

Question

Determine whether the Möbius transformation

$$m(z) = \frac{4z - 5}{2z + 3}$$

is parabolic, elliptic or loxodromic, and determine its fixed points. If it is elliptic or loxodromic, determine its multiplier.

Answer

Use classification by trace squared: first normalize so that determinant is 1. $\det(m) = 12 + 10 = 22$, so m normalized is

$$m(z) = \frac{\frac{4}{\sqrt{22}}z - \frac{5}{\sqrt{22}}}{\frac{2}{\sqrt{22}}z + \frac{3}{\sqrt{22}}}$$

$$\text{Trace}^2(m) = \left(\frac{4}{\sqrt{22}} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{22}} \right)^2 = \frac{49}{22}$$

since $0 \leq \text{trace}^2(m) < 4$, m is elliptic.

Find the multiplier from the trace squared.

$$(\lambda + \lambda^{-1})^2 = \text{trace}^2(m) = \frac{49}{22}, \text{ where the multiplier of } m \text{ is } \lambda^2.$$

$$\text{Then, } \lambda^2 + \lambda^{-1} + 2 = \frac{49}{22}, \text{ so } \lambda^4 + 1 - \frac{5}{22}\lambda^2 = 0$$

$$\text{So, } \lambda^2 = \frac{[\frac{5}{22} + \sqrt{(\frac{5}{22})^2 - 4}]}{2} \text{ (and } |\lambda^2| = 1).$$

$$\frac{5}{44} \pm \frac{\sqrt{1911}i}{44}$$

The fixed points of m are the solutions to $m(z) = z$, namely

$$4z - 5 = z(2z + 3), \text{ on } 2z^2 - z + 5 = 0, \text{ so}$$

$$z = \frac{1}{4}[1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 40}] = \frac{1}{4}(1 \pm \sqrt{39}i).$$