## Aspects of dynamical Mahler measure

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Conférence de théorie des nombres Québec-Maine in honor of Andrew Granville

Université Laval
October 15th, 2022

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## Mahler measure of multivariable polynomials

$P \in \mathbb{C}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)^{\times}$, the (logarithmic) Mahler measure is :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{m}(P) & =\int_{0}^{1} \cdots \int_{0}^{1} \log \left|P\left(e^{2 \pi i \theta_{1}}, \ldots, e^{2 \pi i \theta_{n}}\right)\right| d \theta_{1} \ldots d \theta_{n} \\
& =\frac{1}{(2 \pi i)^{n}} \int_{\mathbb{T}^{n}} \log \left|P\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)\right| \frac{d z_{1}}{z_{1}} \cdots \frac{d z_{n}}{z_{n}} .
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where $\mathbb{T}^{n}=\left\{\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right) \in \mathbb{C}^{n}:\left|z_{i}\right|=1\right\}$.

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& =\frac{1}{(2 \pi i)^{n}} \int_{\mathbb{T}^{n}} \log \left|P\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)\right| \frac{d z_{1}}{z_{1}} \cdots \frac{d z_{n}}{z_{n}} .
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Jensen's formula gives

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mathrm{m}(P)=\log |a|+\sum_{\left|\alpha_{i}\right|>1} \log \left|\alpha_{i}\right| \quad \text { if } P(x)=a \prod_{i}\left(x-\alpha_{i}\right) \\
M(P):=\exp (\mathrm{m}(P))
\end{gathered}
$$

## Mahler measure is ubiquitous!

- Heights
- Distribution of values
- Volumes in hyperbolic space
- Special values of L-functions


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Lehmer's question (1933)
Given $\varepsilon>0$, can we find a polynomial $P(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ such that $0<\mathrm{m}(P)<\varepsilon$ ?

## Arithmetic dynamics

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- $\alpha$ is periodic if $f^{n}(\alpha)=\alpha$ for some $n>0$.
- $\alpha$ is preperiodic if $f^{n}(\alpha)=f^{m}(\alpha)$ for some $n>m \geq 0$.
- $\alpha$ is wandering otherwise.


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Really informally, the Julia set is where the action is. Dynamically speaking.

## Pretty pictures!


(a) Filled Julia set for $f(z)=z^{2}$

(b) Filled Julia set for $f(z)=z^{2}-1$

(c) (Filled) Julia set for
$f(z)=z^{2}+0.3$

## Equilibrium measures

Brolin (1965), Lyubich (1983), Freire-Lopes-Mañé (1983)
Let $f: \mathbb{P}^{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{1}$ polynomial of degree $d \geq 2$. There is a unique Borel probability measure $\mu=\mu_{f}$ in $\mathbb{P}^{1}$ such that

- $\mu$ is invariant under (the push-forward by) $f$ :

$$
f_{*} \mu=\mu, \quad f_{*}(\mu(B))=\mu\left(f^{-1}(B)\right)
$$

- $\operatorname{Supp}(\mu)=J_{f}$;
- $\mu$ has maximal energy

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I(\mu):=\int_{J_{f}} \int_{J_{f}} \log |z-w| d \mu(z) d \mu(w)
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$$
\mu \text { is the equilibrium measure of } f \text { or of } J_{f} \text {. }
$$

## A dynamical Mahler measure

If $f \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$ is monic, the $f$-dynamical Mahler mesure of $P \in \mathbb{C}\left(x_{1}, \ldots x_{n}\right)^{\times}$ is given by

$$
\mathrm{m}_{f}(P)=\int \cdots \int \log \left|P\left(z_{1}, \cdots, z_{n}\right)\right| d \mu_{f}\left(z_{1}\right) \cdots d \mu_{f}\left(z_{n}\right)
$$

The integral converges and $\mathrm{m}_{f}(P) \geq 0$ when $P \in \mathbb{Z}\left[x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right]$.

## The circle

## $-1$ <br> $$
f(z)=z^{d}
$$

- $|\alpha|>1 \Rightarrow\left|\alpha^{d^{n}}\right| \rightarrow \infty$.
- $|\alpha|<1 \Rightarrow\left|\alpha^{d^{n}}\right| \rightarrow 0$.
- $|\alpha|=1 \Rightarrow\left|\alpha^{d^{n}}\right|=1$.

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$$
\begin{aligned}
& J_{f}=\{|z|=1\}, \quad \mu_{f}=\frac{\chi_{\mathbb{S}^{1}} d z}{2 \pi i z}, \quad \mathrm{~m}_{f}(P)=\mathrm{m}(P) .
\end{aligned}
$$

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## Chebyshev polynomials

$f(z)=T_{d}(z)$, for $n \geq 2$, where $T_{d}$ is the $d$-Chebyshev polynomial

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\begin{gathered}
T_{d}\left(z+z^{-1}\right)=z^{d}+z^{-d} \\
T_{d}(z)= \begin{cases}2 & d=0 \\
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$J_{f}=[-2,2]$,

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\mu_{f}=\frac{\chi_{[-2,2]} d x}{\pi \sqrt{4-x^{2}}}, \quad \mathrm{~m}_{f}(P)=\mathrm{m}\left(P \circ\left(z+z^{-1}\right)\right) .
$$

## A two-variable case

$f \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$ monic of degree $d \geq 2$.

$$
m_{f}(x-y)=\iint \log \left|z_{1}-z_{2}\right| d \mu_{f}\left(z_{1}\right) d \mu_{f}\left(z_{2}\right)=0
$$

The energy $I\left(\mu_{f}\right)$ of the equilibrium measure is 0 when $f$ is monic.

## Dynamical Kronecker's Lemma

Kronecker (1857)
$P \in \mathbb{Z}[x], P \neq 0$,

$$
\mathrm{m}(P)=0 \Longleftrightarrow P(x)=x^{n} \prod \Phi_{i}(x)
$$

where the $\Phi_{i}$ are cyclotomic polynomials.

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Dynamical version CLMMM (2022) $f \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$ monic of degree $d \geq 2$. $P(x)=a \prod_{j}\left(x-\alpha_{j}\right) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$.

$$
\mathrm{m}_{f}(P)=0 \Longleftrightarrow|a|=1 \text { and } \alpha_{j} \text { preperiodic }
$$

## Dynamical Boyd-Lawton Theorem

Boyd (1981), Lawton (1983)
For $P \in \mathbb{C}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)^{\times}$,

$$
\lim _{k_{2} \rightarrow \infty} \ldots \lim _{k_{n} \rightarrow \infty} \mathrm{~m}\left(P\left(x, x^{k_{2}}, \ldots, x^{k_{n}}\right)\right)=\mathrm{m}\left(P\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)\right)
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con $k_{2}, \ldots, k_{n} \rightarrow \infty$ independently.
(Weak) Dynamical version CLMMM (2022) Let $f \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$ monic of degree $d \geq 2$. and $P \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$,

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup _{n \rightarrow} \mathrm{~m}_{f}\left(P\left(x, f^{n}(x)\right)\right) \leq \mathrm{m}_{f}(P(x, y))
$$

## Dynamical Lehmer's Conjecture

Lehmer (1933)
Is there $\varepsilon>0$ such that if $P \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$,

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\mathrm{m}(P)>0 \Rightarrow \mathrm{~m}(P)>\varepsilon ?
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Dynamical version Is there $\varepsilon=\varepsilon_{f}>0$ such that if $P \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$,

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\mathrm{m}_{f}(P)>0 \Rightarrow \mathrm{~m}_{f}(P)>\varepsilon ?
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## Multivariable Kronecker's Lemma

Everest-Ward (1999)
If $P \in \mathbb{Z}\left[x_{1}^{ \pm}, \ldots, x_{k}^{ \pm}\right]$is primitive (coprime coefficients),

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{m}(P)=0 \Longleftrightarrow & P \text { is the product of a monomial and } \Phi_{n_{i}} \\
& \text { evaluated in monomials. }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Two-variable Dynamical Kronecker's Lemma

Theorem (CLMMM (2022, 2022+))
Let $f \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$ monic of degree $d \geq 2$, not conjugate to $z^{d}$ nor $\pm T_{d}(z)$.
Assume either the Dynamical Lehmer's Conjecture or that $\operatorname{PrePer}(f) \subset J_{f}$. Let $P \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$ irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}[x, y]$ (with both variables)

$$
\mathrm{m}_{f}(P)=0 \Leftrightarrow P \text { divides in } \mathbb{C}[x, y] \text { a product of } \tilde{f}^{n}(x)-L\left(\tilde{f}^{m}(y)\right),
$$

$\underset{\sim}{L} \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ is linear and commutes with an iterate of $f$ and $\tilde{f} \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ is not linear, commutes with an iterate of $f$ and has minimal degree.

The proof uses a result of unlikely intersections due to Ghioca, Nguyen \& Ye (2019).

## Ideas in the proof

Assume $\mathrm{m}_{f}(P(x, y))=0$.

- Use Weak Dynamical Boyd-Lawton and Dynamical Lehmer's question to obtain that

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This gives infinitely many $\left(\alpha, f^{n}(\alpha)\right)$ preperiodic under $f \times f$.

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## A key result

Ghioca, Nguyen \& Ye (2019)
Let $f \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ of degree $d \geq 2$, not conjugate to $z^{d}$ nor $\pm T_{d}(z)$.

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\begin{aligned}
& \Phi: \mathbb{P}^{1} \times \mathbb{P}^{1} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{1} \times \mathbb{P}^{1} \\
& \Phi(x, y)=(f(x), f(y)) .
\end{aligned}
$$

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Let $C \subset \mathbb{P}^{1} \times \mathbb{P}^{1}$ an irreducible curve over $\mathbb{C}$ which projects dominantly onto both coordinates.

Then $C$ contains infinitely many preperiodic points under the action of $\Phi$ if and only if $C$ is an irreducible component of the locus of an equation of the form

$$
\tilde{f}^{n}(x)=L\left(\tilde{f}^{m}(y)\right)
$$

where $L, \tilde{f} \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ as before.

## Looking ahead

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- Dynamical Lehmer's Question!


## Happy birthday Andrew!!!

Joyeux anniversaire Andrew !!!
iiiFeliz cumpleaños Andrew!!!


