BASINS OF ATTRACTION IN LOEWNER EQUATIONS

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Abstract. Let $q \geq 2$. We prove that any Loewner PDE on the unit ball \mathbf{B}^q whose driving term h(z,t) vanishes at the origin and satisfies the bunching condition $\ell m(Dh(0,t)) \geq k(Dh(0,t))$ for some $\ell \in \mathbf{R}^+$, admits a solution given by univalent mappings $(f_t \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)_{t\geq 0}$. This is done by discretizing time and considering the abstract basin of attraction. If $\ell < 2$, then the range $\cup_{t\geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ of any such solution is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q .

1. Introduction

Let $\mathbf{B}^q \subset \mathbf{C}^q$ denote the unit ball. The Loewner PDE

(1.1)
$$\frac{\partial f_t(z)}{\partial t} = Df_t(z)h(z,t) \quad \text{a.e. } t \ge 0, \ z \in \mathbf{B}^q$$

was introduced by Loewner [21] and developed by Kufarev [20] and Pommerenke [26] in the case of the unit disc $\mathbf{D} \doteq \mathbf{B}^1$. The study of this equation culminated with the proof of the Bieberbach conjecture by de Branges [9] and the introduction of the stochastic Loewner evolution by Schramm [27].

The several variables case has been widely studied for its application in geometric function theory by Graham, Hamada, G. Kohr, M. Kohr, Pfaltzgraff and others (see e.g. [16, 25]).

Throughout this paper we will assume that $q \geq 2$. In [5], generalizing the results obtained in the unit disc **D** in [8], we explore the connections between this topic and the theory recently developed by Bracci, Contreras and Díaz-Madrigal [6, 7] (see also [4]) of Herglotz non-autonomous vector fields on complete hyperbolic manifolds. An Herglotz vector field of order ∞ on \mathbf{B}^q is a non-autonomous holomorphic vector field $-h(z,t) \colon \mathbf{B}^q \times \mathbf{R}^+ \to \mathbf{C}^q$ such that

• -h(z,t) is measurable in $t \ge 0$ and for a.e. $\tilde{t} \ge 0$, the holomorphic vector field $-h(z,\tilde{t})$ is an *infinitesimal generator*, that is the "frozen" Cauchy problem

$$\begin{cases} \dot{z}(s) = -h(z(s), \tilde{t}), \\ z(0) = z_0, \end{cases}$$

has a solution $z: [0, +\infty) \to \mathbf{B}^q$ for all $z_0 \in \mathbf{B}^q$,

• for any compact set $K \subset \mathbf{B}^q$ and any T > 0 there exists $c_{K,T} > 0$ satisfying

$$|h(z,t)| \le c_{K,T}, \quad z \in K, \ 0 \le t \le T.$$

doi:10.5186/aasfm.2012.3742

²⁰¹⁰ Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 32H50; Secondary 32H02, 37F99.

Key words: Loewner chains in several variables, Loewner equations, evolution families, abstract basins of attraction.

[†]Titolare di una Borsa della Fondazione Roma – Terzo Settore bandita dall'Istituto Nazionale di Alta Matematica.

The solution flow of the Loewner ODE

(1.2)
$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{s,t}(z) = -h(\varphi_{s,t}(z), t), & z \in \mathbf{B}^q, \text{ a.e. } t \in [s, \infty), \\ \varphi_{s,s}(z) = z, & z \in \mathbf{B}^q, s \ge 0, \end{cases}$$

is an evolution family of order ∞ , that is a family of holomorphic mappings $(\varphi_{s,t} \colon \mathbf{B}^q)_{0 \le s \le t}$ satisfying

- $\varphi_{s,t} = \varphi_{u,t} \circ \varphi_{s,u}$ for all $0 \le s \le u \le t$ and $\varphi_{s,s}(z) = z$ for all $s \ge 0$,
- for any compact set $K \subset \mathbf{B}^q$ and for any T > 0 there exists a $C_{K,T} > 0$ satisfying

$$(1.3) |\varphi_{s,t}(z) - \varphi_{s,u}(z)| \le C_{K,T}(t-u), z \in K, \ 0 \le s \le u \le t < T.$$

In [5] we prove that a family $(f_t : \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)_{t \geq 0}$ of univalent mappings is locally Lipschitz (in the variable t) and solves the Loewner PDE (1.1) if and only if it solves the functional equation

$$(1.4) f_s = f_t \circ \varphi_{s,t}, \quad 0 \le s \le t.$$

If such a solution $(f_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ exists, then the subset $\bigcup_{t\geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q) \subset \mathbf{C}^q$ is open and connected and is called the *range* of (f_t) . Any other solution $(g_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ is of the form $(\Lambda \circ f_t)$, where $\Lambda : \bigcup_{t\geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q) \to \mathbf{C}^q$ is holomorphic. Thus the ranges of two univalent solutions of (1.1) are biholomorphic.

We are interested in Herglotz vector fields on \mathbf{B}^q whose flow $(\varphi_{s,t})$ is attracting at the origin. A first example is provided by Herglotz vector fields whose linear part does not depend on $t \geq 0$. This has been studied in [10, 14].

Theorem 1.1. Let -h(z,t) be a Herglotz vector field of order ∞ on \mathbf{B}^q such that $h(z,t) = Az + O(|z|^2)$ with

(1.5)
$$2\min\{\operatorname{Re}\langle Az,z\rangle\colon |z|=1\} > \max\{\operatorname{Re}\lambda\colon \lambda\in\operatorname{sp}(A)\},$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the hermitian product on \mathbb{C}^q . Then the Loewner PDE (1.1) admits a locally Lipschitz univalent solution $(f_t \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$. The range $\bigcup_{t \geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ of any such solution is biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}^q .

This result was generalized in [3] (see also [2]), with an approach based on a discretization of time.

Theorem 1.2. Let -h(z,t) be a Herglotz vector field of order ∞ on \mathbf{B}^q such that $h(z,t) = Az + O(|z|^2)$, where the eigenvalues of A have strictly positive real part. Then the Loewner PDE (1.1) admits a locally Lipschitz univalent solution $(f_t \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$. The range $\bigcup_{t>0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ of any such solution is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q .

The same result was obtained independently with different methods by Voda [28], assuming min{Re $\langle Az, z \rangle$: |z| = 1} > 0. See also [18] for related results.

The next natural step is admitting time-dependent linear parts. Set

$$m(A) \doteq \min\{\operatorname{Re}\langle Az, z\rangle \colon |z| = 1\}, \quad k(A) = \max\{\operatorname{Re}\langle Az, z\rangle \colon |z| = 1\}.$$

The following result is proved in [15, 13]:

Theorem 1.3. Let -h(z,t) be a Herglotz vector field on \mathbf{B}^q of order ∞ such that $h(z,t)=A(t)z+O(|z|^2)$, and assume that the family of linear mappings $(A(t))_{t\geq 0}$ satisfies:

i)
$$m(A(t)) > 0$$
 for all $t \ge 0$ and $\int_0^\infty m(A(t)) dt = \infty$,

- ii) $t \mapsto ||A(t)||$ is uniformly bounded on \mathbb{R}^+ ,
- iii) there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$2m(A(t)) \ge k(A(t)) + \delta, \quad t \ge 0,$$

iv)

$$\int_{s}^{t} A(\tau) d\tau \circ \int_{r}^{s} A(\tau) d\tau = \int_{r}^{s} A(\tau) d\tau \circ \int_{s}^{t} A(\tau) d\tau, \quad t \ge s \ge r \ge 0.$$

Then the Loewner PDE (1.1) admits a locally Lipschitz univalent solution $(f_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$. The range $\bigcup_{t\geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ of any such solution is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q .

In this paper we generalize Theorem 1.3, using the approach of [2][3]. The following is our result.

Theorem 1.4. Let -h(z,t) be a Herglotz vector field on \mathbf{B}^q of order ∞ such that $h(z,t)=A(t)z+O(|z|^2)$, and assume that the family of linear mappings $(A(t))_{t\geq 0}$ satisfies:

- a) m(A(t)) > 0 for all $t \ge 0$ and $\int_0^\infty m(A(t)) dt = \infty$,
- b) $t \mapsto ||A(t)||$ is locally bounded on \mathbb{R}^+ ,
- c) there exists $\ell \in \mathbf{R}^+$ such that

$$\ell m(A(t)) \ge k(A(t)), \quad t \ge 0.$$

Then the Loewner PDE (1.1) admits a locally Lipschitz univalent solution ($f_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q$). If $\ell < 2$ then the range $\bigcup_{t \geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ of any such solution is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q .

Notice that the assumptions ii) and iii) of Theorem 1.3 imply that there exists $\ell < 2$ such that

$$\ell m(A(t)) > k(A(t)), \quad t > 0.$$

We want to stress the strong analogy between Loewner theory and the theory of discrete non-autonomous complex dynamical systems which has developed around Bedford's conjecture (see [1, 11, 19, 23, 30]). This is reflected in the proof of Theorem 1.4, which is based on a discretization of time, and relies on the study of the abstract basin of attraction performed by Fornaess and Stensønes in [11]:

Theorem 1.5. Let $(\varphi_{n,n+1})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ be a family of univalent self-mappings of $r\mathbf{B}^q$. Assume that there exist $0 < \nu \le \mu < 1$ such that

(1.6)
$$\nu|z| \le |\varphi_{n,n+1}(z)| \le \mu|z|, \quad z \in r\mathbf{B}^q, \ n \in \mathbf{N}.$$

Then, if Ω is the abstract basin of attraction of $(\varphi_{n,n+1})$, then there exists an univalent mapping $\Psi \colon \Omega \to \mathbb{C}^q$.

The abstract basin of attraction comes naturally with a family of univalent mappings $(\omega_n \colon r\mathbf{B}^q \to \Omega)$. Composing this family with the biholomorphism Ψ given by Theorem 1.5 we obtain a family of univalent mappings from $r\mathbf{B}$ to \mathbf{C}^q which we extend to a family $(f_t \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ satisfying the functional equation (1.4).

The range $\bigcup_{t\geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ is by construction biholomorphic to Ω and thus by [11, Theorem 3.1] it is a Stein, Runge domain in \mathbf{C}^q whose Kobayashi pseudometric vanishes identically and which is diffeomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q . It is an open question whether $\bigcup_{t\geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q when $\ell \geq 2$. A positive answer would follow from a proof of Bedford's conjecture (see e.g. [22]):

Conjecture 1.6. Let $(\Phi_{n,n+1})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ be a family of automorphisms of \mathbb{C}^q . Assume that there exist $0 < \nu \le \mu < 1$ and r > 0 such that

(1.7)
$$\nu|z| \le |\Phi_{n,n+1}(z)| \le \mu|z|, \quad z \in r\mathbf{B}^q, \ n \in \mathbf{N}.$$

Then the basin of attraction

$$\{z \in \mathbf{C}^q : \lim_{n \to \infty} \Phi_{n-1,n} \circ \cdots \circ \Phi_{0,1} = 0\}$$

is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q .

I want to thank Jasmin Raissy and Han Peters for our valuable discussions. I also want to thank the referee for precious comments.

2. Main result

Let \mathcal{N} denote the family of holomorphic mappings $h \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q$ such that h(0) = 0 and $\operatorname{Re} \langle h(z), z \rangle > 0$, for all $z \neq 0$.

Theorem 2.1. Let $h(z,t) \colon \mathbf{B}^q \times \mathbf{R}^+ \to \mathbf{C}^q$ be a mapping such that $z \mapsto h(z,t) \in \mathcal{N}$ for all $t \in \mathbf{R}^+$ and $t \mapsto h(z,t)$ is measurable on \mathbf{R}^+ for all $z \in \mathbf{B}^q$. Assume that $h(z,t) = A(t)z + O(|z|^2)$ and that the family of linear mappings $(A(t))_{t \geq 0}$ satisfies:

- a) m(A(t)) > 0 for all $t \ge 0$ and $\int_0^\infty m(A(t)) dt = \infty$,
- b) $t \mapsto ||A(t)||$ is locally bounded on \mathbb{R}^+ ,
- c) there exists $\ell \in \mathbf{R}^+$ such that

$$\ell m(A(t)) \ge k(A(t)), \quad t \ge 0.$$

Then the Loewner PDE

$$\frac{\partial f_t(z)}{\partial t} = Df_t(z)h(z,t), \quad z \in \mathbf{B}^q, \text{ a.e. } t \ge 0$$

admits a locally Lipschitz solution given by univalent mappings $(f_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$. If l < 2, then the range $\bigcup_{t \geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ of any such solution is biholomorphic to \mathbf{C}^q . Any other solution given by holomorphic mappings $(g_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ is of the form $(\Lambda \circ f_t)$, where $\Lambda: \bigcup_{t \geq 0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q) \to \mathbf{C}^q$ is holomorphic.

Proof. Notice that for all $A \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{C}^q)$,

and thus k(t) and m(t) are also locally bounded on \mathbf{R}^+ . By [14, Lemma 1.2] one has for a.e. $t \geq 0$

$$|h(z,t)| \le \frac{4r}{(1-r)^2} ||A(t)||, \quad |z| \le r < 1,$$

hence -h(z,t) is a Herglotz vector field of order ∞ on \mathbf{B}^q . Let $(\varphi_{s,t})$ be the associated evolution family of order ∞ , that is the solution of the Loewner ODE

(2.1)
$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \varphi_{s,t}(z) = -h(\varphi_{s,t}(z), t), & z \in \mathbf{B}^q, \text{ a.e. } t \in [s, \infty), \\ \varphi_{s,s}(z) = z, & z \in \mathbf{B}^q, s \ge 0. \end{cases}$$

Recall that $\varphi_{s,t} \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{B}^q$ is an univalent mapping for all $0 \le s \le t$ and that $t \mapsto \varphi_{s,t}(z)$ is locally Lipschitz continuous on $[s, \infty)$ uniformly on compact sets with respect to $z \in \mathbf{B}^q$.

Fix $s \ge 0$ and $z \in \mathbf{B}^q \setminus \{0\}$. Then for a.e. $\tau \ge s$,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} |\varphi_{s,\tau}(z)|^2 = 2\operatorname{Re}\left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \varphi_{s,\tau}(z), \varphi_{s,\tau}(z) \right\rangle = -2\operatorname{Re}\left\langle h(\varphi_{s,\tau}(z), \tau), \varphi_{s,\tau}(z) \right\rangle.$$

Set $C(r) \doteq \frac{1+r}{1-r}$ and $c(r) \doteq \frac{1-r}{1+r}$ for all $r \geq 0$. Gurganus proved [17] that for a.e. $t \geq 0$, $\operatorname{Re} \langle A(t)w, w \rangle c(|w|) \leq \operatorname{Re} \langle h(w, t), w \rangle \leq \operatorname{Re} \langle A(t)w, w \rangle C(|w|), \quad w \in \mathbf{B}^q \setminus \{0\}.$

Since $|\varphi_{s,\tau}(z)| \leq |z|$ one has

$$-2k(A(\tau))C(|z|) \le \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} |\varphi_{s,\tau}(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{s,\tau}(z)|^2} \le -2m(A(\tau))c(|z|), \quad \text{a.e. } \tau \ge 0,$$

$$-2C(|z|)\int_{s}^{t} k(A(\tau)) d\tau \leq \int_{s}^{t} \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} |\varphi_{s,\tau}(z)|^{2}}{|\varphi_{s,\tau}(z)|^{2}} d\tau \leq -2c(|z|)\int_{s}^{t} m(A(\tau)) d\tau, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t,$$

(2.2)
$$e^{-C(|z|)\int_s^t k(A(\tau)) d\tau} \le \frac{|\varphi_{s,t}(z)|}{|z|} \le e^{-c(|z|)\int_s^t m(A(\tau)) d\tau}, \quad 0 \le s \le t.$$

Set for all $0 \le s \le t$,

$$\nu_{s,t} \doteq e^{-C(|z|) \int_s^t k(A(\tau)) d\tau}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_{s,t} \doteq e^{-c(|z|) \int_s^t m(A(\tau)) d\tau}.$$

One has, thanks to assumption c),

(2.3)
$$\log_{\mu_{s,t}} \nu_{s,t} = \frac{\log \nu_{s,t}}{\log \mu_{s,t}} = C^2(|z|) \frac{\int_s^t k(A(\tau)) d\tau}{\int_s^t m(A(\tau)) d\tau} \le C^2(|z|)\ell, \quad 0 \le s \le t.$$

Let $n \in \mathbf{N}$ and let $u_n \in \mathbf{R}^+$ be defined by

$$\int_0^{u_n} m(A(\tau)) d\tau = n.$$

Let now $h \in \mathbf{N}$ be the least integer strictly greater than ℓ , and let r > 0 be such that $C^2(r) < h/\ell$. Set $\mu \doteq e^{-c(r)}$ (notice that $\mu = \mu_{u_n,u_{n+1}}$ for all $n \geq 0$) and $\nu \doteq \min\{\nu_{u_n,u_{n+1}} : n \geq 0\}$. By (2.2) and (2.3) one has that

$$\nu|z| \le |\varphi_{u_n,u_{n+1}}(z)| \le \mu|z|, \quad z \in r\mathbf{B}^q, n \ge 0.$$

and

$$\mu^h < \nu$$

The abstract basin of attraction or tail space Ω of the family $(\varphi_{u_n,u_{n+1}}: r\mathbf{B}^q \to r\mathbf{B}^q)$ is defined in [11] (see also [1]) as its topological inductive limit endowed with a natural complex structure. Ω is the quotient of the set

$$\left\{ z \in \prod_{m \ge n} r \mathbf{B}^q \colon n \in \mathbf{N}, \ z_{m+1} = \varphi_{u_m, u_{m+1}}(z_m), \quad 0 \le n \le m \right\},\,$$

obtained identifying z and z' if $z_m = z'_m$ for m large enough, and the holomorphic structure is induced by a family of open inclusions $(\omega_n \colon r\mathbf{B}^q \to \Omega)$ defined as

$$\omega_n(z) \doteq (\varphi_{u_n,u_m}(z))_{m \geq n}, \quad n \in \mathbf{N},$$

which are thus by definition biholomorphisms with their image and satisfy

(2.5)
$$\omega_n(z) = \omega_m \circ \varphi_{u_n, u_m}(z), \quad 0 \le n \le m, \ z \in r\mathbf{B}^q.$$

By [11, Theorem 2.2] there exists an univalent mapping $\Psi \colon \Omega \to \mathbf{C}^q$. We claim that, for all $s \geq 0$, the sequence $(\Psi \circ \omega_m \circ \varphi_{s,u_m})_{m \geq 0}$ converges uniformly on compact sets in $\operatorname{Hol}(\mathbf{B}^q, \mathbf{C}^q)$. Indeed by equation (2.2) and assumption a) one has that for all $s \geq 0$,

$$\lim_{m \to \infty} \varphi_{s,u_m}(z) = 0,$$

uniformly on compact sets. Thus, if 0 < v < 1, there exist $m(v) \in \mathbf{N}$ such that for all $j \ge m(v)$, one has $\varphi_{s,u_j}(v\mathbf{B}^q) \subset r\mathbf{B}^q$. Let j,h be integers such that $m(v) \le j \le h$, then by (2.5),

$$\Psi \circ \omega_h \circ \varphi_{s,u_h}(z) = \Psi \circ \omega_j \circ \varphi_{s,u_j}(z), \quad z \in v\mathbf{B}^q.$$

Thus the sequence $(\Psi \circ \omega_m \circ \varphi_{s,u_m})$ is eventually constant in $\operatorname{Hol}(v\mathbf{B}^q,\mathbf{C}^q)$.

Let $f_t : \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q$ the univalent mapping defined as

(2.6)
$$f_t(z) \doteq \lim_{m \to +\infty} \Psi \circ \omega_m \circ \varphi_{t,u_m}(z).$$

One easily verifies that

$$(2.7) f_s(z) = f_t \circ \varphi_{s,t}(z), \quad 0 \le s \le t, \ z \in \mathbf{B}^q,$$

and that

$$\bigcup_{t>0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q) = \Psi(\Omega).$$

Notice that the abstract basin of attraction of the family $(\varphi_{u_n,u_{n+1}})$ is thus biholomorphic to the Loewner range of the family $(\varphi_{s,t})$ defined in [5]. This can be checked directly since both objects are defined as direct limits.

By [5, Theorem 4.10] one has that $(f_t \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ is a Loewner chain of order ∞ , that is

- $f_s(\mathbf{B}^q) \subset f_t(\mathbf{B}^q)$ for all $0 \le s \le t$,
- for any compact set $K \subset \mathbf{B}^q$ and for any T > 0 there exists a $k_{K,T} > 0$ satisfying

$$(2.8) |f_t(z) - f_s(z)| \le k_{K,T}(t-s), z \in K, 0 \le s \le t < T.$$

By [5, Theorem 5.2] one obtains finally

$$\frac{\partial f_t(z)}{\partial t} = Df_t(z)h(z,t), \quad z \in \mathbf{B}^q, \text{ a.e. } t \ge 0.$$

Thus any univalent mapping $\Psi \colon \Omega \to \mathbf{C}^q$ gives rise to a univalent solution $(f_t \colon \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ of the Loewner PDE. Following [1, Remark A.4] we recall a way to construct such a univalent mapping $\Psi \colon \Omega \to \mathbf{C}^q$. Given any polynomial map $p \colon \mathbf{C}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q$ of degree at most k with Dp(0) invertible there exists [12][29] an holomorphic automorphism Φ of \mathbf{C}^q such that

$$\Phi(z) = p(z) + O(|z|^{k+1}).$$

We choose a sequence of automorphisms $(\Phi_{n,n+1}: \mathbf{C}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ which is uniformly bounded on a neighborhood of the origin and which satisfies

$$\Phi_{n,n+1}(z) = \varphi_{u_n,u_{n+1}}(z) + O(|z|^h), \quad n \ge 0,$$

where $h \in \mathbf{N}$ is as in (2.4). We denote the basin of attraction of the sequence $(\Phi_{n,n+1})$ by

$$\mathfrak{A}(\Phi_{n,n+1}) \doteq \{ z \in \mathbf{C}^q \colon \lim_{n \to \infty} \Phi_{n-1,n} \circ \cdots \circ \Phi_{0,1} = 0 \}.$$

It follows from [1, Theorem A.1] that there exists a biholomorphism

$$\Psi \colon \Omega \to \mathfrak{A}(\Phi_{n,n+1}) \subset \mathbf{C}^q$$
.

If $\ell < 2$, then h = 2 and, by [30, Theorem 4], one has that the basin of attraction $\mathfrak{A}(\Phi_{n,n+1})$ is biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}^q .

By [5, Theorem 4.10] any solution $(g_t: \mathbf{B}^q \to \mathbf{C}^q)$ of the Loewner PDE has to satisfy $g_s = g_t \circ \varphi_{s,t}$ for all $0 \le s \le t$ and thus [5, Theorem 4.7] yields that the family (g_t) is of the form $(\Lambda \circ f_t)$, where $\Lambda : \bigcup_{t>0} f_t(\mathbf{B}^q) \to \mathbf{C}^q$ is holomorphic.

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Received 17 February 2012