Families of quadratic maps of the form
\[ x_{n+1} = f_\lambda(x_n) = \lambda x_n (1 - x_n), \]
display a period-doubling cascade along the route to chaos which possesses remarkable universal quantitative features. This universality was explained, in renormalization terms, by Feigenbaum and others in the late 1970s.

The quantitative universality is determined by the stability properties of a critical fixed point (function) of an operator acting on a certain space of functions. In particular, the universal constants observed are given in terms of the fixed point and the eigenvalues of the linearised operator there. Such exponents are shared by all maps in a broad universality class, characterised by the degree of the turning point of the maps, \( f_\lambda \).

Although analytic proofs for the existence of renormalization fixed points (and the eigenstructure of the corresponding operator there) are possible in certain cases, such results are difficult to come by. Instead, a number of these questions have been settled via rigorous computer-assisted proofs, which extend the concept of interval arithmetic to the algebra of operators on the appropriate spaces.

More recent studies focus on period doubling in coupled systems and universality in quasiperiodically-driven systems.

The Nonlinear and Complex Systems Group welcomes enquiries regarding job vacancies, Ph.D. and Postdoctoral study, and academic and industrial collaboration on its research programmes.

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