) \exp \mu(f, \Delta)$ , (4.4) is equivalent to

$$\mu(f_1 \circ f_2, \Delta_{12}) \leq \mu(f_1) \exp \left[ v(f_2) \cdot \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|} \right] + v(f_2) \cdot \frac{|\Delta_1|}{|J|}. \quad (4.5)$$

Let  $h(x) = ax^2$ , and let  $\Delta$  denote an interval in  $\mathbb{R}_+$ ; let  $H$  denote the distance from  $\Delta$  to 0, so that  $\Delta = (H, H + |\Delta|)$ , and suppose  $f: \Delta \rightarrow I$  is a  $C^2$  diffeomorphism. Let  $\delta = [x_{\min}, x_{\max}] \subset \mathbb{R}_+$ , be one of the two diffeomorphic preimages of  $\Delta: d = h^{-1}(\Delta) \cap \mathbb{R}_+$ . We obtain as above

$$\mu(f \circ h, \delta) \leq \mu(f) \cdot \max_{x, y \in \delta} \left| \frac{Dh(x)}{Dh(y)} \right| + |\Delta| \max_{x, y \in \delta} \left| \frac{D^2 h(x)}{[Dh(y)]^2} \right|$$

and thus

$$\mu(f \circ h, \delta) \leq \mu(f) \frac{x_{\max}}{x_{\min}} + \frac{|\Delta|}{2ax_{\min}^2}.$$

Since  $ax_{\max}^2 = H + |\Delta|$ , and  $ax_{\min}^2 = H$ , we have

$$\frac{x_{\max}}{x_{\min}} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{|\Delta|}{H}} < 1 + \frac{|\Delta|}{2H}.$$

This implies

$$\mu(f \circ h, \delta) < \mu(f) \left( 1 + \frac{|\Delta|}{2H} \right) + \frac{|\Delta|}{2H} \quad (4.6)$$

or

$$\mu(f \circ h, \delta) < \mu(f) \left( 1 + \frac{|\Delta|}{2ax_{\min}^2} \right) + \frac{|\Delta|}{2ax_{\min}^2} \quad (4.7)$$

## 5. Preliminary Lemma

We shall use the following several times

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $I \cup J = N$  be an interval,  $I = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \Delta \varphi_i$ , where*

- 1)  $\varphi_i$  are  $C^2$ -diffeomorphisms from their domains onto  $N$ ;
- 2)  $\text{int } \Delta \varphi_i \cap \text{int } \Delta \varphi_j = \emptyset$ ,  $i \neq j$ ;
- 3)  $|D\varphi_i| > \bar{c}_1 < 1$ ;
- 4)  $\mu(\varphi_i) < \bar{c}_2$ ;
- 5)  $\text{mes } J > 0$ ;  $\text{mes } I \cap J = 0$ .

*Then  $I = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \varphi^{-k} J \pmod{0}$ , where  $\varphi^{-k} J = \bigcup_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} J$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\varphi_i$  is onto,  $\Delta \varphi_i = \varphi_i^{-1} J \cup \varphi_i^{-1} I$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \bigcup_i \Delta \varphi_i = \bigcup_i (\varphi_i^{-1} J \cup \varphi_i^{-1} I) = \varphi^{-1} J \cup \left[ \bigcup_{i_1} \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \left( \bigcup_{i_2} \varphi_{i_2}^{-1} J \cup \varphi_{i_2}^{-1} I \right) \right] \\ &= \varphi^{-1} J \cup \varphi^{-2} J \cup \varphi^{-2} I. \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way we obtain for any  $N$

$$I = \bigcup_{k \leq N} \varphi^{-k} J \cup \varphi^{-N} I. \quad (5.1)$$

For any  $i_1, \dots, i_k$ ,

$$\varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} I = \left[ \bigcup_i \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} \circ \varphi_i^{-1} I \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_i \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} \circ \varphi_i^{-1} J \right]. \quad (5.2)$$

Suppose there were a constant  $\theta > 0$  independent of  $k$  such that for any  $i_1, \dots, i_k$

$$\frac{\text{mes } \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} J}{\text{mes } \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} I} > \theta. \quad (5.3)$$

Then it would follow from (5.2) that

$$\text{mes } \varphi^{-(k+1)} I < (1 + \theta)^{-1} \text{mes } \varphi^{-k} I,$$

thus  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \text{mes } \varphi^{-k} I = 0$ , and in view of (5.1) this would prove Lemma 1. Note that for  $k=1$ , (5.3) follows from hypothesis (5).

Consider a  $C^2$  diffeomorphism  $\varphi^k = \varphi_{i_k} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_1} : \varphi_{i_1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i_k}^{-1} N \rightarrow N$ . By the mean value theorem and by (4.1), a proof of (5.3) would follow from a uniform upper bound on the quantities  $\mu(\varphi^n)$  independent of  $n$ . We will show

$$\mu(\varphi^n) < \left( \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{\bar{c}_2 \exp \bar{c}_2}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\bar{x}_2 \exp \bar{c}_2}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right). \quad (5.4)$$

We prove (5.4) by induction. From (4.5),

$$\mu(\varphi^n) = \mu(\varphi^{n-1} \circ \varphi) \leq \mu(\varphi^{n-1}) \exp \left[ v(\varphi) \frac{|\Delta \varphi^{n-1}|}{|N|} \right] + v(\varphi) \frac{|\Delta \varphi^{n-1}|}{|N|}. \quad (5.5)$$

According to hypotheses 3 and 4

$$v(\varphi) < \bar{c}_2 \exp \bar{c}_2$$

and

$$|\Delta \varphi^{n-1}| < |N| / \bar{c}_1^{n-1}.$$

Thus

$$\mu(\varphi^n) \leq \mu(\varphi^{n-1}) \exp [v(\varphi) / \bar{c}_1^{n-1}] + v(\varphi) / \bar{c}_1^{n-1}. \quad (5.6)$$

Suppose for  $k \leq n-1$  that

$$\mu(\varphi^k) \leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} v(\varphi) / \bar{c}_1^i \right) \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} v(\varphi) / \bar{c}_1^i \right).$$

(Note that for  $k=1$ , the second factor above equals 1 and this becomes the obvious inequality  $\mu(\varphi) < v(\varphi)$ .) Then, using (5.6),

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\varphi^n) &\leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \exp \left( \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^{n-1}} \right) + \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^{n-1}} \\ &\leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) + \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^{n-1}} \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \\ &\leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{v(\varphi)}{\bar{c}_1^i} \right) \end{aligned}$$

and (5.4) is proved.

**6. Transition from  $n$  to  $n + 1$ , I. Hypotheses of Induction. Estimates of Derivatives**

(3.1) and (3.2) give us the following representation of  $[0, 1]$  after Step  $n$ :

$$[0, 1] = \left[ \bigcup_{k=1}^n (\bigcup \Delta f_k) \right] \cup \left[ \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) \right] \cup (\bigcup \Delta F_{n-1} \circ g) \cup (\bigcup \Delta \hat{f}_n) \quad (6.1)$$

All domains in (6.1) depend on  $\lambda$  which varies in  $\mathcal{J}_n$ , but throughout Sects. 6 and 7.  $\lambda$  will be fixed. Any  $\delta_n^{-m}$  in (6.1) is a preimage of  $\delta_n$  under some diffeomorphism denoted by  $G_n$ . For given  $\delta_n^{-m}$  let  $p = \max \left\{ k : \delta_n^{-m} \subset \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^{sk}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{sk}} \right] \right\}$ . Then we shall use the notation  $G_{n,p}$  for  $G_n$ .

Let  $0 < s \leq \frac{1}{13}$ ,  $1 < \alpha \leq s/4$  be constants defined in Sects. 2 and 3,  $c_0 = 1 - s$ ,  $c_1 = 1 - 2s$ ,  $c_2 = 1 - s + \alpha$ ,  $\gamma = 1 - 3s$ ,  $t = \alpha/10$ ,  $v = \frac{2(s - \alpha)}{c_0}$ . Now we formulate the hypotheses of induction.

a) *Hypotheses on derivatives:*

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_{1n}^1 & |Df_k| > 2^k \cdot \lambda^{c_1 k} \\ a_{1n}^2 & |Df_k| > 2\lambda^{c_0} \end{aligned} \right\} k = 1, \dots, n$$

$$a_{2n} \quad |DF_{n-1}| > 2^{n-1} \lambda^{c_0(n-1)}$$

$$a_{3n} \quad |D\hat{f}_n| > 2^n \cdot \lambda^{c_1 n}$$

$$a_{4n}^1 \quad |DG_{n,p}| > \lambda^{s(1-v)p}$$

$$a_{4n}^2 \quad |DG_n| > 2\lambda^{c_2/2}.$$

b) *Hypotheses on  $\mu$ :*

$$b_{1n} \quad \mu(f_k) < \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

$$b_{2n} \quad \mu(F_{n-1}) < \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right)$$

$$b_{3n} \quad \mu(\hat{f}_n) < \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^n \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \exp \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2^i \cdot \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right)$$

$$b_{4n} \quad \mu(G_n) < \frac{1}{\lambda^{\alpha n}}.$$

We suppose  $a_{in}$ ,  $b_{in}$  to be true and we have to prove  $a_{i(n+1)}$ ,  $b_{i(n+1)}$ .

*Remark VI/1.* At the beginning of Step  $n + 1$  we constructed some new preimages  $\delta_n^{-m}$  with corresponding maps denoted by  $G'_n$  ( $G'_n : \delta_n^{-m} \rightarrow \delta_n$ , see Sect. 3). We have to prove that  $G'_n$  also satisfy the conditions  $a_{4n}$ ,  $b_{4n}$  which we denote in this case  $a'_{4n}$ ,  $b'_{4n}$ .

*Remark VI/2.* Some additional induction hypotheses related to the variation of  $\lambda$  will be formulated below. In particular the possibility of choice of intervals  $\delta_n$ ,  $\hat{\delta}_n$  will be proved, and estimates of sizes of these intervals and their preimages will be given in Sect. 10. Now we shall use (3.5) and (3.13) with  $n$  instead of  $n + 1$  (this is assumed inductively) and with  $n + 1$  (this will be proved in Sect. 10). One easily checks there is no vicious circle here.

$a_{1n+1}$ ) According to the construction of Sect. 3,  $\{f_{n+1}\} = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} \{f_{n+1i}\}$  where  $f_{n+1i} = f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n$  (with  $g_n = \lambda \cdot x^2 \left\{ \left\{ |x| > \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}} \right\} \right\}$  in local coordinates near  $\frac{1}{2}$ ), or  $f_{n+1i} = f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$ . In the first case  $a_{1n}$ ,  $a_{2n}$  and the form of  $g_n$  above imply

$$|Df_{n+1i}| \geq 2\lambda^{c_0} \cdot 2^{n-1} \cdot \lambda^{c_0(n-1)} \cdot 2\lambda \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}} > 2^{n+1} \cdot \lambda^{c_1(n+1)}.$$

In the second case  $a_{1n}$ ,  $a_{3n}$  imply

$$|Df_{n+1i}| \geq 2\lambda^{c_0} \cdot 2^n \cdot \lambda^{c_1 n} > 2^{n+1} \cdot \lambda^{c_1(n+1)}.$$

Thus  $a_{1n+1}^1$  is true for  $f_{n+1i}$ . The choice of  $s$  implies  $2c_1 > c_0$ , hence  $a_{1n}^1$  implies  $a_{1n}^2$  for  $n \geq 2$ . All  $f_{n+1k}$ ,  $k \geq 2$  are compositions of the form  $f_{n+1k} = f_{n+1k-1} \circ G_n$  or  $f_{n+1k} = f_{n+1k-1} \circ G'_n$  with  $\Delta G'_n \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . According to  $a_{4n}^2$ ,  $|DG_n| > 1$ . ( $a_{4n}^2$ )' proved below is much stronger than  $|DG'_n| > 1$ , and  $G'_n$  under consideration satisfies  $|DG'_n| > 2^n \cdot \lambda^{c_1 n}$ . Indeed,  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n$  or  $G'_n = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$ . In both cases  $a_{2n}$  and  $a_{3n}$  imply as above  $|DG'_n| > 2^n \cdot \lambda^{c_1 n}$ .  $\square$

$a_{2n+1}$ )  $F_n = f_k \circ F_{n-1}$ . Hence  $a_{1n}$  and  $a_{2n}$  imply  $a_{2n+1}$ .  $\square$

$a_{4n}^2$ ) We consider  $G_n: \delta_n^{-m} \rightarrow \delta_n$ ,  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  or  $G'_n = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$  and their domains  $\delta_n^{-N} = (F_{n-1} \circ g)^{-1}(\delta_n^{-m})$  or  $\delta_n^{-M} = \hat{f}_n^{-1}(\delta_n^{-m})$ . The most complicated is the case of central branch  $F_{n-1} \circ h$ . We omit indices and use  $\delta$  to denote  $\delta_n^{-m}$  (if  $m=0$ ,  $\delta = \delta_n$ ),  $G$  to denote  $G_n$  (if  $m=0$ ,  $G = \text{id}$ ),  $\ell$  to denote  $(F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1}\delta$ . We estimate  $|D(G \circ F_{n-1} \circ h)|$ . Let  $H = \text{dist}(\delta, F_{n-1} \circ h(\frac{1}{2}))$ . The induction construction of Step  $n$  implies that the top  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\frac{1}{2})$  lies outside an interval  $\hat{\delta}$  corresponding to  $\delta$ . Thus (see (3.13) with  $n$  instead of  $n+1$ )

$$H \geq (\lambda^{2n} - 1) \cdot |\delta|/2.$$

Let  $H_1 = \text{dist}(F_{n-1}^{-1}\delta, h(\frac{1}{2}))$ . It follows from (4.1) and  $b_{2n}$  that

$$H_1 > (\lambda^{2n} - 1) \cdot |F_{n-1}^{-1}\delta| \cdot 2^{-1} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{1 + \varepsilon_{6.2}}{2\lambda^\gamma}\right), \quad \text{where } \varepsilon_{6.2} = O(\lambda^{-\gamma}) \quad (6.2)$$

*Remark VI/3.* Several constants  $0 \leq \varepsilon_{i,k} < \lambda^{-t}$  are indexed according to the numbers of inequalities in which they occur.

Let  $\ell = [x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$ . We have, using the local coordinate,

$$h(x_{\min}) = \lambda \cdot x_{\min}^2 = H_1, \quad x_{\min} \sqrt{H_1 \lambda^{-1}}, \quad |Dh|_\ell \geq 2\lambda |x_{\min}| = 2\sqrt{\lambda \cdot H_1}.$$

In consequence of  $|\delta| = |F_{n-1}^{-1}\delta| \cdot |DF_{n-1}(\theta)|$ , for some  $\theta \in F_{n-1}^{-1}\delta$ , we obtain

$$|Dh|_\ell \geq \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot \lambda^{2n+1} |\delta|}{|DF_{n-1}(\theta)|}} (1 - \varepsilon_{6.3}) \quad (6.3)$$

Since  $|D(F_{n-1} \circ h)| = |DF_{n-1}| \cdot |Dh|$ , we have, using (4.1) and  $b_{2n}$ , for any  $x \in \Delta F_{n-1}$

$$|D(F_{n-1} \circ h)|_\ell \geq \sqrt{2 \cdot \lambda^{2n+1} \cdot |DF_{n-1}(x)| \cdot |\delta|} (1 - \varepsilon_{6.4}) \quad (6.4)$$

If  $\delta = \delta_n$ , then (6.4),  $|\delta_n| > 2 \cdot \lambda^{-sn}$  and  $a_{2n}$  imply

$$|D(F_{n-1} \circ h)|_{\ell} \geq (\sqrt{2} \cdot \lambda^{\frac{1}{2}(c_1 + \alpha)})^n \cdot \sqrt{2\lambda^s} \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{6.5}). \quad (6.5)$$

If  $\delta = \delta_n^{-m} = G^{-1}\delta_n$  we obtain, using  $a_{4n}$

$$|D(G \circ F_{n-1} \circ h)|_{\ell} \geq (\sqrt{2} \cdot \lambda^{\frac{1}{2}(c_1 + \alpha)})^n \sqrt{\lambda^{s+c_2/2}} \cdot 2(1 - \varepsilon_{6.6}). \quad (6.6)$$

(6.5) and (6.6) imply  $(a_{4n}^2)'$  for  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ n$ . In the case  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  we have in (6.2)  $H_1 > \frac{1}{2} \cdot |\Delta F_{n-1}| \exp\left(-\frac{1 + \varepsilon_{6.2}}{2\lambda^y}\right)$ , which leads to better estimates. In the case

$G'_n = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$   $(a_{4n}^2)'$  is obvious because of  $a_{3n}$  and  $a_{4n}^2$ .  $\square$

$a_{4n+1}^2$ ) Follows from  $a_{4n}^2$ ,  $(a_{4n}^2)'$  and the definition:

$$G_{n+1} = G_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ G_{n_p}. \quad \square$$

$a_{3n+1}$ ) If  $\hat{f}_{n+1} = f_{n+1} \circ G_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ G_{n_p}$ ,  $a_{3n+1}$  follows from  $a_{1n+1}$ ,  $a_{4n}^2$  and  $(a_{4n}^2)'$ . If  $\hat{f}_{n+1} = f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$ ,  $a_{3n+1}$  follows from  $a_{1n}$  and  $a_{3n}$ .  $\square$

*Remark VI/4.* The inequalities (6.5), (6.6) show that the derivatives of  $G'_n$  grow exponentially with  $n$ , but this is not sufficient to prove  $(a_{4n}^1)'$ . Indeed, let  $n_1$  be so that  $F_{n_1-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  may lie in the domain  $\delta_1$ . As  $\delta_1$  contains  $\Delta f_2$  of arbitrary small diameter, the interval  $\Delta(f_2 \circ F_{n_1-1} \circ h) = \Delta(F_{n_1} \circ h)$  may also be arbitrarily small and the corresponding  $\delta_{n_1}^{-M} = (F_{n_1} \circ h)^{-1} \delta_{n_1}$  is contained in  $\delta_N$  with arbitrarily large  $N$ . However  $|DF_{n_1}|$  turns out to be very large in this case, which implies  $(a_{4n}^1)'$ .

$a_{4n}^1$ ) We use the notation introduced in the proof of  $(a_{4n}^2)'$ . According to the definition, the domain  $\ell = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \delta$  of  $G'_{n,p}$  is so that  $\ell \subset (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sp}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sp})$ , but  $\ell \not\subset (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-s(p+1)}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-s(p+1)})$ . Let  $\ell \subset (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sp})$ . Then  $H_1 = \lambda x_{\min}^2 < \lambda^{1-2sp}$ . It follows from (6.2)

$$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda^{2sp}} > \frac{\lambda^{2n}}{2} \cdot \frac{|\delta|(1 - \varepsilon_{6.7})}{|DF_{n-1}(\theta_1)|}. \quad (6.7)$$

(6.7) together with  $b_{2n}$  imply for any  $x \in \Delta F_{n-1}$

$$|DF_{n-1}(x)| > \frac{\lambda^{2n-1} \cdot \lambda^{2sp}}{2} \cdot |\delta|(1 - \varepsilon_{6.8}). \quad (6.8)$$

Thus we can rewrite (6.4) as

$$|D(F_{n-1} \circ h)|_{\ell} \geq \lambda^{2n} \cdot \lambda^{sp} \cdot |\delta| \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{6.9}). \quad (6.9)$$

From  $|\delta| = \frac{|\delta_n|}{|DG_n(\theta_2)|}$ , and  $|\delta_n| > 2 \cdot \lambda^{-sn}$  we obtain using  $b_{4n}$

$$|DG_{n,p}| = |D(G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ h)|_{\ell} \geq 2 \cdot \lambda^{2n} \cdot \lambda^{s(p-n)} \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{6.10}). \quad (6.10)$$

Let us compare  $p$  and  $n$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}_{n-1} = (\frac{1}{2} - u_{n-1}^1, \frac{1}{2} + u_{n-1}^2)$  be the domain of  $F_{n-1} \circ h$ , and  $p_1 = \max\{q : u_{n-2}^2 < \lambda^{-sq}\}$ . Then  $p \geq p_1$ . We have in the local coordinate system, using  $a_{2n}$ ,

$$2^{n-1} \cdot \lambda^{c_0(n-1)+1} \cdot (u_{n-1}^2)^2 < F_{n-1} \circ h(\frac{1}{2}) \leq 1.$$

Thus

$$\lambda^{-s(p_1+1)} < u_{n-1}^2 < [(\sqrt{2})^{n-1} \lambda^{(c_0 n + s)1/2}]^{-1}. \quad (6.11)$$

(6.11) implies  $n < 2s(p_1 + \frac{1}{2})/c_0$ , which gives for  $v$  a somewhat worse estimate than  $2(s-\alpha)/c_0$ . We prefer to improve it instead of taking a different  $v$ . It suffices to make  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  lie outside  $(\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-s/2}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-s/2})$  for the first two steps. This gives an extra factor  $\lambda^{-s/2}$  on the right side of (6.11). Hence

$$n < \frac{2s}{c_0} p_1. \quad (6.12)$$

*Remark VI/5.* For a given  $n_0$  we may introduce the additional condition

$$F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus [\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-s/2}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-s/2}] \quad n \leq n_0$$

(above  $n_0 = 2$ ). This simplifies the estimates, but as follows from Sect. 11, it gives an extra factor of  $(1 - 2N_0^{-s/2})^{n_0}$  in the estimate of  $\mathcal{M}$ . However, this factor can be made arbitrarily close to 1 by taking  $N_0$  sufficiently large.

As  $p \geq p_1$ , (6.10) and (6.12) imply

$$|DG'_{n,p}| > \lambda^{ps} \left(1 - \frac{2(s-\alpha)}{c_0}\right) = \lambda^{ps(1-v)} \quad (6.13)$$

which finishes the proof of  $(a_{4n}^1)'$  for  $\ell = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \delta$ .

If  $G'_{n,p} = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$ , the estimate of  $H_1$  (see the proof of  $(a_{4n}^2)'$ ) implies that (6.10) turns out into  $|DG'_{n,p}| > \lambda^{sp}(1 - \varepsilon_{6.10})$ . Finally when  $G'_{n,p} = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$ , notice that any  $\hat{f}_n$  is a composition of the form  $\varphi \circ G_k$ ,  $k \leq n-1$ , where  $G_k$  satisfies  $a_{4k}^1$ , and  $|D\varphi| > 1$ .  $\square$

$a_{4n+1}^1$ ) Follows from  $a_{4n}^1$ ,  $a_{4n}^2$ ,  $(a_{4n}^1)'$ ,  $(a_{4n}^2)'$  and the definition of  $G_{n+1}$ .  $\square$

## 7. Transition from $n$ to $n+1$ , II. Estimates of $\mu$

$b_{4n+1}$ ) Let  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ h : I \rightarrow \delta_n$ , where

$$G_n : \Delta G_n = \delta_n^{-m} \rightarrow \delta_n, \quad \text{and} \quad \ell = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}.$$

We estimate  $\mu(G'_n, \ell)$  first.

According to (4.5)

$$\mu(G_n \circ F_{n-1}, F_{n-1}^{-1} \Delta G_n) \leq \mu(G_n) \exp(v(F_{n-1}) \cdot |\Delta G_n|) + v(F_{n-1}) \cdot |\Delta G_n|.$$

We have

$$|\delta_n| = |\Delta G'_n| \cdot |DG_n(\theta_0)|, \quad |\delta_n| < 2 \cdot \lambda^{-sn}(1 + O(\lambda^{-tm})), \quad |DG_n| > 2\lambda^{c_2/2}.$$

In consequence of  $b_{2n}$ ,  $v(F_{n-1}) = 1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})$ . Thus we obtain, using  $a_{2n}$ ,  $b_{4n}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(G_n \circ F_{n-1}, F_{n-1}^{-1} \Delta G_n) &< \lambda^{-an} \cdot \exp \left[ \frac{2(1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma}))}{|DG_n(\theta_0)| \lambda^{c_0(n-1) + sn} \cdot 2^{n-1}} \right] \\ &+ \frac{2(1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma}))}{|DG_n(\theta_0)| \lambda^{c_0(n-1) + sn} \cdot 2^{n-1}} = \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.1}}{\lambda^{an}}. \end{aligned} \quad (7.1)$$



Proceeding along the line of the proof of (6.2), and using (7.1) and (4.6) with  $\Delta = F_{n-1}^{-1} \Delta G_n$ ,  $H > \frac{1}{2}(1 - O(\lambda^{-\gamma})) \cdot \lambda^{2n} \cdot |\Delta|$  we obtain

$$\mu(G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ h, \ell) < \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.1}}{\lambda^{2n}} \left( 1 + \frac{1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})}{\lambda^{2n}} \right) + \frac{1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})}{\lambda^{2n}} < \frac{2(1 + \varepsilon_{7.2})}{\lambda^{2n}}. \quad (7.2)$$

The proof for  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  and  $G'_n = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$  is similar and gives a better estimate

$$\mu(G'_n) < (1 + \varepsilon_{7.3}) \lambda^{-2n}. \quad (7.3)$$

Then we consider  $G_{n+1} = \tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_n} : \delta_n^{-M} \rightarrow \delta_n$ ,  $\delta_n^{-M} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . When estimating  $\mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_n^{-M})$  we use the proof of Lemma 1 with  $\varphi_i = \tilde{G}_{n_i}$ ,  $\bar{c}_2 = (1 + \varepsilon_{7.3}) \lambda^{-2n}$ , according to (7.3) and  $b_{4n}$ , and  $\bar{c}_1 = \max(\lambda^{c_2/2}, \lambda^{s(n(1-\nu)^{-1})})$ , according to  $a_{4n}$ . Then (5.4) gives

$$\mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_n^{-M}) < (1 + \varepsilon_{7.4}) \lambda^{-2n}. \quad (7.4)$$

The estimates (3.5) of  $|\delta_n|$  and  $|\delta_{n+1}|$  imply

$$\frac{|\delta_{n+1}|}{|\delta_n|} < \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.5}}{\lambda^s}. \quad (7.5)$$

Considering  $\delta_{n+1}^{-M} = G_{n+1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1}$  and applying (7.4), (7.5) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_{n+1}^{-M}) &\leq \mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_n^{-M}) \cdot \frac{|\delta_{n+1}^{-M}|}{|\delta_n^{-M}|} \leq \mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_n^{-M}) \cdot \frac{|\delta_{n+1}|}{|\delta_n|} \\ &\cdot \exp \mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_n^{-M}) < \frac{(1 + \varepsilon_{7.4})(1 + \varepsilon_{7.5})(1 + \varepsilon_{7.6})}{\lambda^{2n+s}} < \frac{1}{\lambda^{2(n+1)}} \end{aligned} \quad (7.6)$$

which proves  $b_{4n+1}$  for  $\delta_{n+1}^{-M} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ .

Any  $G_{n+1} : \delta_{n+1}^{-N} \rightarrow \delta_{n+1}$  for  $\delta_{n+1}^{-N} \subset [0, 1] \setminus (\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1})$  is either a restriction of  $G_n : \delta_n^{-N} \rightarrow \delta_n$  on  $\delta_{n+1}^{-N} \subset \delta_n^{-N}$ , or a composition of the form  $\tilde{G}_{n+1} \circ G_n$  or  $\tilde{G}_{n+1} \circ G'_n$ , where  $\mu(\tilde{G}_{n+1})$  satisfies (7.6),  $\mu(G_n)$  satisfies  $b_{4n}$  and  $\mu(G'_n)$  satisfies (7.2). The case of restriction is treated along the lines of (7.5), (7.6). In the other cases, (4.5) together with  $a_{4n}^2$  imply

$$\mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_{n+1}^{-N}) \leq \prod_{i=4}^6 (1 + \varepsilon_{7.1}) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda^{2n+s}} \exp \left( \frac{\exp(3 \cdot \lambda^{-2n})}{2\lambda^{2n+c_2/2}} \right) + \frac{\exp(3 \cdot \lambda^{-2n})}{2\lambda^{2n+c_2/2}} \quad (7.7)$$

which proves  $b_{4n+1}$ .  $\square$

$b_{1n+1}$   $\{f_{n+1}\} = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \{f_{n+1k}\}$ , where  $f_{n+11} = f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n$ ,  $k \in [1, n]$ , or  $f_{n+11} = f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$ , and  $f_{n+1k}$  are obtained from  $f_{n+11}$  using consecutive compositions with different sorts of  $\tilde{G}_n$  and  $G_n$ . Let us begin with  $f_{n+11} = f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n$ . (4.5) implies:

$$\mu(f_k \circ F_{n-1}) \leq \mu(f_k) \exp(\nu(F_{n-1}) \cdot |\Delta f_k|) + \nu(F_{n-1}) \cdot |\Delta f_k|.$$

We have  $\nu(F_{n-1}) = \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}}{2\lambda^\gamma}$  (in consequence of  $b_{2n}$ ),  $|\Delta f_k| < \frac{1}{2^k \lambda^{c_1 k}}$  (in consequence of  $a_{1n}$ ), thus

$$\mu(f_k \circ F_{n-1}) \leq \mu(f_k) \exp \left( \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}}{2^{k+1} \cdot \lambda^{c_1 k + \gamma}} \right) + \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}}{2^{k+1} \cdot \lambda^{c_1 k + \gamma}}. \quad (7.8)$$

Let  $\Delta$  be the domain of  $f_k \circ F_{n-1}$ . Then (3.5) and (4.7) used with  $a = \lambda$ , imply

$$\mu(f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n) \leq \mu(f_k \circ F_{n-1}) (1 + |\Delta| \cdot \lambda^{2s(n+1)-1}) + |\Delta| \cdot \lambda^{2s(n+1)-1}.$$

We have  $|\Delta| < 2^{-n} \cdot \lambda^{-c_0 n}$ , because of  $a_{1n}^2$  and  $a_{2n}$ , and thus

$$\mu(f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n) \leq \mu(f_k \circ F_{n-1}) \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\lambda^s \cdot 2^n \cdot \lambda^{(c_0-2s)(n+1)}} \right) + \frac{1}{\lambda^s \cdot 2^n \cdot \lambda^{(c_0-2s)(n+1)}}. \quad (7.9)$$

In a similar way one verifies using  $a_{3n}$  and  $b_{3n}$  that  $\mu(f_{n+1} = f_k \circ \tilde{f}_n)$  also satisfies (7.8).

Using  $b_{1n}$ , (7.8) and (7.9), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(f_{n+1}) &\leq \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2^i \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2^i \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \left( \exp \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2^i \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \cdot \exp \left( \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}}{2^{k+1} \lambda^{c_1 k + \gamma}} + \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}}{2^{k+1} \lambda^{c_1 k + \gamma}} \right) \\ &\quad \left. \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\lambda^s \cdot 2^n \cdot \lambda^{(c_0-2s)(n+1)}} \right) + \frac{1}{\lambda^s \cdot 2^n \cdot \lambda^{(c_0-2s)(n+1)}} \right]. \quad (7.10) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $c_1 - s = c_0 - 2s = \gamma$ , we have

$$(1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}) \cdot 2^{-(k+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-c_1 k - \gamma} = (1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}) \cdot 2^{-(k+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-\gamma(k+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-sk} \ll 2^{-(k+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-\gamma(k+1)}$$

and

$$\lambda^{-s} \cdot 2^{-n} \cdot \lambda^{-(c_0-2s)(n+1)} = (2\lambda^{-s}) \cdot 2^{-(n+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-\gamma(n+1)} < 2^{-(n+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-\gamma(n+1)}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(f_{n+1}) &< \left( \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2^i \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \left( \exp \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \frac{1}{2^i \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \cdot \left( \prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2^i \lambda^{\gamma i}} \right) \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2^{k+1} \cdot \lambda^{\gamma(k+1)}} \left[ \frac{(1 + \varepsilon_{7.8}) [1 + (2\lambda^{-s}) \cdot 2^{-(n+1)} \cdot \lambda^{-\gamma(n+1)}]}{\lambda^{sk}} + \frac{2}{\lambda^s \cdot 2^{-n-k} \cdot \lambda^{\gamma(n-k)}} \right]. \quad (7.11) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $k \leq n$ , the factor in square brackets is less than 1, which implies  $b_{1n+1}$  for  $f_{n+1}$ .

If  $f_{n+1k} = f_{n+1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n+1} = f_{n+1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_p}$  we have using (4.5), (3.5), (7.4) and  $a_{1n+1}^1$

$$\mu(f_{n+1k}) \leq \mu(f_{n+1}) \exp \left( \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.12}}{2^{n+1} \cdot \lambda^{s+an+\gamma(n+1)}} \right) + \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{7.12}}{2^{n+1} \cdot \lambda^{s+an+\gamma(n+1)}}. \quad (7.12)$$

Substituting (7.10) in (7.12) we obtain  $b_{1n+1}$  as above. The same reasoning proves  $b_{1n+1}$  for  $f_{n+1k} = f_{n+1} \circ \tilde{G}_{n+1} \circ G_n$ .  $\square$

$b_{2n+1}$ ) The proof is similar to the above proof of  $b_{1n+1}$ .  $\square$

$b_{3n+1}$ ) For  $\hat{f}_{n+1} = f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$  with  $\Delta \hat{f}_n \subset \delta_{n+1}$  and for  $\hat{f}_{n+1} = f_{n+1} \circ G_n$  the proof is similar. For  $\hat{f}_{n+1} = f_{n+1} \circ G'_n$  (7.2) is applied.  $\square$

## 8. Measure of Holes After Step $n+1$

For any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}_n$  we estimate the measure of the union  $\delta_n(\lambda) \cup \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}(\lambda))$ , where  $\delta_n^{-m}(\lambda) \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n(\lambda)$ .

**Lemma 2.** *There exists an  $\varepsilon < \lambda^{-t}$  so that for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+ \setminus \{0\}$*

$$\text{mes} \left[ \delta_k \cup \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_k^{-m}) \right] < \frac{(1+\varepsilon)^k}{\lambda^{sk}}.$$

*Proof.* We proceed by induction and assume that after Step  $n$ :

- i) The estimate of Lemma 2 holds for  $k=n$ ;
- ii) To any hole  $\delta_n^{-m}$  there corresponds a unique hole  $\delta_{n-1}^{-m} \supset \delta_n^{-m}$  and a set  $K_{n,m} = K_{n,m}(\delta_n^{-m}) \subset \delta_{n-1}^{-m}$ , such that  $K_{n,m} \subset \mathcal{X}_n$  and for some  $\varepsilon_{8.1} = O(\lambda^{-t})$

$$\frac{\text{mes} \delta_n^{-m}}{\text{mes} K_{n,m}} < \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}}{\lambda^s}. \quad (8.1)$$

*Remark VIII/1.* The proof of Lemma 4 in Sect. 10 implies ii above. However we prove ii here in order to separate the proof of Lemma 2.

*Remark VIII/2.* We shall use here that the intervals  $\delta_n, \delta_{n+1}$  constructed in Sect. 10 are chosen so as to have  $\delta_{n-1}^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  for the holes  $\delta_{n-1}^{-m}$  corresponding to holes  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ .

We began Step  $n+1$  by taking compositions  $f_k \circ (F_{n-1} \circ g)$  or  $f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$  and creating new holes of the form  $(F_{n-1} \circ g)^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}, \hat{f}_n^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}$ . Let  $\delta_{nn+1} = \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . There are holes  $\delta_n^{-m}$  of two kinds inside  $\delta_{nn+1}$ : the old ones  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_{n-1}^{-m}$ , and the new ones  $\tilde{\delta}_n^{-M} = (F_{n-1} \circ g_n)^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}$ , or  $\tilde{\delta}_n^{-M} = \hat{f}_n^{-1} \delta_n^{-m}$  for  $\Delta \hat{f}_n \subset \delta_{nn+1}$ ,  $m=0, 1, \dots$ . Let

$$p_{nn+1} = \text{mes}[(\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) \cap \delta_{nn+1}], \quad \tilde{p}_{nn+1} = \text{mes}[(\bigcup \tilde{\delta}_n^{-M}) \cap \delta_{nn+1}].$$

Then (8.1) implies

$$p_{nn+1} < |\delta_{nn+1}| \cdot (1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}) \cdot \lambda^{-s}. \quad (8.2)$$

One obtains similarly to (7.9)  $\mu(F_{n-1} \circ g_n) < 1 + \lambda^{-\gamma}$ . Then i) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{p}_{nn+1} &< |\delta_{nn+1}| \cdot (\exp \mu(F_{n-1} \circ g_n)) \cdot [(1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}) \cdot \lambda^{-s}]^n \\ &< |\delta_{nn+1}| \cdot (1 + \lambda^{-\gamma}) \cdot [(1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}) \cdot \lambda^{-s}]^n. \end{aligned} \quad (8.3)$$

The construction of Sect. 3 implies the one-to-one correspondence between  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m}$  and corresponding  $\delta_n^{-m} (\delta_{n+1}^{-m} \subset \delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_{nn+1})$ . We have, according to the construction,  $\text{mes}(\bigcup \Delta f_{n+1}) \cong (\text{mes} \delta_{nn+1}) - p_{nn+1} - \tilde{p}_{nn+1}$ . Now, we let  $K_{n+1} = K_{n+1,0} = \bigcup \Delta f_{n+1}$  correspond to  $\delta_{n+1}$ . In consequence of (8.2) and (8.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\text{mes} \delta_{n+1}}{\text{mes} K_{n+1}} &< \frac{2(1 + o(\lambda^{-t(n+1)}))}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}} \\ &: \left[ \frac{2}{\lambda^{sn}} \left( 1 - \frac{1 + o(\lambda^{-t(n+1)})}{\lambda^s} \right) \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}}{\lambda^s} - (1 + \lambda^{-\gamma}) \left( \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}}{\lambda^s} \right)^n \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (8.4)$$

The right part of (8.4) is less than  $(1 + \varepsilon_{8.1}) \lambda^{-s}$  for a suitable  $\varepsilon_{8.1} = O(\lambda^{-r})$ ,  $s > r > t$ .

We let  $K_{n+1,m} = G_{n+1}^{-1}(K_{n+1})$  correspond to  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m} = G_{n+1}^{+1}(\delta_{n+1})$ . We have

$$\frac{\text{mes}\delta_{n+1}^{-m}}{\text{mes}K_{n+1,m}} < \frac{\text{mes}\delta_{n+1}}{\text{mes}K_{n+1}} \cdot \exp\mu(G_{n+1}). \quad (8.5)$$

Because of  $b_{4n+1}$ , the right side of (8.4) with the additional factor  $\exp\mu(G_{n+1})$  is still less than  $(1 + \varepsilon_{8.1})\lambda^{-s}$  and (8.1) is proved for  $k = n + 1$ . Lemma 2 with  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_{8.1}$  follows now from

$$\text{mes}(\bigcup \delta_{n+1}^{-m}) < (1 + \varepsilon)\lambda^{-s} \cdot \text{mes}(\bigcup K_{n,m}) < (1 + \varepsilon)\lambda^{-s} \cdot \text{mes}(\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}) < \left(\frac{1 + \varepsilon}{\lambda^s}\right)^{n+1}.$$

The estimates of Sects. 6–8 prove the following

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $\lambda \in [N_0, N_0 + 4]$  be so that for any  $n = 1, 2, \dots, F_{n+1}$*

$$h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} (\bigcup \delta_n^{-m}). \text{ Then a partition } \xi_\lambda \text{ as in Sect. 1 exists.}$$

*Remark VIII/3.* Notice that if  $\lambda$  is such that at step  $n$   $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  falls into a limit set  $\mathcal{F}_n$  defined in Sect. 3 the condition of Proposition 1 will be satisfied. It is certainly so at Step  $n$ , and at subsequent steps the holes  $\delta_p^{-m}$  lie either in  $\delta_n^{-m}$ , or in the intervals  $F_{n-1} \circ g, \hat{f}_n$  constructed at Step  $n$  (there is no middle branch  $F_p \circ h$  for  $p \geq n$ ). The estimates of Sects. 6–8 are even better in this case.

*Remark VIII/4.* If we suppose  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  is outside  $\hat{\delta}_1(\lambda) = (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-(s-\alpha)}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-(s-\alpha)})$  for all  $n$ , the above condition of Proposition 1 will be satisfied. In particular, if  $h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  falls into some  $f_\lambda$ -invariant set (e.g. periodic orbit or invariant Cantor set of [5]) lying outside  $\hat{\delta}_1(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda$  satisfies this condition. Thus  $\text{card}\{\lambda \text{ satisfying Proposition 1}\}$  equals the continuum. One can check however, using estimates of Sect. 11, that  $\text{mes}\{\lambda : F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \hat{\delta}_1(\lambda)\} = 0$ .

## 9. Velocities of Endpoints of Domains $\Delta f_n(\lambda)$

Let  $f_n$  be one of the maps constructed at step  $n$ , with domain  $\Delta f_n = [x_{1n}, x_{2n}]$ . In this section we prove the following

**Lemma 3.** *There is an  $\varepsilon = O(\lambda^{-s(1-v)})$  such that for  $i = 1, 2$*

$$\left| \frac{dx_{in}(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{sn}(1 + \varepsilon)}{8\lambda}.$$

*Proof.* Any  $x_{ik}(\lambda)$  satisfies  $f_k(\lambda, x_{ik}(\lambda)) = 0$  or 1. Thus

$$\left| \frac{dx_{ik}(\lambda)}{d\lambda} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial f_k(\lambda, x_{ik}(\lambda)) / \partial \lambda}{\partial f_k(\lambda, x_{ik}(\lambda)) / \partial x} \right|.$$

We proceed by induction as in the main construction. Consider the maps  $f_k(2 \leq k \leq n)$ ,  $G_n : \delta_n^{-m} \rightarrow \delta_n$ , and  $\hat{f}_n$ . Assume inductively that the following estimates hold:

$$c_{1k} \left| \frac{\partial f_k(\lambda, x) / \partial \lambda}{\partial f_k(\lambda, x) / \partial x} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{sk}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1 + \varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} \right].$$

$c_{2n}$ ) Let  $H_n$  denote either  $G_n$  or  $\hat{f}_n$ , and pick  $p$  so that, if  $p \leq n$ , then  $\Delta H_n \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_p$ , while if  $p > n$ , then  $\text{dist}(\Delta H_n, \frac{1}{2}) > \lambda^{-sp}$ . Let  $N = \max(n, p)$ . Then

$$\left| \frac{\partial H_n(\lambda, x)/\partial \lambda}{\partial H_n(\lambda, x)/\partial x} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{sN}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1+\varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} \right].$$

For  $k=1$ , these estimates are proven in Sect. 2. We will prove  $c_{1n+1}$  in the various cases that arise from the construction.  $c_{2n+1}$  is similar. In particular,  $c_{1n}$  implies Lemma 3.

Suppose  $\varphi_i(\lambda, x)$ ,  $i=1, \dots, n$  are  $C^1$  functions, and define

$$F(\lambda, x) = \varphi_n(\lambda, \varphi_{n-1}(\lambda, \dots, \varphi_1(\lambda, x) \dots)).$$

One sees that

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \lambda} = \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_k}{\partial \lambda} \right) \prod_{i=k+1}^n \frac{\partial \varphi_i}{\partial x} \right]$$

so that, at any point  $(\lambda_0, x_0)$  in the domain of  $F$ ,

$$\frac{\partial F/\partial \lambda}{\partial F/\partial x} = \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_k/\partial \lambda}{\partial \varphi_k/\partial x} \right) \cdot \left( \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{\partial \varphi_i}{\partial x} \right)^{-1} \right], \quad (9.1)$$

where the partials of  $\varphi_i$  are evaluated at  $(\lambda_0, \varphi_{i-1}(\lambda_0, \dots, \varphi_1(\lambda_0, x_0) \dots))$ .

To prove  $c_{1n+1}$ , we first consider the case

$$f_{n+1} = f_n \circ f_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ f_1 \circ g_n(\lambda, x).$$

Since

$$g_n(\lambda, x) = \lambda x(1-x) \quad |x - \frac{1}{2}| > \lambda^{-s(n+1)},$$

we have

$$|\partial g_n/\partial \lambda| < \frac{1}{4}, \quad |\partial g_n/\partial x| > 2\lambda/\lambda^{s(n+1)}.$$

Using (9.1),  $a_{1n}^2$  and  $c_{1k}$  ( $k=i_1, \dots, i_n$ ), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial f_{n+1}/\partial \lambda}{\partial f_{n+1}/\partial x} \right| &< \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{2\lambda} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \frac{\lambda^s(1+\varepsilon)}{8\lambda} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(1-v)} - 1} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \cdot \left. \left( 1 + \frac{\lambda^s}{2\lambda^{c_0}} + \dots + \left( \frac{\lambda^s}{2\lambda^{c_0}} \right)^{n-1} \right) \right] \\ &< \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \frac{1+\varepsilon_{9.2}}{2\lambda^{c_0}} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (9.2)$$

This proves  $c_{1n+1}$  in case  $f_{n+1} = f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g_n$ .

In case  $f_{n+1} = f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$ , (9.1),  $c_{1k}$  and  $c_{2n}$  and  $a_{3n}$  imply

$$\left| \frac{\partial f_{n+1}/\partial \lambda}{\partial f_{n+1}/\partial x} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1+\varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{c_0}} \right]. \quad (9.3)$$

Similarly, if  $F_{n-1} = f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1}$  and  $|x - \frac{1}{2}| > \lambda^{-sp}$ , then

$$\left| \frac{\partial (F_{n-1} \circ g)/\partial \lambda}{\partial (F_{n-1} \circ g)/\partial x} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{sp}}{8\lambda} \left( 1 + \frac{1+\varepsilon_{9.4}}{2\lambda^{c_0}} \right). \quad (9.4)$$

Now let  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$ , where  $\Delta(F_{n-1} \circ g) \subset [0, 1] \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^{sp}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{sp}} \right] \right)$ , and  $\Delta G_n \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$ . Using (9.1),  $c_{2n}$ ,  $a_{2n}$  and  $a_{4n}^2$ , we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial G'_n / \partial \lambda}{\partial G'_n / \partial x} \right| &< \frac{\lambda^{sp}}{8\lambda} \left( 1 + \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{9.4}}{2\lambda^{c_0}} \right) + \frac{\lambda^{sn}(1 + \varepsilon)}{(8\lambda)(2\lambda)^{c_0(n-1)}(2\lambda^{1-sp})} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \lambda^{-s(1-v)} \\ &= \frac{\lambda^{sp}}{8\lambda} \left( 1 + \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{9.5}}{2\lambda^{c_0}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (9.5)$$

On the other hand, for  $G'_n = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$  where  $\Delta \hat{f}_n \subset [0, 1] \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^{sp}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{sp}} \right] \right)$ , we obtain an estimate similar to (9.3):

$$\left| \frac{\partial G'_n / \partial \lambda}{\partial G'_n / \partial x} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{sp}}{8\lambda} \left( 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1 + \varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{\gamma n}} \right). \quad (9.6)$$

Finally, let  $\tilde{G}_n = G_n$  or  $G'_n$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{G}_n \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . Then in  $c_{2n}$ , (9.4) and (9.6),  $p = n + 1$ . Now  $a_{4n}^1$  implies  $|D\tilde{G}_n| > \lambda^{ns(1-v)}$ . Hence using (9.1), (9.2) or (9.3) and  $c_{2n}$ , (9.5) and (9.6), we obtain for  $f_{n+1k} = f_{n+11} \circ \tilde{G}_{n_1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_{k-1}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial f_{n+1k} / \partial \lambda}{\partial f_{n+1k} / \partial x} \right| &< \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1 + \varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{\gamma n}} \right] \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(1-v)n}} + \dots \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(1-v)(k-1)n}} \right] \\ &< \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1 + \varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{\gamma n}} \right] \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(1-v)n} - 1} \right] \\ &< \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \left[ 1 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1 + \varepsilon}{\lambda^{s(1-v)i}} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (9.7)$$

for a suitable  $\varepsilon = O(\lambda^{-s(1-v)})$ .

This proves  $c_{1n+1}$ ; the proof of  $c_{2n+1}$  is similar.

## 10. Construction of $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$ and $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}(\lambda)$ . Structure of $\mathcal{X}_{n+1}$ in a $\lambda^{(-s+2\alpha)(n+1)}$ -Neighborhood of $\delta_{n+1}$

a) Recall that at step  $n+1$  of the induction construction, we consider  $\lambda$  contained in an interval  $\mathcal{I}_n = [\lambda_{0n}, \lambda_{1n}]$ . As  $\lambda$  varies in  $\mathcal{I}_n$ , all the maps under consideration together with their domains vary continuously with  $\lambda$ .

The induction hypotheses  $a_{in}$  in Sect. 6 imply the following estimates on the diameters of the domains appearing at step  $n+1$ :

$$\left. \begin{aligned} |\Delta f_k \circ \hat{f}_n| &< \lambda^{-s} \cdot (2\lambda^{c_1})^{-(n+1)} \\ |\delta_{np_0}^-| &< |\delta_n| \cdot \lambda^{-s(1-v)p_0} \\ |\Delta f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g| &< (2\lambda^{c_1})^{-(n+1)} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (10.1)$$

In the second estimate of (10.1), we write  $\delta_n^{-m}$  as  $\delta_{np_0}^{-m}$ , where  $p_0$  denotes the minimum integer  $p$  such that

$$\delta_n^{-m} \subset \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sp}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sp} \right].$$

In the third estimate, recall that  $\Delta F_{n-1} \circ g = [x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$  with

$$|x_{\min} - \frac{1}{2}| > \lambda^{-s(n+1)}.$$

For any  $G_n: \delta_n^{-k} \rightarrow \delta_n$  we have, according to  $b_{4n}$  of Sect. 6, that  $\mu(G_n) < \lambda^{-\alpha n}$ . But actually for  $\delta_n^{-k} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ , we can strongly enlarge  $\delta_n^{-k}$  and still have the maps  $G_n$  defined with  $\mu(G_n)$  small. Let us consider the homothetic transformation

$$\psi_n(\lambda): x \mapsto \frac{1}{2} + (x - \frac{1}{2})\lambda^{2\alpha n}.$$

It follows from the condition  $\alpha \leq s/4$  that for  $n \geq 3$  one can define

$$q(n) = \max \{ q: \psi_n(\lambda)\delta_n(\lambda) \subset \delta_{q(n)} \} \geq 1.$$

*Remark X/1.* For  $n=1$ , the endpoints of  $\psi_1(\lambda)\delta_1(\lambda)$  belong to  $\bigcup \Delta f_1$ . We define  $\delta_{q(1)}(\lambda)$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n$  as the minimal interval containing  $\psi_1(\lambda)\delta_1(\lambda)$  of the form  $[x_{1\max}(\lambda), x_{2\max}(\lambda)]$ , where  $x_{1\max}(\lambda) \in [0, \frac{1}{2}]$  and  $x_{2\max}(\lambda) \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$  are endpoints of domains  $\Delta f_1$ . We define  $\delta_{q(2)}(\lambda)$  in an analogous way whenever  $\psi_2(\lambda)\delta_2(\lambda) \not\subset \delta_1(\lambda)$ .

It follows from the construction of Sect. 3 that for every interval  $G_n^{-1}\delta_n$  (or  $(G'_n)^{-1}\delta_n$ ) which lies outside the domain  $\Delta F_{q(n)} \circ h$ , the corresponding preimage  $G_n^{-1}\delta_{q(n)}$  is defined. Indeed, the maps  $G_n$  under consideration are those compositions of  $G_{q(n)}$  and  $F_k \circ g$  or  $\hat{f}_k$ ,  $q(n) \leq k \leq n$ , which map their domains onto  $[0, 1]$ . Using Lemma 1 and following the proof of  $b_{4n}$ , we get for some  $\varepsilon_{10,2} < \lambda^{-t}$

$$\mu(G_n, \delta_{q(n)}^{-k}) < (1 + \varepsilon_{10,2})\lambda^{-\alpha q(n)}. \tag{10.2}$$

From the definition of  $q(n)$  for  $n \geq 3$  it follows that

$$q(n) \geq \max \left\{ q: \left( 1 - 2\frac{\alpha}{s} \right) n > 1 \right\}.$$

Since  $2\frac{\alpha}{s} \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , we get

$$q(n) \geq \max \left\{ q: \frac{n}{2} > q \right\} = \begin{cases} \frac{n}{2} - 1 & \text{for } n \text{ even} \\ \frac{n}{2} - \frac{1}{2} & \text{for } n \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

In particular, we always have

$$q(n) \geq \frac{n}{2} - 1. \tag{10.3}$$

We shall show that for  $n \geq 3$

$$\Delta F_{q(n)} \circ h \subset \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}} \right). \tag{10.4}$$

Let  $\Delta F_{q(n)} \circ h = [\frac{1}{2} - v_{1n}, \frac{1}{2} + v_{2n}]$ ,  $v_{in} > 0$ . In a way analogous to (6.11) we get

$$v_{in} < 1/[(\sqrt{2})^{q(n)} \lambda^{(c_0 q(n) + 1)/2}]. \quad (10.5)$$

From (10.3) and (10.5) we obtain that for (10.4) it is enough to have  $\frac{c_0}{2} \left(\frac{n}{2} - 1\right) + \frac{1}{2} > s(n+1)$ , or taking into account that  $c_0 = 1 - s$ ,  $\left(\frac{1-s}{4} - s\right)n > \frac{s}{2}$ . This holds for  $s \leq \frac{1}{13}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ .

From the fact that for  $s \leq \frac{1}{13}$  the domain of the central branch  $\Delta h \subset \delta_6$ , it follows that for  $n \leq 5$  if  $G_n^{-1} \delta_n \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ , then  $G_n^{-1} [0, 1]$  is defined.

In such a way, for all  $n \geq 1$  and for all domains

$$G_n^{-1} \delta_n \subset [0, 1] \setminus \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}} \right] \right)$$

the preimage

$$G_n^{-1} \delta_{q(n)} \supset G_n^{-1} (\psi_n(\lambda) \delta_n(\lambda))$$

is defined.

b) Let us estimate the length of  $\mathcal{J}_n$ . When  $\lambda$  varies in  $\mathcal{J}_n$

$$f_{i_{n-1}} \circ f_{i_{n-2}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$$

varies in one of  $\Delta f_{i_n}$  and  $f_{i_n} \circ f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  varies in  $[0, 1]$ . We have

$$\frac{\partial(f_{i_n} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}))}{\partial \lambda} = \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial f_{i_k}}{\partial x} \left[ \frac{1}{4} + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial f_{i_j} / \partial \lambda}{\partial f_{i_j} / \partial x} \left( \prod_{\ell=1}^{j-1} \frac{\partial f_{i_\ell}}{\partial x} \right)^{-1} \right], \quad (10.6)$$

where the arguments of  $f_{i_p}(\lambda, x)$  are  $x = f_{i_{p-1}} \circ f_{i_{p-2}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$ . In consequence of  $c_{1k}$  and  $a_{1n}^2$ , the sum in brackets is larger than  $\frac{1}{4} - \frac{(1 + \varepsilon_{10.6}) \lambda^s}{8\lambda} > \frac{1}{4}(1 - \lambda^{-c_0})$ . We shall use  $v_n(\lambda)$  to denote the velocity of the top. We have

$$v_n(\lambda) = \left| \frac{\partial(f^n \circ \dots \circ f^1 \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}))}{\partial \lambda} \right| > (2\lambda^{c_0})^n \cdot \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda^{c_0}} \right). \quad (10.7)$$

Thus

$$|\mathcal{J}_n| < 4 \cdot (1 - \lambda_{0n}^{-c_0})^{-1} \cdot (2\lambda_{0n}^{c_0})^{-n}. \quad (10.8)$$

We formulate the induction conditions on the choice of  $\delta_n(\lambda)$ .

i) The interval  $\delta_n(\lambda)$  is of the form:

$$\delta_n(\lambda) = \left( \frac{1}{2} - c_{n1}(\lambda) \cdot \lambda^{-sn}, \frac{1}{2} + c_{n2}(\lambda) \cdot \lambda^{-sn} \right), \quad 1 \leq c_{ni}(\lambda) < 1 + o(\lambda^{-tm}). \quad (10.9)$$

ii) If for some  $\delta_n^{-k}$   $\delta_{q(n)}^{-k} \cap \delta_n \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-k} \subset \delta_n$ .

iii) If  $a_n$  is an endpoint of  $\delta_n$ , then  $a_n$  coincides with a common endpoint of two intervals: some  $\Delta f_n$  exterior to  $\delta_n$  and some  $\Delta F_{n-1} \circ g$  or  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$  interior to  $\delta_n$ .

According to the construction of Sect. 3 we consider intervals  $\Delta f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$ ,  $\Delta \hat{f}_k \circ \hat{f}_n$ ,  $(G_n')^{-1} \delta_n$ , and have to choose an interval  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$  satisfying the above conditions and varying continuously with  $\lambda \in [\lambda_{0n}, \lambda_{1n}]$ .



Consider the point  $\xi_{0n} = \frac{1}{2} - (1 + \lambda_{0n}^{-\frac{\alpha}{8}(n+1)})\lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)}$ . For  $k = q(n)$ , (ii) implies that if two intervals  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m}$  intersect, then one of them contains the other. Let  $\bar{\delta}_{q(n)}^{-m}$  be the maximal interval containing  $\xi_{0n}$ . Then we replace  $\xi_{0n}$  by  $\xi_{1n}$  which is the endpoint of  $\bar{\delta}_{q(n)}^{-m}$ . If  $\xi_{0n}$  is not contained in any  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m}$ , but is inside some interval  $\Delta f_k \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  or  $\Delta f_k \circ \hat{f}_n$ , we let  $\xi_{1n}$  be the right endpoint of this interval. If  $\xi_{0n}$  is a limit point of  $\delta_n^{-m}$  we obtain any of the previous cases with an arbitrary small perturbation of  $\xi_{0n}$ . The estimates (10.1),  $c_{2n}$ , (10.8), (10.9) show that when  $\lambda \geq \lambda_{0n}$  varies in  $\mathcal{J}_n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} - (1 + \lambda_{0n}^{-\frac{\alpha}{8}(n+1)}) \cdot \lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)} - (1 + \varepsilon_{10.10}) \lambda_{0n}^{-s} (2\lambda_{0n}^{c_1})^{-(n+1)} < \xi_{1n}(\lambda) \\ & < \frac{1}{2} - (1 + \lambda_{0n}^{-\frac{\alpha}{8}(n+1)}) \cdot \lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)} + 2(1 + \varepsilon_{10.10}) \lambda_{0n}^{-[sq(n) + s(1-v)]n} \\ & \quad + (1 + \varepsilon_{10.10}) \lambda_{0n}^{-s} (2\lambda_{0n}^{c_1})^{-(n+1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (10.10)$$

We shall show that for  $n \geq 7$   $\lambda_{0n}^{-[sq(n) + s(1-v)]n} \ll \lambda_{0n}^{-\left(\frac{\alpha}{8} + s\right)(n+1)}$ . For this it is enough to have  $sq(n) + s(1-v)n > \left(s + \frac{\alpha}{8}\right)(n+1)$ . Since

$$q(n) \geq \frac{n}{2} - 1, \quad \alpha \leq \frac{s}{4}, \quad v = \frac{2(s-\alpha)}{1-s} < \frac{2s}{1-s},$$

we get the inequality  $n\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2s}{1-s} - \frac{1}{32}\right) > 2 + \frac{1}{32}$ , which holds for  $n \geq 7$ ,  $s \leq \frac{1}{13}$ .

For  $n \leq 6$  the check that for  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-1} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ ,  $|\delta_{q(n)}^{-1}| \ll \frac{1}{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}$  is straightforward.

The worst estimates correspond to  $n = 6$ . Since  $q(6) \geq 2$  and  $Dh|_{\delta_6 \setminus \delta_7} > 2\lambda^{1-7s}$ , we get

$$|h^{-1}\delta_2| < \frac{1+\varepsilon}{\lambda^{1-5s}} \ll \frac{1}{\lambda^{7s}}$$

for  $s \leq \frac{1}{13}$ .

Taking into account (10.8) and the formula  $c_1 = 1 - 2s \geq 11s$ , we obtain from (10.10)

$$\frac{1}{2} - (1 + 2 \cdot \lambda_{0n}^{-\frac{\alpha}{8}(n+1)}) \lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)} < \xi_{1n}(\lambda) < \frac{1}{2} - \lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)}$$

and we can make  $\xi_{1n}$  the left endpoint of  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$ . The analogous choice of the right endpoint gives us

$$\delta_{n+1}(\lambda) = \left(\frac{1}{2} - (1 + c_{n+1})\lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)}\right), \frac{1}{2} + (1 + c_{n+2})\lambda_{0n}^{-s(n+1)} c_{n+1} = o(\lambda^{-s(n+1)}). \quad (10.11)$$

One easily checks that  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda)$  also satisfies (ii) and (iii).

c) We then construct an enlarged interval  $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}(\lambda)$ . We begin by expanding  $\delta_{n+1}(\lambda_{0n})$  with a homothetic transformation

$$\varphi_{n+1} : x \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} + (x - \frac{1}{2}) \lambda_{0n}^{\alpha(n+1)} (1 + \lambda_{0n}^{-\frac{\alpha}{8}(n+1)}).$$

Then we proceed with the endpoints of  $\varphi_{n+1} \delta_{n+1}(\lambda_{0n})$  as above, i.e. using a small perturbation we make the endpoints of  $\varphi_{n+1} \delta_{n+1}(\lambda_{0n})$  coincide with endpoints of

some interval  $\Delta f_k$ ,  $k \leq n$ . One checks as above, that this can be done so that the interval  $\delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)$  satisfies for all  $\lambda \in \mathcal{I}_n = [\lambda_{0n}, \lambda_{1n}]$  the inequalities:

$$\lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} |\delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)| < |\delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)| < \lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} |\delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)| (1 + O(\lambda^{-\frac{\alpha}{8}(n+1)})). \quad (10.12)$$

As  $\delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda) \subset \delta_{q(n+1)}^-(\lambda)$ , for any  $\delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda) = G_{n+1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)$  the corresponding interval  $\delta_{n+1}^{-k} = G_{n+1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)$  is defined. Taking into account an additional factor  $\exp \mu(G_{n+1}, \delta_{n+1}^{-k}) < (1 + \varepsilon) \lambda^{-(s-\alpha)(n+1)}$  we still have

$$\lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} |\delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda)| < |\delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda)| < \lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} \cdot (1 + o(\lambda^{-t(n+1)})) \cdot |\delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda)| \quad (10.13)$$

d) When estimating  $\text{mes } \mathcal{M}_{n+1}$  we shall use the following

**Lemma 4.** For any  $n$  there is a set  $L_n \subset \mathcal{X}_n$  corresponding to  $\delta_n$ , and for any  $\delta_n^{-k} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$  there is a corresponding set  $L_n^{-k} \subset \mathcal{X}_n$ , such that

(a) if  $\delta_n^{-k_1} \neq \delta_n^{-k_2}$  then  $L_n^{-k_1} \cap L_n^{-k_2} = \emptyset$

and

(b)  $\text{mes}(L_n^{-k}) > (1 - \varepsilon_0) \lambda^{2\alpha n} \text{mes}(\delta_n^{-k})$ , with  $\varepsilon_0 = O(\lambda^{-2\alpha})$ .

*Proof.* In addition to the estimate  $\alpha \leq s/4$ , we will suppose that  $\alpha$  has the form

$$\alpha = s/2k_0,$$

where  $k_0$  is an integer  $\geq 2$ . This assumption is not really necessary, but it simplifies the notation.

If an interval  $\delta$  with center  $x_0$  and a number  $c > 0$  are given, we shall denote by  $c \cdot \delta$  the image of  $\delta$  under the homothetic transformation  $x \rightarrow x_0 + (x - x_0) \cdot c$ . Further, we shall use  $\delta_n^{(r)}$  to denote the set  $\lambda^{2\alpha r} \cdot \delta_n \setminus \lambda^{2\alpha(r-1)} \cdot \delta_n$ .

Let  $\varepsilon_1 = 3 \cdot \lambda^{-2\alpha}$ ,  $\psi_0 = 0$ ,  $\psi_i = (2 \cdot \lambda^{-(s-2\alpha)})^i$ ,  $i \geq 1$ ,  $c_n = \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (1 + \psi_i)$ ,  $c = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n$ .

We prove Lemma 4 by induction. We assume that  $L_n, L_n^{-k}$  are constructed and consist of  $\Delta f_r$ ,  $r \leq n$ , and that the following property holds: For any  $\delta_n^{-k}$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots$  there exists an increasing sequence of intervals  $(\lambda^{2\alpha r} \cdot \delta_n)^{-k}$ ,  $r = 0, 1, \dots, R = R(\delta_n^{-k}) \geq n$ , such that

$$\frac{\text{mes}(\lambda^{2\alpha(r-1)} \cdot \delta_n)^{-k}}{\text{mes}(L_n^{-k} \cap \delta_n^{(r)})} < \frac{c_n(1 + \varepsilon_1)}{\lambda^{2\alpha}}. \quad (10.14)$$

We define  $L_{n+1}^{-m}$  corresponding to  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m}$  and prove (10.14) for  $n+1$ . Then Lemma 4 follows with  $1 - \varepsilon_0 = c^{-1} \cdot (1 + \varepsilon_1)^{-1}$ .

Consider  $\lambda^{2\alpha n} \cdot \delta_n \subset \delta_{q(n)}$ . Condition ii and the construction of  $\delta_{n+1}$  imply  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  for  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . Considering maximal elements  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m}$  among  $\{\delta_{q(n)}^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}\}$  and the corresponding diffeomorphisms  $\bar{G}_n^{-m}$ , we transmit the structure from  $\lambda^{2\alpha n} \cdot \delta_n$  into each  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m}$  and obtain that corresponding to any  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  one can pick  $L_n^{-m} \subset \delta_{q(n)}^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  so that  $L_n^{-m} \cap L_n^{-r} = \emptyset$ , if  $\delta_n^{-m} \neq \delta_n^{-r}$  and (10.14) multiplied by an additional factor  $\exp(\lambda^{-\alpha q(n)})$  holds for  $L_n^{-m}$ .

Let us consider the domain  $V_{n+1} = \lambda^{2\alpha n} \cdot \delta_n \setminus \lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1}$ . Taking into account (10.9), (10.11), and  $s = 2k_0\alpha$ ,  $k_0 \geq 2$ , we obtain

$$\text{mes}(V_{n+1} \triangle (\lambda^{2\alpha n} \cdot \delta_n \setminus \lambda^{2\alpha[n - (k_0 - 1)]} \cdot \delta_n)) = o(\lambda^{-(s-2\alpha)(n+1)}).$$

Together with (10.14) this implies

$$c_n(1 + \varepsilon_1)(1 + \chi_{1n+1}) \cdot \text{mes}(L_n \cap V_{n+1}) > \lambda^{2\alpha} \cdot \text{mes}(\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1}) \quad (10.15)$$

(here and below  $\chi_{in+1} = o(\lambda^{-\varepsilon(n+1)})$ ).

For  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m} \subset \delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_{q(n)}^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  the corresponding set  $V_{n+1}^{-m}$  is defined and

$$c_n(1 + \varepsilon_1)(1 + \chi_{2n+1}) \cdot \text{mes}(L_n^{-m} \cap V_{n+1}^{-m}) > \lambda^{2\alpha} \cdot \text{mes}(\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})^{-m}. \quad (10.16)$$

We define  $\bar{L}_{n+1} = \bigcup (L_n^{-m} \cap V_{n+1}^{-m})$  where the sum is taken over all  $L_n^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . For any  $r \geq 1$  such that  $\delta_n \supset \lambda^{2\alpha r} \cdot \delta_{n+1}$  consider  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m} \subset \delta_{n+1}^{(r)}$  and corresponding  $(\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})^{-m}$ ,  $V_{n+1}^{-m} \subset \delta_{q(n)}^{-m}$ . Since the dimensions of  $\delta_{q(n)}^{-m}$  are small compared to  $\delta_{n+1}^{(r)}$  (see the proof of 10.10 above) we obtain from (10.16) that

$$\frac{\text{mes}(\lambda^{2\alpha(r-1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})}{\text{mes}(\bar{L}_{n+1} \cap \delta_{n+1}^{(r)})} < \frac{1}{\lambda^{2\alpha}} \cdot \frac{(1 - \lambda^{-2\alpha})^{-1}}{1 - \frac{c_n \cdot (1 + \varepsilon_1)(1 + \chi_{2n})}{\lambda^{2\alpha}}}. \quad (10.17)$$

Besides, for any  $\delta_n^{-m} \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ ,

$$(L_n^{-m} \cap [(\lambda^{2\alpha n} \cdot \delta_n)^{-m} \setminus V_{n+1}^{-m}]) = (L_n^{-m} \cap (\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})^{-m}).$$

All  $L_n^{-m}$  consist of domains  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$  and  $\Delta(F_{n-1} \circ g)$ . At Step  $n+1$  when constructing  $\Delta f_{n+1}$  we reproduce the structure from  $[0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$  on each  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$  or  $\Delta(F_{n-1} \circ g_n)$  using respectively  $\hat{f}_n^{-1}$  or  $(F_{n-1} \circ g_n)^{-1}$ . We denote by  $(\delta_n^{-m})'$ ,  $(\delta_{q(n)}^{-m})'$  the new preimages of  $\delta_n$ ,  $\delta_{q(n)}$  under  $\hat{f}_n^{-1}$ ,  $(F_{n-1} \circ g_n)^{-1}$ . The estimate of  $\text{mes} \left[ \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \delta_n^{-m} \right]$  from Sect. 8 together with the estimate of  $\mu(G_{q(n)}, [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1})$  show that after excluding the set  $\bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \bigcup (\delta_{q(n)}^{-m})'$  from each  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$  or  $\Delta(F_{n-1} \circ g_n)$  the measures of  $\bar{L}_{n+1}$  and of any  $L_n^{-m} \cap (\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})^{-m}$  are multiplied by a factor larger than  $1 - (2 \cdot \lambda^{-(s-2\alpha)})^n$ . This factor implies the passage from  $\varepsilon_n$  to  $\varepsilon_{n+1}$  in estimates (10.14) for  $(\lambda^{2\alpha r} \cdot \delta_{n+1})^{-m}$ . We let  $(L_n^{-m})' \cap [(\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \delta_{n+1})^{-m}]$  correspond to  $(\delta_{n+1}^{-m})'$ . Thus to each  $\delta_{n+1}^{-m}$ ,  $(\delta_{n+1}^{-m})' \subset \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  uniquely corresponds its  $\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)}$ -enlargement which does not intersect  $\bar{L}_{n+1} \setminus \bigcup (\delta_{q(n)}^{-m})'$ . We now set

$$L_{n+1} = \begin{cases} L_n & \text{outside } \delta_n \\ \bar{L}_{n+1} \setminus \bigcup (\delta_{q(n)}^{-m})' & \text{inside } \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}. \end{cases}$$

Notice that  $L_{n+1} \cap \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  consists of  $\Delta f_{n+1}$ . (10.17) together with the estimate of  $\bigcup (\delta_{q(n)}^{-m})'$  gives

$$\frac{\text{mes}(\lambda^{2\alpha(u-1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})}{\text{mes}(L_{n+1} \cap \delta_{n+1}^{(u)})} < \lambda^{-2\alpha}(1 + 2.5 \cdot \lambda^{-2\alpha}) \quad (10.18)$$

and (10.14) follows for  $\delta_{n+1}$ . The maps  $G_n^{-1}$ ,  $G_n'^{-1}$  and their compositions transmit (10.18) on  $(\delta_{n+1}^{(r)})^{-m} \subset \delta_n^{-m} \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  with an additional factor  $\exp \lambda^{-\alpha q(n)}$ . Joining it to the above estimate of

$$\text{mes}[(L_n^{-m} \cap (\lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \delta_{n+1})^{-m}) \setminus \bigcup (\delta_{q(n)}^{-m})']$$

finishes the proof of (10.14) and of Lemma 4.

*Remark X/2.* The above construction is similar to one used in Sect. 8 in order to estimate the measure of holes at Step  $n+1$ .

*Remark X/3.*  $R$  which bounds  $r$  in (10.14), may be much larger than  $n$ . For example, the construction implies that the consecutive  $\lambda^{2\alpha}$ -enlargements of  $\delta_n$  are taken until we obtain the whole interval  $[0, 1]$ .

## 11. The Positivity of Measure

Remember that at step  $n+1$  we consider  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n = [\lambda_{0n}, \lambda_{1n}]$ . As  $\lambda$  varies in  $\mathcal{J}_n$ ,  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  traverses some  $\Delta f_n$  and  $f_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) = F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  traverses  $[0, 1]$ . The set  $\mathcal{X}_{n+1}(\lambda) = \bigcup_{k=1}^{n+1} \Delta f_k$  is defined for all  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n$ , and all the domains  $\Delta f_k = (\Delta f_k)_\lambda$  as well as the holes  $\delta_{n+1}^-(\lambda)$  and their enlargements  $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}^-(\lambda)$  vary continuously with  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n$ . We then define  $\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{J}_n$  as the set consisting of those  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n$  for which

$$F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \mathcal{X}_{n+1}(\lambda) \setminus \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^-(\lambda).$$

We saw in Sect. 10 that the velocity of the top satisfies

$$v_n(\lambda) = \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \right| > (2\lambda^{c_0})^n [4(1 + \varepsilon_{11.1})]^{-1}. \quad (11.1)$$

At the same time the endpoints  $x_k(\lambda)$  of  $\Delta f_k(\lambda)$ ,  $k \leq n+1$ , move with velocities

$$\left| \frac{dx_k}{d\lambda} \right| < \frac{(1 + \varepsilon_{11.2})}{8\lambda} \cdot \lambda^{s(n+1)}. \quad (11.2)$$

(11.1) and (11.2) imply that for any  $\Delta f_k$ ,  $k \leq n+1$ , the condition  $F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \Delta f_k(\lambda)$  defines an interval  $\mathcal{I}(\Delta f_k) \subset \mathcal{J}_n$ , as does the condition  $F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^-(\lambda)$ .

A priori the condition

$$\text{mes} \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^-(\lambda) < [(1 + \varepsilon)\lambda^{-(s-\alpha)}]^{n+1}$$

does not imply the predominance of

$$\left\{ \lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n : F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^-(\lambda) \right\}$$

in  $\mathcal{J}_n$ , and we have to do some additional estimates. In consequence of Lemma 4 for  $k=n+1$ , to any  $\delta_{n+1}^{-k} = G_{n+1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1}$  there corresponds uniquely a set  $L_{n+1}^{-k} = G_{n+1}^{-1} L_{n+1} \subset \mathcal{X}_{n+1} \cap \delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}$  such that

$$\text{mes} L_{n+1}^{-k} > (1 - \varepsilon) \lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} |\delta_{n+1}^{-k}|.$$

We define  $\hat{L}_{n+1}^{-k} = (L_{n+1}^{-k} \setminus \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-k})$ . Thus for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n$  the following estimate holds:

$$\text{mes} \hat{L}_{n+1}^{-k} > (1 - \varepsilon_{11.3}) \lambda^{\alpha(n+1)} |\hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-k}|, \quad k=0, 1, \dots, \varepsilon_{11.3} = O(\lambda^{-2\alpha}) \quad (11.3)$$

Let  $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}) = [\lambda_0, \lambda_1]$  be an interval on the  $\lambda$ -axis such that  $F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}$  when  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}$ . Because of the definition of  $q(n)$ ,  $|\delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}| < (1 + o(\lambda^{-t(n+2)})) \cdot \lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \cdot \lambda^{2s} \cdot |\delta_{n+1}^{-k}|$ . Then the comparison of velocities (11.1) and (11.2) implies

$$|\mathcal{J}| < \frac{4 \cdot \lambda_0^{2\alpha(n+1)+2s}}{(2\lambda_0^o)^n} (1 + \varepsilon_{1.4}) \cdot |\delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda_0)|. \quad (11.4)$$

When  $\lambda$  passes  $\mathcal{J}$ , the measures of  $\delta_{n+1}^{-k}$  and  $\hat{L}_{n+1}^{-k}$  vary in particular because of the variation of  $\partial/\partial x(G_{n+1}^{-1})$ . We shall show this variation is small.

a)

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $\Gamma_p$  denote  $\delta_p$  if  $p \leq n$ , and  $(\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sp}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sp})$  if  $p > n$ . Let  $F_\lambda(x)$  be one of the diffeomorphisms  $G_n(\lambda, x)$ ,  $\hat{f}_n(\lambda, x)$ , or  $f_n(\lambda, x)$ , and suppose  $\Delta F_\lambda(x) \subset [0, 1] \setminus \Gamma_p$ . Let  $F_\lambda^{-1}(z)$  be the inverse diffeomorphism, and let  $N = N(F)$  be the number of iterations of the initial map  $g_\lambda: x \mapsto \lambda x(1-x) \pmod 1$  corresponding to  $F_\lambda$  (i.e.,  $F_\lambda = g_\lambda^N$ ). Then*

$$\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial F_\lambda^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{2sp}}{8\lambda} N \left| \frac{\partial F_\lambda^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{-si}. \quad (11.5)$$

*Proof.* We proceed by induction. Assuming Lemma 5 holds for  $k \leq n$ , we need to prove the corresponding estimates for  $n+1$ . We begin by estimating  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial \phi^{-1}}{\partial z}$  for a composition of maps. Let

$$\phi(\lambda, x) = \varphi_n \circ \varphi_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_1(\lambda, x),$$

where our notation is similar to that in the calculations for (9.1). Several applications of the chain rule give

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} (\partial \phi^{-1} / \partial z) = [\partial \phi^{-1} / \partial z] \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{\partial / \partial \lambda (\partial \varphi_i^{-1} / \partial z)}{\partial \varphi_i^{-1} / \partial z} - \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_i / \partial x^2}{(\partial \varphi_i / \partial x)^2} \frac{\partial (\varphi_{i+1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_n^{-1})}{\partial \lambda} \right], \quad (11.6)$$

where as before the arguments of  $\varphi_i$  and its derivatives are  $\lambda$  and  $\varphi_{i-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_1(x)$  while those of  $\varphi_i^{-1}$  are  $\lambda$  and  $\varphi_{i+1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_n^{-1}(z)$ ,  $z = \phi(\lambda, x)$  (for  $i = n$ ,  $\varphi_n^{-1} = \varphi_n^{-1}(\lambda, z)$ , and there is no second term in the brackets).

Let  $F_1 = f_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ f_1 \circ g$ ,  $\Delta F_1 \subset [0, 1] \setminus \Gamma_p$ , and let  $N_i$  denote the number of iterations corresponding to  $f_i$ . The expression  $\partial / \partial \lambda (\varphi_{i+1}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \varphi_n^{-1})$  in (11.6) equals  $\partial x_{i+1} / \partial \lambda$ , where  $x_{i+1}(\lambda)$  satisfies

$$\varphi_n \circ \dots \circ \varphi_{i+1}(\lambda, x_{i+1}(\lambda)) = z.$$

In our case  $\varphi_1 = g$ ,  $\varphi_{i+1} = f_i$   $1 \leq i \leq n-1$  and the estimates of Sect. 9 give

$$|\partial / \partial \lambda (f_i^{-1} \circ \dots \circ f_n^{-1})(\lambda, z)| < \frac{1 + \varepsilon_1}{8\lambda} \lambda^{si}.$$

For  $g = \lambda x(1-x)$  we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial g^{-1}}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2\lambda^2(x - \frac{1}{2})}, \quad \frac{-\partial^2 g / \partial x^2}{(\partial g / \partial x)^2} = \frac{1}{2\lambda(x - \frac{1}{2})^2}.$$

For  $f_i$  we have by estimates  $b_{2n}$  of Sect. 6 that

$$\frac{\partial^2 f_i / \partial x^2}{(\partial f_i / \partial x)^2} < 1 + \varepsilon_2.$$

Thus, (11.5) and (11.6) give

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial F_1^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| &\leq \left| \frac{\partial F_1^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| \cdot \left[ \left( \frac{\lambda^{sp}}{2\lambda^2} + \frac{\lambda^{2sp}}{2\lambda} (1 + \varepsilon_1) \frac{\lambda^s}{8\lambda} \right) + \left( \frac{\lambda^{2s}}{8\lambda} N_1 + \frac{\lambda^{2s}}{8\lambda} (1 + \varepsilon_1)(1 + \varepsilon_2) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \dots + \left( \frac{\lambda^{2s(n-2)}}{8\lambda} N_{n-2} + \frac{\lambda^{s(n-1)}}{8\lambda} (1 + \varepsilon_1)(1 + \varepsilon_2) \right) + \frac{\lambda^{2s(n-1)}}{8\lambda} N_{n-1} \right] \quad (11.7) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $F_2 = G \circ F_1$ , where  $G = G_n : \Delta G \rightarrow \delta_n$ ,  $\Delta G \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$ , and  $N_G$  is the number of iterates for  $G$ . The estimates of Sect. 9 imply  $\left| \frac{\partial G^{-1}(z, \lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{sn}(1 + \varepsilon_1)}{8\lambda}$ .

Because  $\frac{|\partial^2 F_1 / \partial x^2|}{(\partial F_1 / \partial x)^2} < v(F_1, \Delta(F_1))$  for  $x \in \Delta F_1$ , we obtain using (4.7),  $a_{2n}$  and  $b_{2n}$  that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial^2 F_1 / \partial x^2|}{(\partial F_1 / \partial x)^2} &< (1 + O(\lambda^{-\nu})) \left( 1 + \frac{\lambda^{2sp}}{\lambda^{s/2}(2\lambda^{c_0})^{n+1}} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda^{2sp}}{\lambda^{s/2}(2\lambda^{c_0})^{n+1}} = \frac{\lambda^{2sp}(1 + \varepsilon_3)}{\lambda^{s/2}(2\lambda^{c_0})^{n+1}} + (1 + \varepsilon_3). \end{aligned}$$

Using (11.6) for  $F_2 = G \circ F_1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial F_2^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| &< \left[ \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial F_1^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| \left| \frac{\partial F_1^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| + \left( \frac{\lambda^{2sp}(1 + \varepsilon_3)}{\lambda^{s/2} \cdot (2\lambda^{c_0})^{n+1}} + (1 + \varepsilon_3) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cdot \frac{\lambda^{sn}(1 + \varepsilon_1)}{8\lambda} + \frac{\lambda^{2sn}}{8\lambda} \cdot N_G \right] \cdot \left| \frac{\partial F_2^{-1}}{\partial z} \right|. \quad (11.8) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting (11.7) in (11.8) we obtain (11.5) for  $G'_n = G_n \circ F_{n-1} \circ g$  constructed at the beginning of step  $n+1$  (we have besides an additional factor less than  $\lambda^{-c_0}$  in the right part of (11.5)). The proof for  $G'_n = G_n \circ \hat{f}_n$ ,  $\Delta \hat{f}_n \subset [0, 1] \setminus \Gamma_p$ , is analogous. Considering  $p = n+1$  in (11.7) we obtain the assertion of Lemma 5 for  $f_{n+1}$ . Then we consider the compositions  $f_{n+1k} = f_{n+1} \circ \tilde{G}_{nk} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n1}$ . The induction hypotheses and the previous estimates give

$$\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial G_{n_i}^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{2s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \cdot N_i \left| \frac{\partial G_{n_i}^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| \cdot \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{-si}.$$

The estimates of Sect. 9 give

$$\left| \frac{\partial(\tilde{G}_{n_i}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{nk}^{-1} \circ f_{n+1}^{-1})}{\partial \lambda} \right| < \frac{\lambda^{s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} (1 + \varepsilon_1).$$

Taking into account

$$\left| \frac{\partial^2 G_{n_i}}{\partial x^2} \left/ \left( \frac{\partial G_{n_i}}{\partial x} \right)^2 \right. \right| < (1 + \varepsilon_2) \lambda^{-\alpha n},$$

(11.6) implies

$$\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial f_{n+1}^{-1}}{\partial z} \right| < \left[ \sum_{i=1}^k \left( \frac{\lambda^{2s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \cdot N_i \cdot \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{-si} + \frac{(1+\varepsilon_2)(1+\varepsilon_1) \cdot \lambda^{s(n+1)}}{\lambda^{2n} \cdot 8\lambda} \right) + \frac{\lambda^{2s(n+1)}}{8\lambda} \cdot N(f_{n+1}) \right] \left| \frac{\partial f_{n+1}^{-1}}{\partial z} \right|.$$

This proves Lemma 5 for  $f_{n+1}$ , and the sum in round brackets gives the desired estimate for  $G_{n+1}$ . The proof for  $\hat{f}_{n+1} = f_{n+1} \circ G_n$  is similar.  $\square$

b) Consider  $\mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}) = \{\lambda : F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \delta_{q(n+1)}(\lambda)\} = [\lambda_0, \lambda_1]$ . (11.4) gives  $|\mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)})| < \frac{(1+\varepsilon_{11.4}) \cdot 16 \cdot \lambda_0^{1+s}}{(2 \cdot \lambda_0^{c_0+s-2\alpha})^{n+1}}$ . Let  $\Delta(\lambda)$  be any interval in  $L_{n+1} \cap \delta_{q(n+1)}$ . The comparison of velocities (11.1) and (11.2) shows that the time it takes for  $F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$  to traverse  $\Delta(\lambda)$  equals  $\frac{|\Delta(\lambda)|}{v_n(\lambda)} \cdot (1 + o(\lambda^{-c_0n}))$ , where  $\lambda$  is any moment of passing by.

We want to reduce all these moments (for different  $\Delta(\lambda)$ ) to the same one, namely to  $\lambda_0$ , and then use the relation (11.3) for  $\lambda_0$ . This can be done for given  $\Delta(\lambda)$  if for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)})$ ,

$$\frac{|\Delta(\lambda)|}{|\Delta(\lambda_0)|} > (1 - \alpha_{n+1}), \quad \alpha_{n+1} = o(\lambda_0^{-\varepsilon(n+1)}).$$

Let  $N = N(\Delta f_k) = N(f_k)$ . If  $N < \lambda_0^{s(n+1)}$ , Lemma 5 and the estimate of  $\mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)})$  imply

$$|\Delta(\lambda_0)| - |\Delta(\lambda)| < \frac{\lambda_0^{2s(n+1)}}{8\lambda_0} \cdot \lambda_0^{s(n+1)} \cdot \frac{16 \cdot \lambda_0^{1+s} \cdot (1+\varepsilon_{11.9})}{(2\lambda_0^{c_0+s-2\alpha})^{n+1}} \cdot |\Delta(\lambda_0)|. \quad (11.9)$$

Thus for such  $\Delta$ ,  $\alpha_{n+1} = O(\lambda_0^{[c_0-2(s+\alpha)](n+1)})$ .

Lemma 7 of Sect. 12 gives the following relation between  $N(\Delta)$  and  $|\Delta|$  for  $\Delta \in [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$ :

$$N < \frac{\sqrt{n} \cdot 2s}{c_0} \|\log_{\lambda_0} |\Delta|\|.$$

Thus  $N < \lambda_0^{s(n+1)}$ , if  $\frac{2s}{c_0} \sqrt{n+1} \|\log_{\lambda_0} |\Delta|\| < \lambda_0^{s(n+1)}$ . Lemma 7 also gives the following estimate for a domain  $\Delta(F_{n-1} \circ h)$  of the central branch  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$ . If  $F_p \supset \Delta(F_{n-1} \circ h) \supset F_{p+1}$ , and  $N = N(F_{n-1} \circ h) = N(F_{n+1}) + 1$ , then

$$N < \frac{4s}{c_0} \sqrt{n} \cdot p.$$

When constructing  $L_{n+1}$  in Sect. 10, we had  $L_{n+1} \cap (\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}) \subset \bigcup \Delta f_{n+1}$ . Using this fact one can check inductively following the proofs of Lemmas 2 and 4 that the following construction gives a set  $\mathcal{X}'_{n+1} \subset \mathcal{X}_{n+1}$  with

$$\text{mes}(L_{n+1}^{-k} \cap \mathcal{X}'_{n+1}) > (1 - \varepsilon'_0) \lambda^{2\alpha(n+1)} \text{mes} \delta_{n+1}^{-k}$$

for every  $\delta_{n+1}^{-k}$ .

We begin by constructing at step 2 the maps  $f_1 \circ g$  and the holes  $g^{-1}\delta_1$ . Then at step  $n+1$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , we reproduce on each interval inside  $\delta_n$  the structure obtained after step  $n$  on  $[0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$ , and on each hole  $\delta_i^{-k}$  [ $1 \leq i \leq n-1$  and  $k \leq k_0(n)$ ] here, contrary to  $i=n$  and  $1 \leq k < \infty$  in the construction of Sect. 3] we reproduce the structure of  $\delta_i \setminus \delta_n$  obtained after step  $n$ . Ignoring  $N(F_{n-1} \circ h)$  this construction gives for  $N(\mathcal{X}'_n) = \max\{N(\Delta f_k), \Delta f_k \in \mathcal{X}'_n\}$  the upper estimate  $2^n$ . Taking into account  $N(F_{n-1} \circ h)$  estimated above, we obtain

$$N(\mathcal{X}'_n) < n \cdot 2^n.$$

This implies the following

**Lemma 6.**

$$\frac{\text{mes}\{\Delta(f_k) \in \hat{L}_{n+1}(\lambda) : N(f_k) < n \cdot 2^n\}}{\text{mes}\hat{\delta}_{n+1}(\lambda)} > (1-\varepsilon)\lambda^{\alpha(n+1)}.$$

Lemma 6 implies the predominance of  $\Delta$  satisfying (11.9) in  $\hat{L}_{n+1}$ . Thus (11.3) implies

$$\frac{\text{mes}\{\lambda \in \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}), F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \hat{L}_{n+1}(\lambda)\}}{\text{mes}\{\lambda \in \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}), F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \hat{\delta}_{n+1}(\lambda)\}} > (1-\varepsilon_{11.10})\lambda_0^{\alpha(n+1)}. \quad (11.10)$$

c) Let  $\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}) = [\lambda_2, \lambda_3] = \{\lambda : F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}(\lambda)\}$ . (11.4) and Lemma 5 imply that for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{J}$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=1/2} - \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda_2}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=1/2} \right\| \\ & < \frac{\left( \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda_2}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=1/2} \right)^2 \cdot N(G_{n+1}) \cdot 2\lambda_2^s (1 + \varepsilon_{11.11})}{(2\lambda_2^{\varepsilon_0 - (s+2\alpha)})^{n+1}}. \end{aligned} \quad (11.11)$$

(11.11) and the estimate  $b_{4n+1}$  of  $\mu(G_{n+1})$  give for any  $\Delta(\lambda) \subset (\hat{L}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{X}'_{n+1})^{-k}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\text{mes} G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda \Delta(\lambda)}{\text{mes} G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda_2 \Delta(\lambda_2)} & > (1 - \alpha_{n+1}) \left( 1 - \frac{\left| \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda_2}{\partial z} \right|_{z=1/2}}{\left| \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda_2}{\partial z} \right|_{z=1/2}} \right) \\ & \cdot \exp(\mu(G_{n+1})) > \left( 1 - \frac{N(G_{n+1}) \cdot \left| \frac{\partial G_{n+1}^{-1} \lambda_2}{\partial z} \right|_{z=1/2} \cdot 2\lambda_2^s (1 + \varepsilon_{11.12})}{(2\lambda_2^{\varepsilon_0 - (s+2\alpha)})^{(n+1)}} \right) \\ & \cdot (1 - \alpha_{n+1}) (1 - O(\lambda^{-\alpha(n+1)})). \end{aligned} \quad (11.12)$$

As  $N(G) \cdot \left| \frac{\partial G^1}{\partial z} \right| = o(1)$ , we obtain from (11.12) and (11.3)

$$\frac{\text{mes}\{\lambda \in \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}), F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \hat{L}_{n+1}^{-k}\}}{\text{mes}\{\lambda \in \mathcal{J}(\delta_{q(n+1)}^{-k}), F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-k}\}} > (1 - \varepsilon_{11.13}) \cdot \lambda_2^{\alpha(n+1)} \quad (11.13)$$

Using  $\hat{L}_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda) \cap \hat{L}_{n+1}^{-\ell}(\lambda) = \emptyset$ , if  $\hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-k} \neq \hat{\delta}_{n+1}^{-\ell}$ , we obtain from (11.10) and (11.13)



**Proposition 2.** Let  $\mathcal{J}_n = [\lambda_{0n}, \lambda_{1n}] \subset \mathcal{M}_n$  be any interval on the  $\lambda$ -axis constructed at Step  $n$ . Then

$$\frac{\text{mes} \left\{ \lambda \in \mathcal{J}_n, F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda) \right\}}{\text{mes } \mathcal{J}_n} < \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{11}}{\lambda_{0n}^{\alpha(n+1)}},$$

where  $\varepsilon_{11} < \lambda^{-t}$ .

We define

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{J}_n = \left\{ \lambda : F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda) \right\},$$

and obtain

$$\text{mes}(\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \cap \mathcal{J}_n) > 1 - \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{11}}{\lambda_{0n}^{\alpha(n+1)}}$$

and consequently

$$\text{mes } \mathcal{M}_{n+1} > \left( 1 - \frac{1 + \varepsilon_{11}}{N_0^{\alpha(n+1)}} \right) \text{mes } \mathcal{M}_n.$$

*Remark XI/1.* Any  $\lambda$  such that  $F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} \bigcup \delta_{n+1}^{-k}(\lambda)$  lies in one of the intervals  $\mathcal{J}_{n+1}(\Delta_k)$  corresponding to the relation  $F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \Delta_k(\lambda)$ , or is a limit point of such intervals. One can apparently prove that

$$\text{mes} \{ \lambda : F_n \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \bigcup \Delta_k(\lambda) \} > \left( 1 - \frac{1 + \varepsilon'_{11}}{\lambda_{0n}^{\alpha(n+1)}} \right) \text{mes } \mathcal{J}_n,$$

but there is no reason to avoid  $\lambda$  lying in the limit set. They are even better in some sense (see Remark VIII/3).

## 12. Transition from $T_\lambda$ -Invariant Measure to $f_\lambda$ -Invariant Measure

The previous relations between  $\text{mes } \mathcal{M}_{n+1}$  and  $\text{mes } \mathcal{M}_n$ , and the choice of the position of the top

$$F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] - \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^{s/2}}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^{s/2}} \right)$$

within the first steps  $1, 2, \dots, n_0$ , imply that there exists a set  $\mathcal{M} = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}_n$  on the  $\lambda$ -axis with measure

$$\text{mes } \mathcal{M} > 4 \left[ \prod_{n=1}^{n_0} \left( 1 - \frac{2(1+\varepsilon)}{N_0^{s/2}} \right) \right] \cdot \left[ \prod_{n=n_0+1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \frac{1+\varepsilon}{N_0^{\alpha n}} \right) \right]$$

such that for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}$  the partition  $\xi_\lambda$  of Sect. 1 exists.

Conditions i-iv of Sect. 1 imply that for  $T_\lambda$  defined by  $T_\lambda|A_i(\lambda) = f_\lambda^{n_i}$  there exists a unique  $T_\lambda$ -invariant probabilistic measure  $\nu_\lambda < dx$  with a density  $\varrho_\lambda(x) \in C_{[0,1]}$ ,  $\varrho_\lambda > c > 0$ . The endomorphism  $T_\lambda$  of the Lebesgue space  $([0,1], \nu_\lambda)$  is exact and its natural extension is isomorphic to a Bernoulli shift (see [12, 13]).

In order to finish the proof of Theorem A for the family  $f_\lambda: x \rightarrow \lambda x(1-x)$  (mod 1) we have to construct an invariant measure  $\mu_\lambda < dx$ .

Let  $f^{-k}(A)$  be the full preimage of  $A \subset [0,1]$  under  $f^k$ ,  $f^{-k}A = \{x: f^k x \in A\}$ .

Suppose  $\sum_{A_i \in \xi_\lambda} n_i \nu_\lambda(A_i) < \infty$ . Then the measure defined for any  $dx$ -measurable set  $A$  by

$$\mu_\lambda(A) = \sum_{A_i \in \xi_\lambda} \sum_{0 \leq j < n_i} \nu_\lambda(f^{-j}A \cap A_i) \quad (12.1)$$

is absolutely continuous with respect to  $dx$ , by a theorem on integrability of a series of positive functions (see for example [15] Sect. 14).

We show  $\mu_\lambda$  is  $f$ -invariant.

By definition

$$\mu_\lambda(f^{-1}A) = \sum_{A_i \in \xi_\lambda} \sum_{0 \leq j < n_i} \nu_\lambda(f^{-j} \circ f^{-1}A \cap A_i). \quad (12.2)$$

If  $j < n_i - 1$ , every term  $f^{-j} \circ f^{-1}A \cap A_i$  in (12.2) coincides with  $f^{-(j+1)}A \cap A_i$  in (12.1). After excluding these terms, there remain in (12.1) terms with  $j=0$ , which give  $\sum_{A_i \in \xi_\lambda} \nu_\lambda(A \cap A_i) = \nu_\lambda(A)$ , and in (12.2) terms with  $j=n_i-1$ , which give

$$\sum_{A_i \in \xi} \nu_\lambda(f^{-n_i}A \cap A_i) = \sum_{A_i \in \xi} \nu_\lambda(T_\lambda^{-1}A \cap A_i) = \nu_\lambda T_\lambda^{-1}A.$$

Thus (12.1) equals (12.2) because of the  $T_\lambda$ -invariance of  $\nu_\lambda$ .

Let  $\beta = \frac{2}{5}$ . The following proposition implies  $\sum n(A_i)|A_i| < \infty$ .

**Proposition 3.** 
$$\sum_{A_i \in \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n-1}} n(A_i)|A_i| < \frac{n^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)n}}.$$

*Proof.* a) Consider step  $n$  of the induction construction of Sect. 3. If  $\Phi_n$  is one of  $f_n, \hat{f}_n, G_n, F_{n-1}$  obtained with  $N$  successive iterates of  $f_\lambda$ , we use an upper index so that  $\Phi_n^N = f_\lambda \circ f_\lambda \circ \dots \circ f_\lambda$ , and  $\Phi_n^{-N} = (\Phi_n^N)^{-1} | \text{Im } \Phi_n^N$ .

**Lemma 7.**  $|Df_n^N| > \lambda^{2\sqrt{n} + s}$

Let

$$\Gamma_\ell = \begin{cases} \delta_\ell & \text{if } \ell \leq n \\ \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-s\ell}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-s\ell} \right] & \text{if } \ell \geq n+1. \end{cases}$$

We prove Lemma 7 by induction and assume that for  $k=1, \dots, n$  Lemma 7 holds together with the following properties:

- i) Let  $\delta_n^{-N} = G^{-N} \delta_n \subset [0,1] \setminus \Gamma_\ell$ , and let  $r = \max(1, n)$ . Then  $|DG^N| \delta_n^{-N} > \lambda^{\frac{c_0 N}{2\sqrt{r}} + s}$ .
- ii) Let  $A \hat{f}_n^N \subset [0,1] \setminus \Gamma_\ell$ . Then  $|D\hat{f}_n^N| > \lambda^{\frac{c_0 N}{2\sqrt{r}}}$ .

Consider  $k = n + 1$ . Notice that if  $x \in [0, 1] \setminus \Gamma_2$ , then  $|Df_\lambda| > \lambda^{1-2s} > \lambda^{\frac{c_0}{2} + s}$ . If  $x \in \Gamma_2$ , then  $\ell, r \geq 3$  in i), ii) and  $\frac{c_0}{2\sqrt{3}} + s < \frac{c_0}{2}$ . As  $|Df_\lambda| > \lambda^{\frac{c_0}{2}}$  on any hole  $\delta_1^{-1}$  we obtain i) for  $n = 1$ . ii) for  $n = 1$  holds because of i) and  $|Df_1| > \lambda^{c_0} > \lambda^{\frac{c_0}{2} + s}$ .

Let  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$  be the central branch,  $F_{n-1} = f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1}$ ,  $1 \leq i_k \leq k$ ,  $N(f_{i_k}) = N_k$  the number of iterations of  $f_\lambda$  corresponding to  $f_{i_k}$ ,  $k \in [1, n-1]$ ,  $\delta = G^{-N_n} \delta_n$ ,  $M = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^n N_k$ . Then  $(F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \delta = \delta_n^{-M}$ . (In the notation of Sect. 3,  $G^M : \delta_n^{-M} \rightarrow \delta_n$  is one of the  $G'_n$  constructed at the beginning of step  $n$ .)

Let  $D_{n-1}$  be the domain of  $F_{n-1} \circ h$ , and let  $p_0 = \min\{p | \delta_n^{-M} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \Gamma_p\}$ . Then (see (6.12))

$$p_0 > \frac{c_0}{2s} n. \tag{12.3}$$

According to the construction of Sect. 3,

$$\text{dist}(\delta, F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})) > \frac{\delta}{2} \lambda^{2n(1-\varepsilon)},$$

which implies (see (6.4)) that

$$|DG^M| > \frac{\sqrt{\lambda} \left[ |DG^{N_n}| \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} |Df_{i_k}| \right]^{1/2}}{\lambda^{(s-\alpha)n/2}}, \tag{12.4}$$

where  $DG^M$  is evaluated on  $\delta_n^{-M}$  and  $DG^{N_n}$  on  $\delta$ . By the induction hypotheses we have

$$\begin{aligned} |Df_{i_k}| &> \lambda^{[c_0 N_k / 2] + s} \quad 1 \leq k \leq n-1 \\ |DG^{N_n}| &> \lambda^{[c_0 N_n / 2] + s}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, on  $\delta_n^{-M}$ ,

$$|DG^M| > \lambda^\theta,$$

where

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{s(n-1)}{2} + \left( \sum_{i=1}^n N_i \right) \frac{c_0}{4\sqrt{n}} - \frac{(s-\alpha)}{2} n. \tag{12.5}$$

We have to prove

$$|DG^M| > \lambda^{[c_0 M / 2] + s}. \tag{12.5a}$$

Now,  $M = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n N_i \right) - 1$ ,

$$\frac{1-s+n\alpha}{2} > s + \frac{c_0}{2\sqrt{p_0}}$$

and  $c_0/2s > 4$  imply

$$2\sqrt{n} < \sqrt{c_0 n/2s} < \sqrt{p_0}$$

and (12.5a) follows from (12.5).

So i) is proved for the holes  $\delta_n^{-M} = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \delta_n^{-N}$ . Any branch  $f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ g$  is some composition of the form  $f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_k} \circ (f_{i_{k-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ h)$ , where  $f_{i_{k-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ h$  is a central branch of some previous step. Thus the same arguments prove i) for  $\delta_n^{-M} = (F_{n-1} \circ g)^{-1} \delta_n^{-N}$  (the estimates are better in this case). If  $\delta_n^{-M} = \hat{f}_n^{-1} \delta_n^{-N}$ , i) follows from i) and ii) of Step  $n-1$ .

Let  $G^{-N} \delta_n = \delta_n^{-N} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . Then we have  $\max(\ell, n) = n+1$ . Now i) follows for  $G_{n+1}^M : \delta_{n+1}^{-M} \rightarrow \delta_{n+1}$  with  $\delta_{n+1}^{-M} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  because they are compositions of maps satisfying i) with  $r \leq n+1$ . Similarly for  $G_{n+1}^M : \delta_{n+1}^{-M} \rightarrow \delta_{n+1}$ ,  $\delta_{n+1}^{-M} \subset [0, 1] \setminus \Gamma_\emptyset$ ,  $\ell > n+1$ . This proves  $i_{n+1}$ .

Let  $f_{n+1} = f_{i_n} \circ f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1} \circ g_\lambda | [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . The induction conditions on  $|Df_{i_k}|$  imply that  $|Df_{n+1}| = \prod_{k=1}^n |Df_{i_k}| \cdot 2\lambda |x - \frac{1}{2}|$  satisfies Lemma 7. The same is true for  $f_{n+1} = f_{i_k} \circ \hat{f}_n$ , because of ii). Taking into account  $i_{n+1}$ , we obtain Lemma 7 for  $f_{n+1k}$  with  $k > 1$ . Finally ii) at Step  $n+1$  follows from i) and the assertion of Lemma 7 for  $f_{n+1}$ .  $\square$

b) We shall use the following estimates for compositions of maps.

Let  $g: B \rightarrow J$  be given by  $g(x) = ax^2$ , where  $B = [x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$  and  $J = \bigcup \Delta$ , where  $\text{int} \Delta_1 \cap \text{int} \Delta_2 = \emptyset$  if  $\Delta_1 \neq \Delta_2$ . Let  $\Delta = [h_\Delta, h_\Delta + |\Delta|]$  and denote by  $n(\Delta)$  the number of iterations corresponding to  $\Delta$ . Then  $B = \bigcup g^{-1} \Delta$ , where

$$|g^{-1} \Delta| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \left( \sqrt{h_\Delta + |\Delta|} - \sqrt{h_\Delta} = \frac{|\Delta|}{\sqrt{a}(\sqrt{h_\Delta + |\Delta|} + \sqrt{h_\Delta})} \right)$$

and

$$n(g^{-1} \Delta) = 1 + n(\Delta).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum n(g^{-1} \Delta) |g^{-1} \Delta| &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \sum \frac{(1 + n(\Delta)) |\Delta|}{\sqrt{h_\Delta + |\Delta|} + \sqrt{h_\Delta}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \sum \frac{|\Delta|}{\sqrt{h_\Delta + |\Delta|} + \sqrt{h_\Delta}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \sum \frac{n(\Delta) |\Delta|}{\sqrt{h_\Delta + |\Delta|} + \sqrt{h_\Delta}}. \end{aligned} \quad (12.6)$$

Let us now consider  $\{\Delta', f', n'\}$ , where  $\text{int} \Delta'_1 \cap \text{int} \Delta'_2 = \emptyset$ ,  $n' = n'(\Delta') = n'(f')$ . Suppose every  $f'$  maps its domain onto the same interval,  $f': \Delta' \rightarrow J$ , and  $\mu(f', \Delta') < c$ . Let  $\{\Delta, f, n\}$  be so that  $\Delta \subset J$ ,  $\text{int} \Delta_1 \cap \text{int} \Delta_2 = \emptyset$ ,  $n = n(\Delta) = n(f)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\Delta, \Delta'} n(f'^{-1}(\Delta)) |f'^{-1} \Delta| &< \left( \sum_{\Delta, \Delta'} (n + n') |\Delta| |\Delta'| \right) \frac{\exp(c)}{|J|} \\ &= [(\sum n |\Delta|) (\sum |\Delta'|) + (\sum n' |\Delta'|) (\sum |\Delta|)] \frac{\exp(c)}{|J|}. \end{aligned}$$

c) When estimating  $\sum n(\Delta) |\Delta|$  after step  $n$  of the induction construction we shall attribute to any preimage  $\delta_n^{-N}$  mapped onto  $\delta_n$  by  $G_n^N$  the number of iterations  $N$ ,

ignoring the structure inside  $\delta_n$ . But when considering  $\delta_n$  itself, we take into account this structure. This gives the estimate of  $\sum n(\Delta)|\Delta|$  on any domain inside  $\delta_n$ . Then according to the construction of Sect. 3 we introduce at step  $n+1$  the structure from  $\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  inside every domain  $(\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1})^{-N}$ .

Before formulating the induction hypotheses of Proposition 3 we introduce a new notation. Let  $\Delta_0 = \Delta f \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$  be a domain of some  $f$ , constructed after Step  $n$ . We define a ‘‘block’’  $B(\Delta_0)$  as a maximal interval containing  $\Delta_0$ , which doesn’t contain any hole  $\delta_n^{-k}$ . If  $B(\Delta_0) \cap \delta_n = \emptyset$ , then  $B(\Delta_0) = \bigcup \Delta_i$ , where any  $\Delta_i = [a_i, a_{i+1}]$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , is a domain of some  $\Delta f_\ell$ ,  $\ell \leq n$ . If  $B(\Delta_0) \cap \delta_n \neq \emptyset$ , then a part of the  $\Delta_i$  are as above and the others are  $\Delta(F_{n-1} \circ g)$  or  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$ .

After Step 2 we obtain two exceptional one-side blocks  $B_0^*$ , which contains 0, and  $B_1^*$ , containing 1, and for any  $\tilde{B} \neq B_0^*$ ,  $B_1^*$ ,  $\tilde{B} = \tilde{B}_1 \cup \tilde{B}_2$ , where  $\tilde{B}_1 = g^{-n} B_0^*$ ,  $\tilde{B}_2 = g^{-n} B_1^*$ .

The structure of  $B_0^*$  is:  $B_0^* = \bigcup B_{0i}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $B_{0i} = \bigcup \Delta_{ik}$ ,  $k \in [1, n_0]$ ,  $n_0 = \text{card}\{\Delta f_1 \subset [0, \frac{1}{2}]\}$ ,  $\Delta_{1k} = \Delta f_1$ ,  $\Delta_{ik} = \Delta f_{2i-1}$  for  $i \geq 2$ , and the corresponding number of iterations  $N(\Delta_{ik}) = i$ . The structure of  $B_1^*$  is similar.

Let  $\tilde{B}$  be some block of step  $n+1$ . Then either  $\tilde{B} = \tilde{B}_1 \cup \tilde{B}_2$ , where  $\tilde{B}_1 \subset [a_1, a]$ ,  $\tilde{B}_2 \subset [a, a_2]$ , and  $[a_1, a]$ ,  $[a, a_2]$  are two adjacent intervals constructed at step  $n$ ,  $\tilde{B}_1 \cap \tilde{B}_2 = a$ , and both  $\tilde{B}_1, \tilde{B}_2$  are preimages of  $B_0^*$  or  $B_1^*$ , or  $\tilde{B}$  is some preimage of such blocks constructed at previous steps.

When constructing  $\delta_{n+1}$  we shall take the precaution to choose two adjacent intervals  $\Delta' \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  and  $\Delta'' \subset \delta_{n+1}$  which are the preimages of  $\Delta_{ik}$  with the same  $i$ . This can be done by moving if necessary the point  $\xi_{1n}$  of Sect. 10 a distance less than  $(2\lambda^{c_1})^{-(n+1)}$  and still having (10.10) true.

Let  $B_+(\Delta_0) = \bigcup (\Delta_i \subset B(\Delta_0), i > 0)$ ,  $B_-(\Delta_0) = \bigcup (\Delta_i \subset B(\Delta_0), i < 0)$ . Then the preceding implies

$$\min(\text{mes } B_+(\Delta_0), \text{mes } B_-(\Delta_0)) > \frac{1 - \lambda^{-t}}{2} |\Delta_0|. \quad (12.8)$$

(12.8) together with (4.6) imply the following

*Property.* Let  $\Delta_0 = \Delta f_k \subset B(\Delta_0) \subset \text{Im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$  be so that  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \notin B(\Delta_0)$ . Then

$$\mu(F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x), \Delta_0) < 3. \quad (12.9)$$

d) Let  $\mathcal{D}_n = \Delta(F_{n-1} \circ h)$ ,  $F_{n-1} = f_{i_{n-1}} \circ \dots \circ f_{i_1}$ , and let  $\Delta_0^{(n)} = \Delta f_{i_n}$  be so that  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \Delta_0^{(n)}$ . Then  $\mathcal{D}_{n+1} = \Delta(f_{i_n} \circ F_{n-1} \circ h)$ . Let  $B_n = B(\Delta_0^{(n)})$  be the block of  $\Delta_0^{(n)}$ ,  $\mathcal{U}_n = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} B(\Delta_0^{(n)})$ . Notice that  $\mathcal{D}_{n+1}$  may be equal to  $\mathcal{D}_n$  (it is, if  $\text{im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x) \subset \Delta(0)$  – the first interval  $\Delta f_1$  on  $[0, 1]$  (or  $\subset \Delta(1)$  – the last one)), but always  $\mathcal{U}_{n+1} \not\subseteq \mathcal{U}_n$ .

We now formulate the induction hypotheses for the proof of Proposition 3. Let  $R(n) = \max\{R : \mathcal{U}_{n-1} \subset \Gamma_R\}$  where  $\Gamma_R = (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sR}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sR})$ . Let  $\sum_n^k = \sum N(\Delta)|\Delta|$  after step  $n$ , where  $\Delta \subset \delta_k \setminus \delta_{k+1}$  if  $k < n$ , or  $\Delta \subset \Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1}$  if  $k \geq n$ , are either intervals  $\Delta f_i$ ,  $i \leq n$ ,  $\Delta F_{n-1} \circ g$ ,  $\Delta \hat{f}_n$  or holes  $\delta_n^{-M}$ . ( $N(\delta_n^{-M}) = M$  for holes.) Then for  $k \leq R(n) - 1$ ,

$$i) \sum_n^k < \frac{k^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)k}} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \lambda^{-it}.$$

Consider any  $x_0, x_1, x_2 \in \delta_{k-2} \setminus \delta_k$  (respectively  $\Gamma_{k-2} \setminus \Gamma_k$ ), so that  $x_1 \in [x_0, x_2]$ . Then for  $k \leq R(n)$

$$\text{ii) } \sum_{\Delta \subset [x_0, x_2]} N(\Delta) |\Delta| / |x_0 - x_2| < \lambda^{s\beta k} \\ \cdot \left( \sum_{\Delta \subset [x_0, x_1]} N(\Delta) |\Delta| / |x_0 - x_1| \right) \left( \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \lambda^{-is} \right).$$

We have to prove (i) and (ii) for  $n+1$  and  $k \leq R(n+1) - 1$  (respectively  $k \leq R(n+1)$ ), where  $R(n+1) = \max\{R | \mathcal{U}_n \subset \Gamma_R\}$ .

We shall assume that the boundary points of  $\delta_n, \delta_{n+1}, \mathcal{D}_n$  and  $\mathcal{U}_n$  lie in  $\{\lambda^{-sm}\}$ , that is,  $\delta_k = (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sk}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sk})$  for  $k = n, n+1$ , and for some  $r, p \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\mathcal{D}_n = (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sr}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-sr}) \\ \mathcal{U}_n = (\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-s(r+p)}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-s(r+p)}).$$

In addition we suppose  $\frac{c_0}{2s}$  and  $\frac{\alpha}{s}n$  to be integers. The reader can check there is no loss of generality here.

Let  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \delta_{q-1} \setminus \delta_q$ . According to the main construction  $q \leq \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)n$ .

Let  $N(f_{ik}) = N_k, k \in [1, n-1]$ . Lemma 7 implies

$$|Df_{ik}| > \lambda^{\frac{N_k c_0}{2\sqrt{k}} + s}.$$

As  $\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-sr}$  is a root of the equation

$$F_{n-1} \circ [\lambda x(1-x)] = F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \pmod{1}$$

we have

$$\frac{1}{\lambda^{sr}} < \frac{1}{\left[ \lambda \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} |Df_{ik}| \right]^{1/2}} < \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left( \frac{N_k c_0}{2\sqrt{k}} + s \right) \right) \ell n \lambda \right].$$

Hence

$$sr > \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + (n-1)s + \frac{c_0}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} N_k / \sqrt{k} \right] \\ > \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + (n-1)s + \frac{c_0}{2\sqrt{n-1}} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} N_k \right].$$

This implies that the number of iterations  $N(F_{n-1} \circ h) = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} N_k$  satisfies

$$N(F_{n-1} \circ h) < \frac{4s}{c_0} r \sqrt{n-1} - \frac{2s}{c_0} (n-1)^{3/2}.$$

Taking into account that  $r > c_0 n / 2s$ , we obtain

$$N(F_{n-1} \circ h) < 2 \left( \frac{2sr}{c_0} \right)^{3/2} - \frac{2s}{c_0} (n-1)^{3/2}. \quad (12.10)$$

We shall denote  $\Delta_0^{(n)}$  by  $\Delta_0$  and  $B_n$  by  $B$  below. As  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in \Delta_0$ ,  $\text{im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$  contains either  $B_+(\Delta_0)$ , or  $B_-(\Delta_0)$ . Suppose the former. The number of iterations  $N(\Delta_i)$  are either increasing, or they decrease till some  $N_{\min}$ , and then increase up to infinity. Let  $\mathcal{S} = \text{im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x) \cap B$ . The properties of blocks are so that in the second case  $|\mathcal{S}| = 2n_0 \cdot |\Delta_{\min}|(1 + \varepsilon)$ , where  $\Delta_{\min}$  is any interval corresponding to  $N_{\min}$ ,  $n_0 = \text{card}\{\Delta f_1 \subseteq [0, \frac{1}{2}] \setminus \delta_1\} < \lambda$ ,  $\varepsilon < \lambda^{-t}$ . In the first case more than  $1 - \varepsilon$  of  $|\mathcal{S}|$  consists of intervals with  $N(\Delta_i) = N(\Delta_0)$ , and  $N(\Delta_i) = N(\Delta_0) + 1$  (the distribution depends on the number of first  $\Delta_i$  with  $N(\Delta_i) = N(\Delta_0)$ ). In both cases we have

$$\sum_{\Delta \subset \mathcal{S}} N(\Delta) |\Delta| < (1 + \varepsilon) \cdot N(\mathcal{S}) \cdot |\mathcal{S}| \quad (12.11)$$

and

$$|\mathcal{S}| < 2 \cdot \lambda \cdot (1 + \varepsilon) |Df_k^{-(N(\mathcal{S})-1)}|, \quad (12.12)$$

where  $N(\mathcal{S}) = N_{\min}$  in the second case,  $N(\mathcal{S}) = N(\Delta_0) + 1$  in the first case. Taking into account that  $\Delta_0, \Delta_{\min} \subseteq B \subseteq [0, 1] \setminus \delta \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)n$  and thus  $f_k^{N_{\min}}: \Delta_{\min} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  (correspondingly  $f_k^{N(\Delta_0)}$ ) satisfies Lemma 7 with  $\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)n$ , and proceeding as above when deriving (12.10), we obtain for  $\mathcal{U}_n = (F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x))^{-1} \mathcal{S} = \Gamma_{r+p}$

$$N(F_{n-1} \circ h) + N(\mathcal{S}) < 2 \left( \frac{2s}{c_0} (r+p) \right)^{3/2} - \frac{2s}{c_0} (n-1)^{3/2}. \quad (12.13)$$

e) As  $\Gamma_r = \mathcal{D}_n = \Delta(F_{n-1} \circ h)$  consists of a unique  $\Delta$ , after step  $n$  we have  $\sum_n^k = N(F_{n-1} \circ h) \cdot 2(\lambda^{-sk} - \lambda^{-s(k+1)})$  for  $k \geq r$ .

Let us estimate  $\sum n(\Delta) |\Delta|$  after taking the first compositions  $f_i \circ F_{n-1} \circ h$  on every  $\Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tilde{\Gamma}_k$ ,  $r \leq k < r+p$ . We shall denote this sum by  $\sum_{n+1}^k$ .

Let  $\mathcal{S}_0 = \mathcal{S}$ , and let  $\mathcal{S}_i$  be the  $\lambda^{2si}$ -enlargement of  $\mathcal{S}_0$  with center  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})$ . Then  $\Gamma_{r+p} = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \mathcal{S}_0$ ,  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{r+p-i} = (F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} (\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1})$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, p$ . Applying (12.7) to  $\{\Delta \subseteq \mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}\}$  and  $\Delta' = \Delta F_{n-1}$  we obtain using  $b_{2n}$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\Delta \subset \mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}} (N(F_{n-1}) + n(\Delta)) |F_{n-1}^{-1} \Delta| &< (1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})) |\Delta F_{n-1}| \\ &\left( N(F_{n-1}) |\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}| + \sum_{\Delta \subset \mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}} n(\Delta) |\Delta| \right). \end{aligned} \quad (12.14)$$

Applying (12.6) to  $F_{n-1}^{-1} (\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1})$  we have  $h_{\Delta} > \lambda^{1-2s(r+p-(i-1))}$  and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n+1}^{r+p-i} &= \sum_{(F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \Delta} (N(F_{n-1}) + n(\Delta) + 1) |(F_{n-1} \circ h)^{-1} \Delta| \\ &< 2^{-1} \lambda^{-1+s(r+p-(i-1))} (1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})) \Delta F_{n-1} \\ &\quad \cdot \left( |\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}| + N(F_{n-1}) |\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}| + \sum_{\Delta \subset \mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}} n(\Delta) |\Delta| \right). \end{aligned} \quad (12.15)$$

We shall assume  $\text{im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x) \subseteq [0, \frac{1}{2}]$ , and leave to the reader the modifications corresponding to another position of  $\text{im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$  in  $[0, 1]$ . Let

$\ell = \max\{i: \mathcal{S}_i \subseteq \delta_{q-2} \setminus \delta_q\}$ . Then for  $i \leq \ell$  we can apply (ii). Together with (12.11) this gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\Delta \subset \mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}} n(\Delta) |\Delta| &< \sum_{\Delta \subset \mathcal{S}_i} n(\Delta) |\Delta| < \lambda^{s\beta \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)^n} \cdot N(\mathcal{S}_0) \cdot |\mathcal{S}_0| \cdot \lambda^{2si} \cdot (1 + \varepsilon) \\ &= N(\mathcal{S}_0) \cdot |\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}| \cdot (1 - \lambda^{-2s})^{-1} \cdot (1 + \varepsilon) \cdot \lambda^{\beta(s-\alpha)n}. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting this estimate in (12.15), we obtain

$$\sum_{n+1}^{r+p-1} < \frac{(1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})) \cdot |\Delta F_{n-1}| \cdot |\mathcal{S}_i \setminus \mathcal{S}_{i-1}| (1 + N(F_{n-1}) + N(\mathcal{S}_0) (1 + \varepsilon_1)) \cdot \lambda^{\beta(s-\alpha)n}}{2\lambda^{1-s(r+p-(i-1))}}.$$

We have by definition  $\mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{S}_{k-1} = F_{n-1} \circ h(\tilde{F}_{r+p-k})$  and using  $b_{2n}$ , this implies

$$|\Delta F_{n-1}| \cdot |\mathcal{S}_k \setminus \mathcal{S}_{k-1}| = \lambda^{1-2s(r+p-k)} \cdot (1 + O(\lambda^{-\gamma})) (1 - \lambda^{-2s}). \quad (12.16)$$

Thus

$$\sum_{n+1}^{r+p-i} < \frac{(1 + \varepsilon_2) \cdot \lambda^s \cdot (1 + N(F_{n-1}) + N(\mathcal{S}_0) \lambda^{\beta(s-\alpha)n})}{2\lambda^{s(r+p-i)}}.$$

Consequently, by (12.13) this implies

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n+1}^{r+p-i} &< \frac{(1 + \varepsilon_{12.17}) \cdot \lambda^s \cdot \left(\frac{2s}{c_0}(r+p)\right)^{3/2} \lambda^{\beta(s-\alpha)n}}{\lambda^{s(r+p-i)}} \\ &< (1 + \varepsilon_{12.17}) \left(\frac{2s}{c_0}\right)^{3/2} \frac{(r+p-i)^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)(r+p-i)}} \cdot \frac{\lambda^{s\beta \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)^{n+s+2\beta}}}{\lambda^{s\beta(r+p-i)}}. \end{aligned} \quad (12.17)$$

Thus for  $1 \leq i \leq \ell$  we have on  $\tilde{F}_{r+p-i}$  the analogue of assumption (i) but with an additional factor less than  $\left(\text{we use } n < \frac{2s}{c_0} r\right)$

$$\frac{\lambda^{s+2\beta}}{\lambda^{s\beta(r+p-i - \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)n)}} < \frac{\lambda^{s+2\beta}}{\left[\lambda^{s\beta p-i+r \left(1 - \frac{2(s-\alpha)}{c_0}\right)}\right]}.$$

In a general case we have  $\ell < p$  (this is not so only if  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus \delta_3$ ), and we have also to estimate  $\sum_{n+1}^{r+j}$ ,  $0 \leq j < p - \ell$ . Let us consider

$$\mathcal{S}_{\ell+1} = \lambda^{2s(\ell+1)} \mathcal{S}_0, \dots, \mathcal{S}_p = \lambda^{2sp} \mathcal{S}_0 = \text{im } F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x).$$

We have  $\mathcal{S}_p \setminus \mathcal{S}_{p-1} = [0, a_{p-1}]$ , where  $\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-2s}/2 \approx a_{p-1} \in \delta_2 \setminus \delta_3$ ,

$$\mathcal{S}_{p-1} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{p-2} = [a_{p-1}, a_{p-2}], \quad \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\lambda^{4s}} \approx a_{p-2} \in \delta_4 \setminus \delta_5, \dots,$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\ell+1} \setminus \mathcal{S}_\ell = [a_{\ell+1}, a_\ell],$$

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \lambda^{-2s(p-\ell-1)} \approx a_{\ell+1} \in \delta_{2(p-\ell-1)} \setminus \delta_{2(p-\ell-1)+1},$$

$$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \lambda^{-2s(p-\ell)} \approx a_\ell \in \delta_{2(p-\ell)} \setminus \delta_{2(p-\ell)+1}.$$



By construction  $\mathcal{S}_\ell = [a_\ell, F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})]$  is the last enlargement of  $\mathcal{S}_0$  which lies in  $\delta_{q-2} \setminus \delta_q$ . Hence either  $a_\ell \in \delta_{q-1} \setminus \delta_q$ , or  $a_\ell \in \delta_{q-2} \setminus \delta_{q-1}$ . For definiteness let  $a_\ell \in \delta_{q-1} \setminus \delta_q$ . Then  $q = 2(p - \ell) + 1$ ,  $\ell = p - \frac{q-1}{2}$ ,

$$\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1} \subseteq \delta_{2(p-\ell-j)} \setminus \delta_{2(p-\ell-j)+3}, \quad j \in [1, p-\ell],$$

where  $\delta_0 = [0, \frac{1}{2}]$ .

(i) for  $\delta_k$  with  $k = 2(p - \ell - j)$ ,  $k + 3 \leq q \leq \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right)n$  implies

$$\sum_n^k + \sum_n^{k+1} + \sum_n^{k+2} < \frac{k^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)k}} (1 + \varepsilon_3).$$

By construction

$$\frac{1 - \varepsilon_4}{2} \lambda^{-2s(p-\ell-j)} < |\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1}| < \lambda^{-2s(p-\ell-j)}.$$

Hence using (12.7) we obtain similarly to (12.14) for  $j \in [1, p - \ell]$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{A \subset \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1}} (N(F_{n-1}) + n(A)) |F_{n-1}^{-1}(A)| \\ & < (1 + O(\lambda^{-\eta})) |\Delta F_{n-1}| \{N(F_{n-2}) |\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1}| \\ & \quad + [2(p - \ell - j)]^{3/2} \lambda^{-s(1-\beta)2(p-\ell-j)}\} \\ & < (1 + \varepsilon_{12.19}) |\Delta F_{n-1}| |\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1}| \\ & \quad \cdot [N(F_{n-1}) + 2(2(p - \ell - j))^{3/2} \lambda^{2s\beta(p-\ell-j)}]. \end{aligned} \quad (12.19)$$

By construction

$$\lambda^{2s} \cdot \text{dist}(a_\ell, F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2})) > \frac{1 - \lambda^{-s}}{\lambda^{s(q-2)}}.$$

This implies

$$h_A > (1 - \lambda^{-s}) |\Delta F_{n-1}| \lambda^{-s(2(p-\ell)+1)}$$

on  $F_{n-1}^{-1}(\mathcal{S}_{\ell+1} \setminus \mathcal{S}_\ell)$  and

$$h_A > \frac{(1 - \lambda^{-s}) |\Delta F_{n-1}|}{\lambda^{s(2(p-\ell-j)+3)}}$$

on  $F_{n-1}^{-1}(\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1})$ . Applying (12.6) we obtain from (12.19) that

$$\sum_{n+1}^{r+p-(\ell+j)} < (1 + \varepsilon_{12.20}) |\Delta F_{n-1}|^{1/2} |\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1}| [N(F_{n-1}) + 1 + (2(p - \ell - j))^{3/2} 2\lambda^{2s\beta(p-\ell-j)}] \lambda^{-1/2} \lambda^{-s(p-\ell-j+3/2)}. \quad (12.20)$$

Now, (12.16) with  $k = \ell + j$  implies

$$|\Delta F_{n-1}| |\mathcal{S}_{\ell+j} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\ell+j-1}| < \frac{\sqrt{\lambda} \lambda^{-s(p-\ell-j)} (1 + \varepsilon_5)}{\lambda^{s(r+p-\ell-j)}}.$$

Substituting this into (12.20) we obtain

$$\sum_{n+1}^{r+p-(\ell+j)} < (1 + \varepsilon_{1.2.2.1}) \lambda^{3s/2} \frac{N(F_{n-1}) + 1 + (2(p-\ell-j))^{3/2} \lambda^{2s\beta(p-\ell-j)}}{\lambda^{s(r+p-\ell-j)}}. \quad (12.21)$$

According to (12.10),  $N(F_{n-1}) + 1 < 2(2sr/c_0)^{3/2}$ . Because

$$2(p-\ell) < \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right) n < \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{s}\right) \frac{2sr}{c_0},$$

we can rewrite (12.21) as

$$\sum_{n+1}^{r+p-\ell-j} < (1 + \varepsilon_{1.2.2.2}) \left(\frac{2s}{c_0}\right)^{3/2} \frac{r^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)(r+p-\ell-j)}} \cdot \frac{2\lambda^{\frac{3s}{2}}}{\lambda^{s\beta(r+p-\ell-j)} \left(1 - \frac{2s}{c_0}\right)}. \quad (12.22)$$

Thus for  $0 \leq k < p - \ell$  we have on  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{r+k}$  an additional exponentially small factor compared with the assumption (i), as well as for  $p - \ell \leq k < p$  (see (12.18)).

f) In order to estimate the contribution of terms in  $(\delta_n - \delta_{n+1})^{-M}$  we first do it in  $\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ .

Step  $n+1$  on  $\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$  divides into substeps  $\ell = 1, 2, \dots$  corresponding to the construction of  $f_{n+1}^\ell$  (see Sect. 3).

We use the following notation:  $\Delta$  is any interval  $\Delta F_{n-1} \circ g, \Delta \hat{f}_n, \Delta f_{n+1}^\ell$ ;  $\delta$  is any hole  $\delta_n^{-M}, \delta_{n+1}^{-N} \subseteq \delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ ;  $n(\Delta), n(\delta)$  are corresponding numbers of iterations.

Let  $i_{n\ell} = \sum |\Delta|$  after substep  $\ell$  of step  $n+1$  and with the same meaning of indices  $n, \ell$

$$h_{n\ell} = \sum |\delta|; \quad x_{n\ell} = \sum n(\Delta) |\Delta|; \quad y_{n\ell} = \sum n(\delta) |\delta|.$$

We consider also the corresponding sums on  $[0, 1] \setminus \delta_n$  namely

$$I_n = \sum |\Delta|, \quad \Delta \subseteq [0, 1] \setminus \delta_n,$$

after step  $n$ :

$$H_n = \sum |\delta|; \quad X_n = \sum n(\Delta) |\Delta|; \quad Y_n = \sum n(\delta) |\delta|.$$

Then  $I_n + H_n + |\delta_n| = 1$ ,  $i_{n\ell} + h_{n\ell} + |\delta_{n+1}| = |\delta_n|$  for all  $\ell$ . Besides, let  $\ell = 0$  correspond to  $i, h, x, y$  constructed after step  $n$ , and  $\ell = \infty$  after step  $n+1$ , so that  $(n, \infty)$  equals  $(n+1, 0)$ .

We may assume all the compositions to be linear (see Remark XII/1 below) and thus using (12.7) we obtain

$$\left. \begin{aligned} i_{n1} &= i_{n0}(1 - H_n - |\delta_n|) \\ h_{n1} &= h_{n0} + i_{n0}(H_n + |\delta_n|) \\ x_{n1} &= x_{n0}I_n + X_n \cdot i_{n0} \\ y_{n1} &= y_{n0} + x_{n0}(H_n + |\delta_n|) + Y_n \cdot i_{n0} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (12.23)$$

The holes and intervals of subsequent substeps  $1=2, 3, \dots$  are obtained using compositions of maps  $\tilde{G}_n: \delta_n^{-M} \rightarrow \delta_n$ , so that after substep  $\ell$  the remaining preimages of  $\delta_n$  are of the form  $\tilde{G}_{n_\ell}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_1}^{-1} \delta_n$  and preimages of  $\delta_{n+1}$  are  $\tilde{G}_{n_\ell}^{-1} \circ \dots \circ \tilde{G}_{n_1}^{-1} \delta_{n+1}$ ,  $i=1, 2, \dots, \ell-1$  (compare with (3.6), (3.7)). Let  $\tilde{h}_{n\ell}$  and  $\tilde{y}_{n\ell}$  correspond to preimages of  $\delta_n$  and  $\tilde{h}_{n\ell}, \tilde{y}_{n\ell}$  to preimages of  $\delta_{n+1}$ . With this notation we have

$$\tilde{y}_{n1} = \tilde{h}_{n1} = 0, \quad h_{n\ell} = \tilde{h}_{n\ell} + \tilde{h}_{n\ell}^*, \quad y_{n\ell} = \tilde{y}_{n\ell} + \tilde{y}_{n\ell}^*,$$

and for  $\ell \geq 2$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} i_{n\ell} &= i_{n\ell-1} + i_{n\ell-1} \cdot \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} \cdot |\delta_n|^{-1} \\ \tilde{h}_{n\ell} &= \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} \cdot \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} \cdot |\delta_n|^{-1}; \\ \tilde{h}_{n\ell}^* &= \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1}^* + \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} \cdot \frac{\tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} + |\delta_{n+1}|}{|\delta_n|} \\ x_{n\ell} &= x_{n\ell-1} + (\tilde{y}_{n\ell-1} \cdot i_{n\ell-1} + x_{n\ell-1} \cdot \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1}) \cdot |\delta_n|^{-1} \\ \tilde{y}_{n\ell} &= 2\tilde{y}_{n\ell-1} \cdot \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} \cdot |\delta_n|^{-1}; \\ \tilde{y}_{n\ell}^* &= \tilde{y}_{n\ell-1}^* + \frac{\tilde{y}_{n\ell-1} \cdot \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} + \tilde{y}_{n\ell-1}^* \cdot \tilde{h}_{n\ell-1} + \tilde{y}_{n\ell-1} |\delta_{n+1}|}{|\delta_n|}. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (12.24)$$

According to Sect. 10, to any hole  $\delta_n^{-M} = G_n^{-M}(\delta_n)$  there corresponds uniquely a set  $L_n^{-M} = G_n^{-M}(L)$ . As for any interval  $\Delta \subseteq L_n^{-M}$ ,  $n(\Delta) > n(\delta_n^{-M})$ ; this implies

$$\tilde{h}_{n1} < (|\delta_n| - |\delta_{n+1}|)(1 + \varepsilon) \cdot \lambda^{-2\alpha n}.$$

Using  $\frac{|\delta_{n+1}|}{|\delta_n|} < (1 + o(\lambda^{-s(n+1)}))\lambda^{-s}$ , the recurrent formulas (12.24) give

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n\infty} &= x_{n+10} < (x_{n1} + y_{n1})(1 + O(\lambda^{-2\alpha n})); \\ y_{n\infty} &= y_{n+10} < y_{n0} \cdot \frac{1 + o(\lambda^{-tn})}{\lambda^s}. \end{aligned}$$

The induction hypotheses imply

$$\begin{aligned} X_n &< 1 - \frac{2}{\lambda^s} + \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{k^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)k}} \right) \left( \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \lambda^{-ti} \right) < 1 + \varepsilon_1; \\ x_{n0} &< \frac{n^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)n}} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \lambda^{-ti}; \\ i_{n0} &< 2(1 + o(\lambda^{-sn})) \cdot (1 - \lambda^{-s}) \cdot \lambda^{-sn}; \\ I_n &< 1 - 2\lambda^{-sn}; \\ H_n + |\delta_n| &< [\lambda^s \cdot (1 + \varepsilon_2)]^{-n}. \end{aligned}$$

By the above reasons

$$y_{n0} < x_{n0} \cdot \lambda^{-2\alpha n} \cdot (1 + \varepsilon); \quad Y_n < X_n \cdot \lambda^{-2\alpha n} \cdot (1 + \varepsilon).$$

Using (12.23) we obtain

$$\sum_{n+1}^n = x_{n+10} + y_{n+10} < \left( x_{n0} + \frac{2}{\lambda^{sn}} \right) (1 + O(\lambda^{-2sn})) < \frac{n^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(1-\beta)n}} \sum_{i=0}^n \lambda^{-ti} \quad (12.25)$$

which proves  $i_{n+1}$  for  $\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1}$ . The proof is similar for  $\delta_k \setminus \delta_{k+1}$ ,  $1 \leq k < n$ .

Now we can estimate the contribution of  $\sum n(\Delta)|\Delta|$  in every hole  $(\delta_n \setminus \delta_{n+1})^{-M}$  on  $\tilde{\Gamma}_{r+i} = \Gamma_{r+i} \setminus \Gamma_{r+i+1}$ ,  $i \in [0, p-1]$ .

Though we cannot correspond the  $\lambda^{2sn}$ -enlargement to any  $\delta_n^{-M}$ , we can consider its  $\lambda^{sn/2}$ -enlargement. The construction of Sect. 10 gives, as above,

$$\sum_{\delta \subset \tilde{\Gamma}_{r+i}} |\delta| < \frac{|\tilde{\Gamma}_{r+i}|(1+\varepsilon)}{\lambda^{sn/2}}; \quad \sum_{\delta \subset \tilde{\Gamma}_{r+i}} n(\delta)|\delta| < \left( \sum_{\Delta \subset \tilde{\Gamma}_{r+i}} n(\Delta)|\Delta| \right) \frac{1+\varepsilon}{\lambda^{sn/2}}.$$

Using (12.7) with  $\mu = O(\lambda^{-sn/2})$  we obtain after step  $(n+1)$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n+1}^{r+i} &< \sum_{n+1}^{r+i} + \left( \sum_{n+1}^{r+i} \cdot (1-\lambda^{-s}) |\delta_n| \cdot \lambda^{-an/2} + \sum_{n+1}^n \cdot |\tilde{\Gamma}_{r+i}| \cdot \lambda^{-an/2} \right) \frac{1+O(\lambda^{-an/2})}{|\delta_n|} \\ &< (1+\varepsilon_{12.26}) \sum_{n+1}^{r+i} + \frac{n^{3/2}}{\lambda^{s(r+i)}} \cdot \frac{\lambda^{s\beta n}}{\lambda^{an/2}}. \end{aligned} \quad (12.26)$$

Thus we still have for  $\sum_{n+1}^{r+i}$  an exponentially better estimate than that required by (i).

This proves  $(i_{n+1})$  for  $k \in [r, R(n+1)-1]$ . Now  $\tilde{\Gamma}_k$ ,  $k \in [R(n), r-1]$  are contained in the union of preimages  $(F_{n-2} \circ h)^{-1} \Delta_i^{(n-1)}$ , where  $\Delta_i^{(n-1)} \subset B_{n-1}(\Delta_0^{(n-1)})$ . One obtains  $(i_{n+1})$  for such  $\tilde{\Gamma}_k$  in a similar way, using the construction of block  $B_{n-1}$  (the estimates are better in this case).

In order to obtain  $(i_{n+1})$  for  $n+1 \leq k < R(n)-1$ , we notice that at step  $m(k)$  corresponding to the first consideration of  $\Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1}$ , we have on  $\Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1}$  an exponential reserve by comparison with  $(i_{m(k)})$ . (12.7) and Property (12.9) imply that the nonlinearity at Step  $(m(k)+1)$  gives an additional factor less than 3. Any of the subsequent steps implies the diminishing of the maximal interval  $\Delta \subset \Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1}$  at least  $3\lambda^{c_0}$  times (because of taking compositions), and we obtain the following:

*Remark XII/1.* The total non-linear effect of steps  $m(k)+1, m(k)+2, \dots$  on  $\Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1}$  is less than

$$\exp\left(3 \cdot \sum_{n < 0}^{\infty} \lambda^{-cn}\right).$$

In particular this shows that when proving (i) for  $\Gamma_k \setminus \Gamma_{k+1}$  it suffices to consider only step  $m(k)$ .

g) In order to prove  $(ii_{n+1})$  of Proposition 3 we consider three points  $x_0, x_1, x_2 \in \Gamma_{r+i-2} \setminus \Gamma_{r+i}$  and their images under  $F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, x)$ . We may suppose  $x_2$  to be closer to  $\frac{1}{2}$  than  $x_0$ , (otherwise  $h_\Delta$  for  $\Delta \subset [x_1, x_2]$  is larger than for  $\Delta \subset [x_0, x_1]$ ) and an estimate for  $x_0, x_1, x_2$  is better than for their images).

Let  $Q_1 = F_{n-1} \circ h[x_0, x_1]$ ,  $Q_2 = F_{n-1} \circ h[x_0, x_2]$ . Using (12.7) and (12.6) with  $h_\Delta \geq h(x_2) \geq \lambda^{1-2s(r+i)}$  we obtain

$$\sum_{\Delta \subset [x_0, x_2]} n(\Delta)|\Delta| < \frac{1+O(\lambda^{-\gamma})| \Delta F_{n-1} | \left( (N(F_{n-1})+1)|Q_2| + \sum_{\Delta \subset Q_2} n(\Delta)|\Delta| \right)}{2\sqrt{\lambda} \lambda^{-s(r+i)}}. \quad (12.27)$$

For  $\Delta C[x_0, x_1]$   $h_\Delta \leq h(x_0) \leq \lambda^{1-2s(r+i)+4s}$ . Hence

$$\sum_{\Delta C[x_0, x_1]} n(\Delta)|\Delta| > \frac{(1 - O(\lambda^{-r}))|\Delta F_{n-1}| \left( (N(F_{n-1}) + 1)|Q_1| + \sum_{\Delta C Q_1} n(\Delta)|\Delta| \right)}{2\sqrt{\lambda} \lambda^{-s(r+i)+2s}}. \quad (12.28)$$

As  $\frac{|h[x_0, x_2]|}{|h[x_0, x_1]|} < \frac{|x_0 - x_2|}{|x_0 - x_1|}$ , we have  $\frac{|Q_2|}{|Q_1|} < \frac{|x_0 - x_2|}{|x_0 - x_1|} (1 + O(\lambda^{-r}))$ . First let  $Q_2 \subset \delta_{q-2} \setminus \delta_q$ . Then we can use (ii<sub>n</sub>) for  $F_{n-1} \circ h(x_0, x_1, x_2) \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{(1-\alpha/s)n}$ . Applying (12.27), (12.28), we obtain

$$\frac{\sum_{\Delta C[x_0, x_2]} n(\Delta)|\Delta|}{\sum_{\Delta C[x_0, x_1]} n(\Delta)|\Delta|} < \frac{|x_0 - x_2|}{|x_0 - x_1|} \lambda^{(s-\alpha)\beta n + 2s}.$$

If  $F_{n-1} \circ h[x_0, x_2]$  is not contained in  $\delta_{q-2} \setminus \delta_q$ , we have  $Q_2 = Q'_2 \cup Q''_2$  where  $Q'_2 \subset \delta_{q-2} \setminus \delta_q$ ,  $Q''_2 \subset [0, 1] \setminus \delta_{q-2}$ . We estimate  $\sum_{\Delta C Q'_2} n(\Delta)|\Delta|$  as above, and  $\sum_{\Delta C Q''_2} n(\Delta)|\Delta|$  using (i<sub>n</sub>) similarly to (12.19)–(12.21), and obtain

$$\frac{\sum_{\Delta C[x_0, x_2]} n(\Delta)|\Delta|}{\sum_{\Delta C[x_0, x_1]} n(\Delta)|\Delta|} < \frac{|x_0 - x_2|}{|x_0 - x_1|} \sqrt{n} \lambda^{(s-\alpha)\beta n + 2s}. \quad (12.29)$$

For large  $\lambda$ ,  $\sqrt{n} \ll \lambda^{\alpha\beta n}$ . Comparing with the requirement (ii<sub>n+1</sub>) for  $k=r+i$ , we obtain a sufficient condition on  $r$

$$s\beta n + 2s \leq s\beta r.$$

As  $r > \frac{c_0}{2s} n$ , it suffices to have

$$n \geq \frac{2}{5} \left( \frac{c_0}{2s} - 1 \right)^{-1} \quad (12.30)$$

which holds for  $s \leq \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\beta = \frac{2}{5}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ .

The account of  $\Delta C \delta_n^{-M}$  gives an additional factor  $(1 + O(\lambda^{-\alpha n/2}))$  and one finishes the proof of (ii<sub>n+1</sub>) as above (i<sub>n+1</sub>).  $\square$

*Remark XII/2.* One can check that for  $n \leq n_0$ , when

$$F_{n-1} \circ h(\lambda, \frac{1}{2}) \in [0, 1] \setminus [\frac{1}{2} - \lambda^{-s/2}, \frac{1}{2} + \lambda^{-s/2}],$$

(ii) is satisfied with  $\beta=0$  [ $\lambda^{s\beta k}$  on the right side of (ii) can be replaced by a constant]. From Remark VI/5 and (12.30) it follows that one can take  $\beta$  arbitrarily small. It seems that more careful estimates should give Proposition 3 with  $\beta=0$  and  $k^{1+\varepsilon}$  ( $\varepsilon > 0$  small) instead of  $k^{3/2}$ .

*Remark XII/3.* Lemma 7 implies that for any  $\lambda \in \mathcal{M}$  and for  $\Delta f_k \in \xi_\lambda$  so that  $f_k : \Delta f_k \rightarrow [0, 1]$ ,  $f_k = f_\lambda^N \Delta f_k$ ,

$$|Df_k| > \lambda^{c_0/N/2}.$$

Collet and Eckmann [10] proved for a particular smooth family  $f_\delta$  that the Liapunov exponent is positive on the trajectory of  $\frac{1}{2}$  for a set of  $\lambda$  of positive measure.

### 13. Theorem A for a General Family. The Reduction of Theorem B to Theorem A

a) Let  $f(x):[0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ ,  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$ , be a  $C^3$ -map,  $c$  a single critical point of  $f$ . Consider a family  $f_\lambda(x): x \rightarrow \lambda \cdot f(x) \pmod{1}$ . We take  $\lambda$  sufficiently large and imitate the construction used for  $\lambda x(1-x)$ .

We take  $T_0 = (f(c))^{-1}$  so as to make  $\lambda \cdot f(c)$  traverse  $[0, 1]$  when  $\lambda$  crosses  $[L, L + T_0]$ .

Then we choose a small  $\varepsilon > 0$  and consider an  $\varepsilon$ -neighbourhood  $U$  of the critical point  $c$ . Using the Hadamard lemma we represent  $f(x)$  and its derivatives in the form

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f(c) - a(x-c)^2(1 + (x-c)\theta_1(x)) \\ f'(x) &= -2a(x-c)(1 + (x-c)\theta_2(x)) \\ f''(x) &= -2a(1 + (x-c)\theta_3(x)), \end{aligned} \quad (13.1)$$

where  $-2a = f''(c) < 0$ ,  $|\theta_i(x)| < c_1$ . Using (13.1), one can check that (4.6) with  $\frac{|A|}{H}$  instead of  $\frac{|A|}{2H}$ , and (4.7) with  $\frac{|A|}{ax^2}$  instead of  $\frac{|A|}{2ax^2}$  are still true in  $U$ .

*Remark XIII/1.* Notice that the condition  $f''(c) \neq 0$  is not necessary,  $f^{(n)}(c) \neq 0$  for some  $n \geq 2$  will do as well.

Then we consider

$$\begin{aligned} Df_\lambda &= \lambda f'(x), & \frac{D^2 f_\lambda}{(Df_\lambda)^2} &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{f''(x)}{(f'(x))^2}, \\ \frac{\partial f / \partial \lambda}{\partial f / \partial x} &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}, & \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\partial f_\lambda^{-1}}{\partial z}}{\frac{\partial f_\lambda^{-1}}{\partial z}} &= -\frac{1}{\lambda} \left( 1 - \frac{f'' \cdot f}{(f')^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$A = \max_{x \in [0, 1] \setminus U} \left\{ \frac{1}{|f''(x)|}, 1 + \frac{|f''(x)|}{(f'(x))^2} \right\}.$$

We take  $s$  from Sect. 2, and we take a  $\lambda$  as a parameter. We choose  $\lambda$  so large that

$$\lambda^s > \max \left\{ \frac{2}{\varepsilon a^s}, 2Aa^{1-s} \right\}.$$

Then we choose  $\delta_1 \approx (c - (\lambda a)^{-s}, c + (\lambda a)^{-s})$  as in Sect. 2, and define  $f_1(\lambda, x)$  so that  $\Delta f_1 \subseteq [0, 1] \setminus \delta_1$ . One can check that the branches  $f_1$  and their derivatives satisfy the conditions of Step 1 with  $\max_{x \in [0, 1]} f(x)$  instead of  $\frac{1}{4} = \max_{x \in [0, 1]} x(1-x)$ . Then

for  $\lambda > N_0$  of Sect. 2, the inductive construction may be used, and we obtain Theorem A for the family  $\lambda \cdot f(x)$ .

*Remark XIII/2.* Theorem A holds also in the case of a family  $\lambda \cdot f(x)$ ,  $f(0)=0=f(1)$ ,  $f'(0) \neq 0$ , when  $f(x)$  has several extremal points  $c^{(1)}, c^{(2)}, \dots, c^{(k)}$ . Then the construction can be generalized in the following manner. During step  $n$  we construct intervals  $\delta_n^{(i)} \approx (c^{(i)} - (\lambda a_i)^{-sn}, c^{(i)} + (\lambda a_i)^{-sn})$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , their preimages  $(\delta_n^{(i)})^{-m}$ , and enlarged preimages  $(\hat{\delta}_n^{(i)})^{-m}$ ; the constants  $a_i$  are defined according to the map  $f$ . The condition

$$F_{n-1}^{(i)} \circ h^{(i)}(\lambda, c^{(i)}) \in [0, 1] \left| \bigcup_{j=1}^k \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} (\hat{\delta}_n^{(j)})^{-m} \right.$$

defines on step  $n$  the set of admissible values of the parameter  $\mathcal{M}_n^{(i)}$ , the set  $\mathcal{M}$  is defined as  $\mathcal{M} = \bigcap_{i=1}^k \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}_n^{(i)}$ .

b) We reduce the proof of Theorem B to the proof of Theorem A using the induced map studied in [5]. Let  $f_\lambda(x) = \lambda x(1-x)$ ,  $0 < \lambda \leq 4$ , and  $t_\lambda = 1 - 1/\lambda$  its fixed point. We consider for  $\lambda \in [4 - \varepsilon, 4]$  the induced map  $T_\lambda$  on the interval  $I_\lambda = [1/\lambda, 1 - 1/\lambda]$ .  $T_\lambda$  has  $2p$  monotone branches  $T_{i\lambda}$ ,  $i = \pm 1, \dots, \pm p$  ( $p = p(\lambda)$ ) and one middle branch  $S_\lambda$ . Furthermore,  $T_{i\lambda} = f_\lambda^{i+1}$  on  $\Delta T_{i\lambda}$  and  $S_\lambda = f_\lambda^{p+2}$  on  $\Delta S_\lambda$ . The interval  $[4 - \varepsilon, 4]$  is divided into a countable number of intervals  $[\lambda_p, \lambda_{p+1}]$  such that for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_p, \lambda_{p+1}]$  the number  $p(\lambda)$  defined above is constant and as  $\lambda$  passes  $\lambda_p$ , the old parabolic branch  $S_\lambda$  breaks up into two branches  $T_\lambda$ , a new branch  $S_\lambda$  is born, and  $p(\lambda)$  grows from  $p$  to  $p+1$ .

For some constants  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2^i c_2 < |\partial T_i / \partial x| < 2^i c_1 \quad 1 \leq i \leq p-1 \\ 4^{p+1} c_2 |x - \frac{1}{2}| < |\partial T_p / \partial x|, |\partial S / \partial x| < 4^{p+1} c_1 |x - \frac{1}{2}|. \end{aligned} \tag{13.2}$$

Applying (9.1) to  $T_{i\lambda}$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial T_i / \partial \lambda}{\partial T_i / \partial x} \right| < 2^i c_3 \quad 1 \leq i \leq p-1, \\ \left| \frac{\partial T_p / \partial \lambda}{\partial T_p / \partial x} \right|, \left| \frac{\partial S / \partial x}{\partial S / \partial x} \right| < \frac{c_3}{|x - \frac{1}{2}|}. \end{aligned} \tag{13.3}$$

The estimate for the velocity of the top is

$$v_p(\lambda) = -4^p(1 + O(\lambda^{-p})). \tag{13.4}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|D^2 T_{i\lambda}|}{|D T_{i\lambda}|^2} < c_4 \quad 1 \leq i \leq p-1 \\ \frac{|D^2 T_{p\lambda}|}{|D T_{p\lambda}|^2}, \frac{|D^2 S_\lambda|}{|D S_\lambda|^2} < c_4 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4^p(x - \frac{1}{2})^2} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{13.5}$$

Using (11.6) we obtain for all  $i$  and  $z = T_i(\lambda, x)$ ,  $x \in \Delta T_i$

$$\left| \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \partial T_{i\lambda}^{-1} / \partial z}{\partial T_{i\lambda}^{-1} / \partial z} \right| < c_5 \left( i + \frac{1}{(x - \frac{1}{2})^2} \right). \quad (13.6)$$

Now we use the following property of  $T_4$  (see [5]). There exists  $d > 1$  and a positive integer  $q$  so that

$$|DT_4^q| > d. \quad (13.7)$$

*Remark XIII/3.* Apparently  $q=1$  but it is not essential for our purpose.

For any fixed  $i$ ,  $T_i(\lambda, x)$  and its derivatives uniformly converge to  $T_i(4, x)$  when  $\lambda \rightarrow 4$ . Thus for  $i_s \in [0, i_0]$  and for  $\lambda$  sufficiently close to 4 we still have

$$|D(T_{\lambda i_1} \circ T_{\lambda i_2} \circ \dots \circ T_{\lambda i_q})| > d. \quad (13.8)$$

Choose a very large  $k$  and some  $p \gg k$ , and consider  $\lambda \in [\lambda_p, \lambda_{p+1}]$ . Let

$$n = \left\lceil \frac{k}{\log_2 d} + 1 \right\rceil.$$

Let us consider consecutive compositions of the form

$$T_{\lambda \tau_r} = T_{\lambda i_1} \circ \dots \circ T_{\lambda i_r}, \quad i_s \in [1, k]$$

until we have on the domain of  $T_{\lambda \tau}$

$$|DT_{\lambda \tau}| > 2^k.$$

Because of (13.8), for any  $T_{\lambda \tau_p}$ ,  $r \leq qn$  (really (13.2) implies  $r \ll qn$  for many  $T_{\lambda \tau}$ ). Let

$$\delta_1(\lambda) = \Delta S_\lambda \cup \left( \bigcup_{i > k} \Delta T_{\lambda i} \right), \quad J_\lambda = I_\lambda \setminus \delta_1(\lambda).$$

Then we obtain the following partition of  $J_\lambda$ .

$$J_\lambda = \left( \bigcup \Delta T_{\lambda \tau} \right) \cup \left( \bigcup_{m \leq qn} \delta_1^{-m}(\lambda) \right). \quad (13.9)$$

(13.5), (13.8) and a modification of Lemma 1 imply

$$\frac{|D^2 T_{\lambda \tau_p}|}{|DT_{\lambda \tau_p}|^2} < c_6$$

independent of  $k$ . Hence we obtain

$$\text{mes} \bigcup \delta_1^{-m}(\lambda) < 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{c_7}{2^k} \right)^{qn} < c_8 \frac{k}{2^k}. \quad (13.10)$$

Using (13.8), (9.1), and (11.6) we obtain

$$\left| \frac{\partial T_{\lambda \tau} / \partial \lambda}{\partial T_{\lambda \tau} / \partial x} \right| < 2^k c_9,$$

$$\left| \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \partial T_{\lambda \tau}^{-1} / \partial z}{\partial T_{\lambda \tau}^{-1} / \partial z} \right| < c_{10} (k + 4^k). \quad (13.11)$$



Although the estimates (13.11) grow with  $k$ , we can choose  $p$  so large that the time that the top  $S_\lambda(\frac{1}{2})$  spends inside the union of the enlarged domains  $\bigcup \hat{\delta}_1^{-m}(\lambda)$  will still be proportional to its measure.

Now we are able to begin the inductive construction, with branches  $T_{\lambda_k}$  instead of  $f_1$  and  $\bigcup_{m \leq ck} \hat{\delta}_1^{-m}(\lambda)$  instead of  $\hat{\delta}_1(\lambda)$ . In particular, the intervals  $\delta_n$  have the form  $\delta_n \approx 2^{-sk(n-1)}\delta_1$ . The estimates (13.2)–(13.10) allow the induction to continue, and if we denote by  $\mathcal{M}_p$  the set of  $\lambda \in [\lambda_p, \lambda_{p+1}]$  obtained by using an inductive construction similar to that in Sect. 3, we obtain that the induced map  $T_\lambda: I_\lambda \rightarrow I_\lambda$  has a measure  $\tilde{\mu}_\lambda$  absolutely continuous with respect to  $dx$ . Besides, for some constants  $c, \alpha > 0$  independent of  $k$  and  $p$  we have

$$\frac{\text{mes. } \mathcal{M}_p}{|\lambda_p - \lambda_{p+1}|} > 1 - c \frac{k}{(2^k)^\alpha}. \tag{13.12}$$

The measure  $\tilde{\mu}_\lambda$  induces an  $f_\lambda$ -invariant measure on  $[0, 1]$  supported on  $[f_\lambda^2(\frac{1}{2}), f_\lambda(\frac{1}{2})]$ . Since the time of return to  $I_\lambda$  is finite for all  $x \in I_\lambda$ ,  $\mu_\lambda$  is certainly finite.

Let  $A_1 = \bigcup_{p=p_0}^\infty \mathcal{M}_p$ . We take  $k \rightarrow \infty$  together with  $p$ , and obtain from (13.12) that  $\lambda=4$  is a Lebesgue point (from one side) of  $A_1$ . This proves Theorem B and the Remark of the introduction for  $f_\lambda(x) = \lambda x(1-x)$   $0 < \lambda \leq 4$ .

*Remark XIII/4.* The measures  $\mu_\lambda$  certainly are ergodic, because the  $\nu_\lambda$  are. It follows from the recent results by Ledrappier [16] that the natural extensions of  $(f_\lambda, \mu_\lambda)$  are Bernoulli.

*Remark XIII/5.* One may conjecture that the densities  $\mu_\lambda$  converge in  $L_1$  to  $\varrho_4(x) = (\pi \sqrt{x(1-x)})^{-1}$ , when  $\lambda \rightarrow 4$ . Notice that the construction always gives measures supported on the maximal possible interval  $[f_\lambda^2(\frac{1}{2}), f_\lambda(\frac{1}{2})]$  and thus avoids  $\lambda$  corresponding to measures supported by pairwise disjoint intervals permuted by  $f_\lambda$ .

c) Consider any  $f(x): [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ ,  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$ ,  $f'(c) = 0$ , lying in a sufficiently small  $C^3$ -neighbourhood of  $x(1-x)$ . Then for a family  $\lambda \cdot f(x)$  there exists some  $\lambda_0$  close to 4 so that  $\lambda_0 f(c) = 1$ . Considering for  $\lambda \in [\lambda_0 - \varepsilon, \lambda_0]$  the corresponding induced map  $T_{f_\lambda}: I_{f_\lambda} \rightarrow I_{f_\lambda}$ , we obtain that  $T_{f_\lambda}$  has on  $I_{f_\lambda}$  a structure similar to the one described above for  $T_\lambda = T_{x(1-x)\lambda}$  and (13.7) still holds for  $T_{f_\lambda}$ . This implies Theorem B for  $f_\lambda = \lambda \cdot f(x)$ .

Now, if for some  $\lambda_0 \neq 4$ ,  $f_{\lambda_0} = \lambda_0 x(1-x)$  or its iteration on some interval admits the induced map described above, the construction still goes and we obtain absolutely continuous measures invariant under  $f$  or under some iteration of  $f$  for a set of  $\lambda \in [\lambda_0 - \varepsilon, \lambda_0]$  of positive measure.

One can check this is so for a countable set  $\{\lambda_{0n}: f_{\lambda_{0n}}(\frac{1}{2}) \text{ falls into a periodic unstable orbit}\}$  and for a set  $\Phi = \{\lambda: f_\lambda(\frac{1}{2}) \in K_\lambda = \text{an invariant unstable Cantor set}\}$ ,  $\text{card } \Phi = \text{continuum}$  (see [5–7]), thus all these  $\lambda$  are Lebesgue density points of  $\mathcal{M}_1$ .

*Remark XIII/5.* As Misiurewicz pointed out, for a family  $f_\lambda = \lambda f(x)$  with unimodal  $f(x): [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ ,  $f(0) = f(1) = 0$ , having negative Schwarzian derivative, and for  $\lambda_0$  such that  $f_{\lambda_0}(c)$  falls into an unstable periodic orbit or an invariant unstable Cantor set, the corresponding induced map also satisfies (13.7). Thus the same

construction implies that for a set of  $\lambda$  of positive measure  $f_\lambda$  admits an absolutely continuous invariant measure and  $\lambda_0$  is a Lebesgue density point of this set.

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