

On the number of Pisot polynomials

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based on a joint work with Shigeki Akiyama, Horst
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Graz, 16 April, 2007

Definition 1 Let $d \geq 1$ and $\mathbf{r} = (r_1, \dots, r_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$. To \mathbf{r} we associate the mapping $\tau_{\mathbf{r}} : \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^d$: For $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ let

$$\tau_{\mathbf{r}}(\mathbf{a}) = (a_2, \dots, a_d, -\lfloor \mathbf{r}\mathbf{a} \rfloor),$$

where $\mathbf{r}\mathbf{a} = r_1a_1 + \dots + r_da_d$. We call $\tau_{\mathbf{r}}$ a shift radix system (SRS for short) if for all $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ we can find some $k > 0$ with $\tau_{\mathbf{r}}^k(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{0}$.

SRS form a common generalization of canonical number systems in residue class rings of polynomial rings as well as β -expansions of real numbers.

For $d \in \mathbb{N}$, $d \geq 1$ let

$$\mathcal{D}_d := \left\{ \mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^d \text{ the sequence } (\tau_{\mathbf{r}}^k(\mathbf{a}))_{k \geq 0} \text{ is ultimately periodic} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_d^0 := \left\{ \mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^d \exists k > 0 : \tau_{\mathbf{r}}^k(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{0} \right\}.$$

\mathcal{D}_d is strongly related to the set of contracting polynomials. In particular, let

$$\mathcal{E}_d(r) := \left\{ (r_1, \dots, r_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d : X^d + r_d X^{d-1} + \dots + r_1 \right. \\ \left. \text{has only roots } y \in \mathbb{C} \text{ with } |y| < r \right\}.$$

Let $P(X) = X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$.

- If all but one root of P is located in the open unit disc then P is called a *Pisot polynomial*. Its dominant root is called *Pisot number*.
- If all but one root of P is located in the closed unit disc and at least one of them has modulus 1 then P is called a *Salem polynomial*. Its dominant root is called *Salem number*.

If P is a Pisot or Salem polynomial, we will denote its dominating root by β .

Let $\beta > 1$ and put $\mathcal{A} = \{0, 1, \dots, \lfloor \beta \rfloor\}$. Then each $\gamma \in [0, \infty)$ can be represented uniquely as a β -expansion by

$$\gamma = a_m \beta^m + a_{m-1} \beta^{m-1} + \dots \quad (2)$$

with $a_i \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$0 \leq \gamma - \sum_{i=n}^m a_i \beta^i < \beta^n \quad (3)$$

holds for all $n \leq m$. Since the digits a_i are selected as large as possible, this representation is often called the *greedy expansion* of γ with respect to β .

K. Schmidt (1980) proved that in order to get ultimately periodic expansions for all $\gamma \in \mathbb{Q} \cap (0, 1)$ it is necessary for β to be a Pisot or a Salem number.

Let $\text{Fin}(\beta)$ be the set of positive real numbers having finite greedy expansion with respect to β . We say that $\beta > 1$ has property (F) if

$$\text{Fin}(\beta) = \mathbb{Z}[1/\beta] \cap [0, \infty).$$

It is shown by Frougny and Solomyak (1992) that (F) can hold only for Pisot numbers β . Akiyama, Brunotte, Pethő and Thuswaldner (2005) proved that property (F) is related to the SRS property.

Associated to Pisot and Salem numbers with periodic β -expansions and with property (F), respectively, we define for each $d \in \mathbb{N}$, $d \geq 1$ the sets

$$\mathcal{B}_d := \{(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d : X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d \text{ is a Pisot or Salem polynomial}\} \text{ and}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_d^0 := \{(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d : X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d \text{ is a Pisot polynomial with property (F)}\}.$$

We obviously have $\mathcal{B}_d^0 \subseteq \mathcal{B}_d$.

Let us consider the map $\psi : \mathcal{B}_d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$. If $(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{B}_d$ then let β be the dominant root of the polynomial

$$P(X) = X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d.$$

Now let

$$\psi(b_1, \dots, b_d) = (r_d, \dots, r_2),$$

where r_2, \dots, r_d are defined in a way that they satisfy the relation

$$X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d = (X - \beta)(X^{d-1} + r_2 X^{d-2} + \dots + r_d).$$

As $(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{B}_d$, the polynomial $X^{d-1} + r_2 X^{d-2} + \dots + r_d$ has all its roots in the closed unit circle. Together with this implies that

$$\psi(\mathcal{B}_d) \subseteq \overline{\mathcal{D}_{d-1}}.$$

The above-mentioned relation between property (F) and SRS now reads as follows.

$$\psi(\mathcal{B}_d^0) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_{d-1}^0.$$

We show that $\psi(\mathcal{B}_d)$ and $\psi(\mathcal{B}_d^0)$ are excellent approximations of \mathcal{D}_{d-1} and \mathcal{D}_{d-1}^0 respectively.

For $M \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$ we set

$$\mathcal{B}_d(M) := \left\{ (b_2, \dots, b_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^{d-1} : (M, b_2, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{B}_d \right\} \quad (4)$$

and

$$\mathcal{B}_d^0(M) := \left\{ (b_2, \dots, b_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^{d-1} : (M, b_2, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{B}_d^0 \right\}. \quad (5)$$

With these notations we are able to state the following theorem.

Theorem 2 *We have*

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\mathcal{B}_d(M)|}{M^{d-1}} = \lambda_{d-1}(\mathcal{D}_{d-1}), \quad (6)$$

and

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\mathcal{B}_d^0(M)|}{M^{d-1}} = \lambda_{d-1}(\mathcal{D}_{d-1}^0), \quad (7)$$

where λ_{d-1} denotes the $d - 1$ -dimensional Lebesgue measure.

Properties of two auxiliary mappings

For $M \in \mathbb{Z}$ let $\chi_M : \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \mapsto \mathbb{Z}^d$ such that if $\mathbf{r} = (r_2, \dots, r_d)$ then $\chi_M(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_d)$, where $b_1 = M$, $b_d = \lfloor r_d(M + r_2) + \frac{1}{2} \rfloor$ and

$$b_i = \lfloor r_i(M + r_2) - r_{i+1} + \frac{1}{2} \rfloor, i = 2, \dots, d-1.$$

If $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{B}_d$, then $\chi_{b_1}(\psi(\mathbf{b})) = \mathbf{b}$, i.e. χ_{b_1} is the inverse of ψ .

To prove the main theorem we need some properties of the sets

$$\mathcal{S}_d(M) = \chi_M(\overline{\mathcal{D}_{d-1}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{S}_d^0(M) = \chi_M(\overline{\mathcal{D}_{d-1}^0})$$

and

$$\mathcal{S}_d = \cup_{M \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{S}_d(M) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{S}_d^0 = \cup_{M \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{S}_d^0(M).$$

Our first Lemma shows that if $|M|$ is large enough then the polynomials associated to the elements of \mathcal{S}_d behaves in some sense similar as Pisot or Salem polynomials.

Lemma 3 *Let $M \in \mathbb{Z}$, $(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{S}_d(M)$ and $P(X) = X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d$. There exist constants $c_1 = c_1(d), c_2 = c_2(d)$ such that if $|M|$ is large enough than $P(X)$ has a real root β for which the inequalities*

$$|\beta - b_1| < c_1 \tag{8}$$

$$\left| \beta - b_1 - \frac{b_2}{b_1} \right| < \frac{c_2}{|b_1|} + O\left(\frac{1}{b_1^2}\right), \tag{9}$$

hold.

There exists $(r_2, \dots, r_d) \in \overline{\mathcal{D}_{d-1}}$ such that $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_d) = \chi_M(r_2, \dots, r_d)$.

It is easy to see that $|r_i| \leq 2^{d-1}$. Thus $b_i = Mr_i + O(1), i = 2, \dots, d$.

Put $Q(X) = b_2X^{d-2} + \dots + b_d$, i.e. let $P(X) = X^d - MX^{d-1} - Q(X)$. Then $P(M) = Q(M)$ and $P(M+t) = t(M+t)^{d-1} + Q(M+t)$. Assume that $M > 0$ and large enough and $Q(M) < 0$. As $|Q(M+t)| \leq d2^d M(M+t)^{d-2}$ we have $P(M+t) > 0$ provided $t \geq d2^d$. Thus $P(X)$ has a real root in the interval $(M, M+t)$ and (8) is proved with $c_1 = d2^d$.

The relation $P(\beta) = 0$ implies

$$\beta = b_1 + \frac{b_2}{\beta} + \frac{b_3}{\beta^2} + \dots + \frac{b_d}{\beta^{d-1}}.$$

Thus

$$\beta - b_1 - \frac{b_2}{b_1} = \frac{(b_1 - \beta)b_2}{b_1\beta} + \frac{b_3}{\beta^2} + \dots + \frac{b_d}{\beta^{d-1}}.$$

using this expression, inequality (8) and the estimates $|b_i| = 2^d|M|, i = 2, \dots, d$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \beta - b_1 - \frac{b_2}{b_1} \right| &\leq \frac{c_1 2^{d-1}}{|b_1| - c_1} + \frac{2^d |b_1|}{(|b_1| - c_1)^2} + \sum_{j=3}^{d-1} \frac{2^d |b_1|}{(|b_1| - c_1)^j} \\ &< \frac{c_2}{|b_1|} + O\left(\frac{1}{|b_1|^2}\right), \end{aligned}$$

which proves the second assertion of the Lemma.

Now we are in the position to extend the definition of ψ from the set \mathcal{B}_d to \mathcal{S}_d . If $(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{S}_d$ and $|b_1|$ is large enough, then let β be the dominant root of the polynomial

$$P(X) = X^d - b_1X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d,$$

which exists by Lemma 3. Then let

$$\psi(b_1, \dots, b_d) = (r_d, \dots, r_2),$$

where the real numbers r_2, \dots, r_d are defined in a way that they satisfy the relation

$$X^d - b_1X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d = (X - \beta)(X^{d-1} + r_2X^{d-2} + \dots + r_d).$$

We also introduce an other mapping $\tilde{\psi} : \mathbb{Z}^d \mapsto \mathbb{Q}^{d-1}$ by

$$\tilde{\psi}(b_1, \dots, b_d) = \left(\frac{b_d}{b_1 + \frac{b_2}{b_1}}, \frac{b_{d-1}}{b_1 + \frac{b_2}{b_1}} + \frac{b_d}{b_1^2}, \dots, \frac{b_2}{b_1 + \frac{b_2}{b_1}} + \frac{b_3}{b_1^2} \right).$$

The next lemma shows that if $(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{S}_d$ then $\tilde{\psi}(b_1, \dots, b_d)$ is a good approximation of $\psi(b_1, \dots, b_d)$. We actually prove

Lemma 4 *Let $(b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathcal{S}_d$ and assume that $|b_1|$ is large enough. Then*

$$\left| \tilde{\psi}(b_1, \dots, b_d) - \psi(b_1, \dots, b_d) \right|_{\infty} < \frac{c_3}{b_1^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{|b_1|^3}\right),$$

where c_3 is depending only on d .

In the next lemma we show that the set $\tilde{\psi}(\mathcal{S}_d)$ is lattice like. More precisely we prove

Lemma 5 *Let $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_d), \mathbf{b}' = (b'_1, \dots, b'_d) \in \mathcal{S}_d$ such that there exists a $1 \leq j \leq d$ such that $b_i = b'_i, i \neq j$ and $b'_j = b_j + 1$. Then*

$$|\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{b})_k - \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{b}')_k| = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } j > 2 \text{ and } k \neq d - j + 1, d - j + 2 \\ \frac{1}{|b_1|} + O(b_1^{-2}), & \text{if } j > 2 \text{ and } k = d - j + 1 \text{ or } j = 2, k = d - 1 \\ O(b_1^{-2}), & \text{if } j > 2 \text{ and } k = d - j + 2 \text{ or } j = 2, k < d - 1 \\ |b_{d-k+1}| \left(\frac{1}{b_1^2} + O(|b_1|^{-3}) \right), & \text{if } j = 1. \end{cases}$$

A lemma on the roots of polynomials

Lemma 6 *Assume that all roots $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ of the polynomial $P(x) = X^d + p_{d-1}X^{d-1} + \dots + p_0 \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ satisfy $|\alpha| < \rho$. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ and $Q(x) = X^d + q_{d-1}X^{d-1} + \dots + q_0 \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ such that $|p_i - q_i| < \varepsilon, i = 0, \dots, d-1$. Then for every root α of $P(X)$ there exists a root β of $Q(X)$ such that*

$$|\alpha - \beta| < \begin{cases} (d\varepsilon)^{1/d}, & \text{if } \rho \leq 1, \\ \left(\varepsilon \frac{\rho^{d-1}}{\rho-1}\right)^{1/d}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ be a root of $P(X)$ and denote by β_1, \dots, β_d the roots of $Q(X)$. Then

$$Q(\alpha) - P(\alpha) = \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} \alpha^i (q_i - p_i) = \prod_{i=1}^d (\alpha - \beta_i).$$

We may assume without loss of generality $|\alpha - \beta_1| = \min_{1 \leq i \leq d} |\alpha - \beta_i|$. Then on one hand

$$\prod_{i=1}^d |\alpha - \beta_i| \geq |\alpha - \beta_1|^d$$

and on the other hand

$$\prod_{i=1}^d |\alpha - \beta_i| \leq \sum_{i=0}^{d-1} |\alpha|^i |q_i - p_i| \leq \varepsilon \sum_{i=0}^d \rho^i.$$

Comparing these inequalities we get the result.

The following Lemma is an immediate consequence of a theorem of Akiyama, Brunotte, Pethő and Thuswaldner (2005)

Lemma 7 *For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists M_0 such that if $|M| > M_0$ then*

$$\lambda_{d-1} \left(\mathcal{D}_{d-1} \setminus \mathcal{E} \left(1 - \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2|M|}} \right) \right) < \varepsilon$$

and

$$\lambda_{d-1} \left(\mathcal{D}_{d-1}^0 \setminus \mathcal{E} \left(1 - \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2|M|}} \right) \right) < \varepsilon.$$

The next Lemma can be proved similarly as Lemma 4.7. of [?].

Lemma 8 *For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists M_0 such that if $|M| > M_0$ then*

$$\lambda_{d-1} \left(\mathcal{E} \left(1 + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2|M|}} \right) \setminus \mathcal{D}_{d-1} \right) < \varepsilon.$$

Proof of Theorem 2

Let $M > 0$ and put

$$W(\mathbf{x}, s) = \{\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^d : |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|_\infty \leq s/2\} \quad (\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d, s \in \mathbb{R})$$

and

$$\mathcal{W}_{d-1}(M) = \cup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M)} W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}).$$

Then we claim

$$\lambda_{d-1}(\mathcal{W}_{d-1}(M)) = \frac{|\mathcal{B}_d(M)|}{M^{d-1}} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{M}\right) \right). \quad (10)$$

Indeed, let $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M)$ such that $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{e}_j$ for some $j \in \{2, \dots, d\}$. Then by Lemmata 4 and 5

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(\mathbf{x})_k - \psi(\mathbf{y})_k| &\leq |\psi(\mathbf{x})_k - \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{x})_k + \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{x})_k - \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{y})_k + \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{y})_k - \psi(\mathbf{y})_k| \\ &\leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{M} + O\left(\frac{1}{M^2}\right), & \text{if } (j, k) = (2, d-1), \text{ or } j > 2, k = d-j+1 \\ \left(\frac{1}{M^2}\right), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\lambda_{d-1}(W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}) \cap W(\psi(\mathbf{y}), M^{-1})) = O\left(\frac{1}{M^d}\right). \quad (11)$$

As \mathbf{x} has at most 2^d neighbors we get

$$\lambda_{d-1}\left(\bigcup_{\substack{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M) \\ \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y}}} (W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}) \cap W(\psi(\mathbf{y}), M^{-1}))\right) = O\left(\frac{|\mathcal{B}_d(M)|}{M^d}\right)$$

and the claim is proved.

Now we are in the position to give lower estimate for $\lambda_{d-1}(\mathcal{D}_{d-1})$. Let $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M)$ such that $\psi(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{E} \left(1 - \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}} \right) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_{d-1}$. Let $\mathbf{y} \in W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1})$. Then $\rho(\psi(\mathbf{x})) < 1 - \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}$ and as $|\psi(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{y}|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2M}$ we get $\rho(\mathbf{y}) < 1$ by Lemma 6. Thus

$$\bigcup_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M) \\ \rho(\psi(\mathbf{x})) < 1 - \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}}} W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}) \subseteq \mathcal{D}_{d-1}. \quad (12)$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ and $M > M_0$, where M_0 is defined in Lemma 7. Then the number of $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M)$ such that $1 - \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}} \leq \rho(\psi(\mathbf{x})) \leq 1$ is at most $O(M^{d-1}\varepsilon)$ by Lemma 7 and by (11). Combining this with 11 and 12 we obtain the desired lower bound

$$\lambda_{d-1}(\mathcal{D}_{d-1}) \geq \frac{|\mathcal{B}_d(M)|}{M^{d-1}} (1 - \varepsilon). \quad (13)$$

To prove an upper bound we construct for every $\mathbf{r} = (r_d, \dots, r_2) \in \mathcal{D}_{d-1}$ and M large enough a vector $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ such that $\psi(\mathbf{b})$ is lying near enough to \mathbf{r} .

Indeed put $\mathbf{b} = \chi_M(\mathbf{r})$ and consider

$$\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{b}) = \left(\frac{b_d}{b_1 + \frac{b_2}{b_1}}, \frac{b_{d-1}}{b_1 + \frac{b_2}{b_1}} + \frac{b_d}{b_1^2}, \dots, \frac{b_2}{b_1 + \frac{b_2}{b_1}} + \frac{b_3}{b_1^2} \right).$$

then we get

$$|\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{b}) - \mathbf{r}|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2M} + O\left(\frac{1}{M^2}\right).$$

Applying now Lemma 4 we obtain

$$|\psi(\mathbf{b}) - \mathbf{r}|_\infty \leq |\tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{b}) - \mathbf{r}|_\infty + |\psi(\mathbf{b}) - \tilde{\psi}(\mathbf{b})|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2M} + O\left(\frac{1}{M^2}\right).$$

Thus by Lemma 6

$$\rho(\psi(\mathbf{b})) \leq \rho(\mathbf{r}) + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}} \leq 1 + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}.$$

This means that if M is large enough then all but one roots of $P(X) = X^d - b_1 X^{d-1} - \dots - b_d$ have absolute value at most $1 + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}$ and one root is close to M . We have further

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_{d-1} &\subseteq \bigcup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}) \\ &\quad \psi(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{E}_{d-1}(1 + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}) \\ &= \bigcup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{B}_d(M)} W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}) \cup \bigcup_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^d \\ \psi(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathcal{E}_{d-1}(1 + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}) \setminus \mathcal{E}(1)}} W(\psi(\mathbf{x}), M^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Let again $\varepsilon > 0$ and $M > M_0$, where M_0 is defined in Lemma 8.

Then Lemma 8 and (11) implies that the number of $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ such that $\psi(\mathbf{x})$ is lying in $\mathcal{E}_{d-1} \left(1 + \sqrt[d]{\frac{d}{2M}}\right) \setminus \mathcal{D}_{d-1}$ is at most $O(M^{d-1}\varepsilon)$, thus

$$\lambda_{d-1}(\mathcal{D}_{d-1}) \leq \frac{|\mathcal{B}_d(M)|}{M^{d-1}} (1 + \varepsilon).$$

Comparing this inequality with (13) we obtain the first statement of Theorem 2.