

## Sets of Pisot-like numbers

Let  $r > 0$ , and  $S_r$  be the set of real positive algebraic integers  $\alpha > r$ , all of whose conjugates  $\neq \alpha$  are  $< r$ . Clearly  $S_1$  is the set of Pisot numbers – known to form a closed subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  (Salem 1944).

**Lemma 1.** If  $r < 1$  then  $S_r$  is discrete (and so certainly closed).

**Proof.** Let  $n$  denote the degree of  $\alpha \in S_r$ , where  $r < 1$ . Then

$$1 \leq |\text{Norm}(\alpha)| \leq \alpha r^{n-1},$$

so that  $\alpha > (\frac{1}{r})^{n-1}$ . Hence the degree of such  $\alpha$  in  $(1, B]$  is at most  $1 + \log B / \log (\frac{1}{r})$ . Since there are only a finite number of monic integer polynomials of degree at most  $n$  having all zeros in the disc  $|z| \leq B$ , we have that there are only finitely many  $\alpha$  in  $S_r \cap (1, B]$ . Thus  $S_r$  is discrete.

**Lemma 2.** The union  $\cup_{r>0} S_r$  is dense in  $(1, \infty)$ .

**Proof.** For positive integers  $n, b$ , let  $p(z) = z^{2n+1}(z^{2n} - b) - 1$ . Then  $p$  has a unique zero  $\alpha > 1$ , and all other zeros have smaller modulus than  $\alpha$ . Thus  $\alpha$  is a Perron number, and so it belongs to  $S_\alpha$ .

Now take any  $t > 1$ , and put  $b = \lfloor t^{2n} \rfloor$ . Then as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for fixed  $t$ , the largest root of  $p(z) = z^{2n+1}(z^{2n} - \lfloor t^{2n} \rfloor) - 1$  tends to  $t$ . Hence  $\cup_{r>0} S_r$  is dense in  $(1, \infty)$ .

**Question.** For  $r > 1$ , is  $S_r$  dense in  $(1, \infty)$ ? Is it closed? Or what?