

HEIGHTS BOUNDS FOR ALGEBRAIC NUMBERS SATISFYING SPLITTING CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT. In an earlier work, the first author and Petsche solved an energy minimization problem for local fields and used the result to obtain lower bounds on the height of algebraic numbers all whose conjugates lie in various local fields, such as totally real and totally p -adic numbers. In this paper, we extend these techniques and solve the corresponding minimization programs for real intervals and p -adic discs, obtaining several new lower bounds for the height of algebraic numbers all of whose conjugates lie in such sets.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let h denote the absolute logarithmic Weil height on algebraic numbers. It is well-known that if an $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ satisfies some sort of prime ideal splitting conditions, one can compute lower bounds on the height of the number. The first result of this kind dates back to Schinzel [8], who proved that if $\alpha \neq 0, \pm 1$ is totally real, that is, if the set of Galois conjugates of α lies entirely in \mathbb{R} , then

$$h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right).$$

Bombieri and Zannier [2] proved a similar result for totally p -adic numbers, specifically, if L_S denotes the field of all numbers whose conjugates lie in the p -adic field \mathbb{Q}_p for all p in a set S of non-archimedean rational primes, then

$$\liminf_{\alpha \in L_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in S} \frac{\log p}{p+1}.$$

(Bombieri and Zannier proved similar results for finite extensions of \mathbb{Q}_p , but for simplicity we will first state all results for the moment in the totally p -adic setting.)

Using potential theoretic techniques on the Berkovich projective line, the first author and Petsche [3] managed to improve on these results at the non-archimedean places and to allow simultaneous p -adic and totally real splitting conditions. Specifically, they proved [3, Theorem 3] that if S is a nonempty subset of rational primes, and L_S denotes the subfield of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ consisting of all those $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ such that α is totally

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p -adic for all primes $p \in S$, and α is totally real if $\infty \in S$, then

$$(1) \quad \liminf_{\alpha \in L_S} h(\alpha) \geq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in S} \frac{p \log p}{p^2 - 1} & \text{if } \infty \notin S \\ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{p \in S \\ p \neq \infty}} \frac{p \log p}{p^2 - 1} + \frac{7\zeta(3)}{4\pi^2} & \text{if } \infty \in S. \end{cases}$$

In this paper, we use similar potential theoretic techniques to extend the results of the first author and Petsche to the case where all of the conjugates of a number lie in a specific real or p -adic interval or ball, respectively.

Before stating our results, let us first set some notation. For L a local field with a given absolute value $|\cdot|$ and μ a Borel measure on $\mathbb{P}^1(L)$, we let

$$(2) \quad I_\delta(\nu) = \iint_{\mathbb{P}^1(L) \times \mathbb{P}^1(L)} -\log \delta(x, y) d\nu(x) d\nu(y),$$

where $\delta : \mathbb{P}^1(L) \times \mathbb{P}^1(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the spherical metric defined by

$$\delta(x, y) = \frac{|x_0 y_1 - y_0 x_1|}{\max\{|x_0|, |x_1|\} \max\{|y_0|, |y_1|\}}$$

for $x = (x_0 : x_1)$ and $y = (y_0 : y_1)$ in $\mathbb{P}^1(L)$. When L is a finite extension of \mathbb{Q}_p we will take as the absolute value on L the unique extension of the p -adic absolute $|\cdot|_p$ to L , normalized so that $|p|_p = 1/p$, and when $L = \mathbb{R}$ or $L = \mathbb{C}$, we will take the usual absolute value $|\cdot|_\infty = |\cdot|$. Let us denote by

$$V_\delta(E_p) = \inf_{\nu} I_\delta(\nu)$$

this infimum over Borel probability measures supported on E_p , called the δ -Robin constant of E_p . As was demonstrated in [3], for compact sets $E_p \subset \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ there is a unique measure μ_{E_p} , which minimizes the energy functional I_δ and is supported on E_p , that is, for which $V_\delta(E_p) = I_\delta(\mu_{E_p})$. We have the following result, which is a scholium of Theorem 3 of [3]:

Theorem 1. *Let S be a set of rational primes, and for each $p \in S$, let L_p/\mathbb{Q}_p be a finite normal extension and E_p a closed subset of the projective line $\mathbb{P}^1(L_p)$. Let $G = \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ denote the absolute Galois group, and*

$$A_S = \{\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}} : G\alpha \subset E_p \text{ for every } p \in S\}.$$

Then

$$(3) \quad \liminf_{\alpha \in A_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in S} V_\delta(E_p),$$

where $V_\delta(E_p)$ is the δ -Robin constant as defined above. Further, if there exists a sequence $\{\alpha_n\}_{n=1}^\infty \subset A_S$ such that the infimum above is attained, then for each $p \in S$, the probability measures on $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}_p)$ distributed equally on each Galois conjugate of α_n must converge weakly to the unique δ -equilibrium measure of E_p .

We note that it is very easy to see, using Rumely's Fekete-Szegő theorem with splitting conditions [4, 5], that in many cases of interest A_S is infinite, so that the result above is non-trivial. In particular, if $E_p = \mathbb{Q}_p$ for some finite prime p and every other E_p contains at least a disc or interval, then A_S is infinite.

We will prove our main theorem in this paper by determining the value of $V_\delta(E_p)$ for certain real intervals and p -adic discs of interest. Specifically, we prove the following:

Theorem 2. *Let $E_\infty = [-r, r]$. The equilibrium measure is absolutely continuous with respect to Lebesgue measure on $[-r, r]$,*

$$\frac{d\mu_{E_\infty}}{dx}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2 \arcsin(1/r)}{\pi^2 \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}} + \frac{1}{\pi^2 x} \log \left| \frac{(x+1)(r^2 - x + \sqrt{r^2 - x^2} \sqrt{r^2 - 1})}{(x-1)(r^2 + x + \sqrt{r^2 - x^2} \sqrt{r^2 - 1})} \right| & \text{if } r \geq 1, \\ \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and the δ -Robin constant is given by

$$V_\delta(E_\infty) = \begin{cases} \log \frac{2}{r} + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^r \frac{\log x \, dx}{\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}} + 2 \int_1^r \log x \, d\mu_{E_\infty}(x) & \text{if } r \geq 1, \\ r/2 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The proof of Theorem 2 will be given in Section 2 below.

Theorem 3. *Let $E_p = p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $n \geq 0$, then μ_p is the normalized Haar measure of E_p as an additive group, while if $n < 0$, then μ_p can be written as a linear combination of the normalized Haar measures of \mathbb{Z}_p and $p^k \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$ for $-1 \geq k \geq n$, and*

$$V_\delta(E_p) = \begin{cases} n \log p + \frac{p \log p}{p-1} & \text{if } n \geq 0, \\ \frac{p + p^{2n}}{p^2 - 1} \log p & \text{if } n < 0. \end{cases}$$

For $n < 0$ the expression of the δ -equilibrium measure μ_p as a combination of the Haar measure of \mathbb{Z}_p and the Haar measures of the shells $p^k \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$ for $k < 0$ can be computed explicitly. Those details, as well as a more general statement of the above theorem for arbitrary finite extensions of \mathbb{Q}_p , can be found in Theorem 10 of Section 3 below.

1.1. Example applications. In order to give an indication of the strength of these results, we give here some example applications. We begin with an example inspired by that from [3].

Example 4. Let $S = \{2, \infty\}$, $E_2 = 2^{-1} \mathbb{Z}_2$ and $E_\infty = [-2, 2]$, so that A_S is the set of all numbers which are algebraic numbers that satisfy:

- All conjugates of α are real and lie in the interval $[-2, 2]$.
- All conjugates of α have 2-adic absolute value at most 2.

It then follows from Theorem 1 that

$$\liminf_{\alpha \in A_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} V_\delta(E_\infty) + \frac{1}{2} V_\delta(2^{-1} \mathbb{Z}_2) = 0.239632 \dots + 0.25993 \dots = 0.499562 \dots$$

This improves on the values one could obtain from [3, Theorem 3], which only uses the fact that the elements of L_S are totally real and totally 2-adic, and would have allowed us to conclude that

$$\liminf_{\alpha \in A_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{7\zeta(3)}{4\pi^2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2 \log 2}{2^2 - 1} = 0.231049 \dots + 0.213139 \dots = 0.444188 \dots$$

Both results are better than the p -adic bound of the Bombieri-Zannier at $p = 2$, which would yield

$$\liminf_{\alpha \in A_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\log 2}{2+1} = 0.115525\dots$$

and separate the bound of Schinzel for totally real numbers, which implies that

$$\liminf_{\alpha \in A_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) = 0.24061\dots$$

Example 5. Suppose α_n is a sequence of distinct algebraic numbers for which the conjugates of α_n all lie in $[-2, 2]$ for any archimedean place. If the α_n are assumed to be algebraic integers, then as is known that the α_n must distribute at the real place according to the logarithmic equilibrium distribution of $[-2, 2]$, which is given by

$$d\mu(x) = \frac{dx|_{[-2,2]}}{\pi\sqrt{4-x^2}}.$$

It follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(\alpha_n) = \int_{-2}^2 \frac{\log^+ |x|}{\pi\sqrt{4-x^2}} dx = 0.323066\dots$$

On the other hand, if the assumption that the α_n are algebraic integers is dropped, then previously, the best result that could be applied was Schinzel's theorem for totally real algebraic numbers [8]:

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(\alpha_n) \geq \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = 0.240606\dots$$

It is worth noting that the archimedean contribution of our height bound for $E_\infty = [-2, 2]$, $\frac{1}{2}V_\delta([-2, 2]) = 0.239632\dots$, is smaller than Schinzel's bound, however, as the previous example illustrates, it possesses the advantage that it can be applied to non-integers and combined with p -adic splitting conditions to obtain stronger bounds.

On the other hand, for non-integers, our result even at only the archimedean place is highly non-trivial:

Example 6. Let $S = \{\infty\}$ and $E_\infty = [-1, 1]$, so that A_S contains algebraic numbers all of whose conjugates lie in $[-1, 1]$. Notice that A_S cannot contain more than finitely many algebraic integers, as the logarithmic capacity of $[-1, 1]$ is strictly less than 1 by the classical Fekete-Szegő theorem. It then follows from our theorem that

$$\liminf_{\alpha \in A_S} h(\alpha) \geq \frac{1}{2} V_\delta([-1, 1]) = 0.346574\dots$$

which substantially exceeds both bounds in the previous example.

Lastly, we note that we can generalize Theorem 1 to the case where we consider conjugates of α to over a base number field K , and for a set S of places of K , we choose for each $v \in S$ a closed subset of the projective line $\mathbb{P}^1(L_v)$ for a finite normal extension L_v/K_v . This changes the statement of Theorem 1 trivially in that the energies $V_\delta(E_v)$ are calculated as before, but each factor of $V_\delta(E_v)$ is now weighted by $N_v = [K_v : \mathbb{Q}_v]/[K : \mathbb{Q}]$ as in the proof of [3, Theorem 9].

2. ARCHIMEDEAN RESULTS

We will begin by proving the results for the archimedean setting.

Proof of Theorem 2. We use the notation and terminology of Saff and Totik [7] in this proof. Thus we deal with a logarithmic energy problem with the external field $Q(x) = \log^+ |x|$ on $[-r, r]$, $r \geq 1$. Note that this external field can be written as the negative of the logarithmic potential:

$$Q(x) = \int \log |x - t| d\tau(t) = -U^\tau(x),$$

where $d\tau(e^{i\theta}) = d\theta/(2\pi)$ is the Haar (equilibrium) measure on \mathbb{T} . Consider the balayage $\hat{\tau}$ of the measure τ from the domain $\Omega = \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus [-r, r]$ onto $[-r, r]$, see Section II.4 of [7]. It follows from Theorem 4.4 of [7, p. 115] that $\hat{\tau}$ is a unit measure supported on $[-r, r]$, whose potential satisfies

$$U^{\hat{\tau}}(x) + Q(x) = U^{\hat{\tau}}(x) - U^\tau(x) = \int g_\Omega(t, \infty) d\tau(t), \quad x \in [-r, r],$$

where $g_\Omega(t, \infty)$ is the Green function of Ω with pole at ∞ . Hence $\hat{\tau}$ is the equilibrium measure of $[-r, r]$ in the external field Q by Theorem 3.3 of [7, p. 44]. Thus the support of $\mu_{E_\infty} = \hat{\tau}$ is $[-r, r]$, and the above equation allows to find the measure explicitly by using well known integral equation methods. In particular, Theorem 3.1 of [7, p. 221] states that if $f \in C[-1, 1]$ is even and $f'(x)/\sqrt{1-x^2} \in L^p[-1, 1]$ for some $p \in (1, 2)$, then the integral equation

$$-\int_{-1}^1 g(t) \log |x - t| dt = -f(x) + C_f, \quad x \in [-1, 1],$$

has a solution of the form

$$g(t) = L[f'](t) + \frac{B_f}{\pi\sqrt{1-t^2}}, \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (-1, 1),$$

where

$$L[f'](t) = \frac{2}{\pi^2} \text{PV} \int_0^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-t^2} s f'(s)}{\sqrt{1-s^2}(s^2-t^2)} ds, \quad \text{a.e. } t \in (-1, 1),$$

and

$$B_f = 1 - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{s f'(s)}{\sqrt{1-s^2}} ds.$$

Moreover, the constant C_f is uniquely determined by

$$C_f = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{f(s)}{\sqrt{1-s^2}} ds + \log 2.$$

Scaling the problem from $[-r, r]$ to $[-1, 1]$ by the linear change of variable $x = rt$, we apply the above stated result with $f(t) := \log^+ |rt|$, $t \in [-1, 1]$. It is immediate to see that

$$B_f = 1 - \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{1/r}^1 \frac{ds}{\sqrt{1-s^2}} = \frac{2}{\pi} \arcsin \frac{1}{r}$$

and

$$C_f = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{1/r}^1 \frac{\log(rs)}{\sqrt{1-s^2}} ds + \log 2 = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^r \frac{\log x dx}{\sqrt{r^2-x^2}} + \log 2.$$

Thus it remains to evaluate $L[f'](t)$ explicitly, with

$$L[f'](t) = \frac{2}{\pi^2} \text{PV} \int_{1/r}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-t^2} ds}{\sqrt{1-s^2}(s^2-t^2)}.$$

One can verify by direct differentiation that for any fixed $t \in [-1, 1] \setminus \{0\}$, the function

$$F_t(s) = \frac{1}{\pi^2 t} \log \left| \frac{(s-t)(1+st+\sqrt{1-t^2}\sqrt{1-s^2})}{(s+t)(1-st+\sqrt{1-t^2}\sqrt{1-s^2})} \right|$$

satisfies

$$\frac{dF_t}{ds}(s) = \frac{2}{\pi^2} \frac{\sqrt{1-t^2}}{\sqrt{1-s^2}(s^2-t^2)}, \quad s \in (-1, 1), \quad s \neq t.$$

Since for $t \in (-1/r, 1/r)$ the integral defining $L[f'](t)$ becomes a regular integral instead of principal value, we can evaluate it directly by using the antiderivative F_t :

$$L[f'](t) = F_t(1) - F_t(1/r) = -F_t(1/r), \quad t \in (-1/r, 1/r).$$

The values of $L[f'](t)$ for $1/r \leq |t| < 1$ are found by using the identity

$$\text{PV} \int_0^1 \frac{ds}{\sqrt{1-s^2}(s^2-t^2)} = 0,$$

see the last equation on page 225 of [7]. Indeed, it gives that

$$\begin{aligned} L[f'](t) &= \frac{2}{\pi^2} \text{PV} \int_{1/r}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-t^2} ds}{\sqrt{1-s^2}(s^2-t^2)} = -\frac{2}{\pi^2} \text{PV} \int_0^{1/r} \frac{\sqrt{1-t^2} ds}{\sqrt{1-s^2}(s^2-t^2)} \\ &= F_t(0) - F_t(1/r) = -F_t(1/r), \quad t \in (-1, -1/r] \cup [1/r, 1). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the solution of the equilibrium integral equation on $[-1, 1]$ is given by

$$g(t) = \frac{2 \arcsin(1/r)}{\pi^2 \sqrt{1-t^2}} - \frac{1}{\pi^2 t} \log \left| \frac{(1/r-t)(1+t/r+\sqrt{1-t^2}\sqrt{1-r^{-2}})}{(1/r+t)(1-t/r+\sqrt{1-t^2}\sqrt{1-r^{-2}})} \right|.$$

Returning to the interval $[-r, r]$ by letting $x = rt$, we obtain the equation

$$-\int_{-r}^r G(x) \log |x-y| dx = -\log^+ |y| + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^r \frac{\log x dx}{\sqrt{r^2-x^2}} + \log \frac{2}{r}, \quad y \in [-r, r],$$

with

$$\frac{d\mu_{E_\infty}}{dx}(x) = G(x) = \frac{2 \arcsin(1/r)}{\pi^2 \sqrt{r^2-x^2}} + \frac{1}{\pi^2 x} \log \left| \frac{(x+1)(r^2-x+\sqrt{r^2-x^2}\sqrt{r^2-1})}{(x-1)(r^2+x+\sqrt{r^2-x^2}\sqrt{r^2-1})} \right|.$$

The δ -Robin constant is found from (1.14) of [7, p. 27] as

$$\begin{aligned} V_\delta(E_\infty) &= \log \frac{2}{r} + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^r \frac{\log x dx}{\sqrt{r^2-x^2}} + \int \log^+ |x| d\mu_{E_\infty}(x) \\ &= \log \frac{2}{r} + \frac{2}{\pi} \int_1^r \frac{\log x dx}{\sqrt{r^2-x^2}} + 2 \int_1^r G(x) \log x dx. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

3. p -ADIC RESULTS

Let K be a non-archimedean local field with absolute value $|\cdot|$. Let O_K denote the ring of integers of K . In this section we compute the δ -equilibrium measure μ_n of $\pi^n O_K$ and its associated δ -Robin constant $V_\delta(\pi^n O_K)$. For the basic results of non-archimedean potential theory we refer the reader to [6, 1]. We begin by setting our notation:

K	our non-archimedean local field
O_K	the ring of integers of K , $O_K = \{x \in K : x \leq 1\}$
π	a uniformizing parameter of K
q	the order of the residue field $O_K/\pi O_K$
λ_k	the unit Haar measure of $\pi^n O_K$ as an additive group
ν_k	the unit Haar measure of $\pi^n O_K^\times$ as a multiplicative group
$\gamma_\infty(E)$	the logarithmic capacity of a compact set $E \subset K$

We now state a few lemmas which we will need.

Lemma 7. *The logarithmic equilibrium measure of $\pi^n O_K$ is its unit Haar measure μ_n and it has logarithmic capacity*

$$(4) \quad \log \gamma_\infty(\pi^n O_K) = n \log |\pi| + \frac{\log |\pi|}{q-1}$$

Proof. The proof for $n = 0$ can be found in Rumely [6, Example 4.1.24], and the general result follows by the scaling property for capacity. For the convenience of the reader, we will reproduce it here. Let $p_{\mu_n}(x)$ be the associated potential function:

$$p_{\mu_n}(x) = \int_{\pi^n O_K} \log |x - y| d\mu_n(y).$$

By translation invariance of μ_n , we see that $p_{\mu_n}(x) = p_{\mu_n}(0)$ for every $x \in \pi^n O_K$. It follows that μ_n is the equilibrium measure. Since the value of $p_{\mu_n}(x)$ must agree with $\log \gamma_\infty(\pi^n O_K)$ quasi-everywhere on $\pi^n O_K$, and U is constant on the set, we can evaluate it at any convenient point to determine the capacity. We compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \log \gamma_\infty(\pi^n O_K) &= p_{\mu_n}(0) = \int_{\pi^n O_K} \log |y| d\mu_n(y) \\ &= \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \int_{\pi^k O_K^\times} \log |y| d\mu_n(y) \\ &= \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \log |\pi^k| \cdot \mu_n(\pi^k O_K^\times) \\ &= \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} k \log |\pi| \cdot \frac{1}{q^{k-n}} \frac{q-1}{q} \\ &= n \log |\pi| + \frac{\log |\pi|}{q-1}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 8. *The logarithmic equilibrium measure of $\pi^n O_K^\times$ is ν_n and it has capacity*

$$(5) \quad \log \gamma_\infty(\pi^n O_K^\times) = n \log |\pi| + \frac{q \log |\pi|}{(q-1)^2}.$$

Proof. Let $p_{\nu_n}(x)$ be the associated potential function:

$$p_{\nu_n}(x) = \int_{\pi^n O_K^\times} \log |x - y| d\nu_n(y).$$

By invariance of ν_n under multiplication by elements of absolute value 1, we see that $p_{\nu_n}(x) = p_{\nu_n}(\pi^n)$ for every $x \in \pi^n O_K^\times$. It follows that ν_n is the equilibrium measure. Since the value of $p_{\nu_n}(x)$ must agree with $\log \gamma_\infty(\pi^n O_K^\times)$ quasi-everywhere on $\pi^n O_K^\times$, and p_{ν_n} is constant on the set, we can evaluate it at any convenient point to determine the capacity. We will compute the potential $p_{\nu_n}(\pi^n)$. We note that the Haar measure μ_n of the additive group $\pi^n O_K$ is given by

$$\mu_n = \frac{1}{q} \mu_{n+1} + \frac{q-1}{q} \nu_n$$

since μ_{n+1} and ν_n have disjoint supports $\pi^{n+1} O_K$ and $\pi^n O_K^\times$, respectively, whose union is $\pi^n O_K$, and for each n , the Haar measure μ_n is characterized by the fact that $\mu_n(\alpha + \pi^{n+k} O_K) = 1/q^k$ for each $k \geq 1$ and $\alpha \in \pi^n O_K$, and ν_n is similarly characterized by the property that $\nu_n(\alpha + \pi^{n+k} O_K) = \frac{1}{q^{k-1}(q-1)}$ for each $k \geq 1$ and $\alpha \in \pi^n O_K^\times$. We therefore write:

$$\begin{aligned} \log \gamma_\infty(\pi^n O_K) &= p_{\mu_n}(\pi^n) \\ &= \frac{1}{q} \int_{\pi^{n+1} O_K} \log |\pi^n - y| d\mu_{n+1}(y) + \frac{q-1}{q} \int_{\pi^n O_K^\times} \log |\pi^n - y| d\nu_n(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{q} \log |\pi^n| + \frac{q-1}{q} p_{\nu_n}(\pi^n). \end{aligned}$$

Applying (4) from the previous lemma and solving for $p_{\nu_n}(\pi^n)$ gives the desired result. \square

Lemma 9. *Let $x, y \in K$, $|x| \neq |y|$. Then*

$$-\log \delta(x, y) = \begin{cases} \log^+ \min\{|x|, |y|\} & \text{if } \max\{|x|, |y|\} \geq 1 \\ -\log |x - y| & \text{if } \max\{|x|, |y|\} < 1. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Recall from the ultrametric property that $|x| \neq |y|$ implies that $|x - y| = \max\{|x|, |y|\}$. Substituting this into the definition of $\delta(x, y)$ gives the desired result. \square

We are now ready to state and prove the main p -adic result.

Theorem 10. *Let K be a non-archimedean field with absolute value $|\cdot|$, residue field of order q and uniformizing parameter π , as above, and let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $n \geq 0$, then the δ -equilibrium of $\pi^n O_K$ is the additive Haar measure λ_n and it has energy*

$$V_\delta(\pi^n O_K) = -n \log |\pi| - \frac{\log |\pi|}{q-1}.$$

If $n < 0$, then the δ -equilibrium measure of $\pi^n O_K$ is given by

$$\mu_n = c_0 \lambda_0 + c_{-1} \nu_{-1} + \cdots + c_n \nu_n$$

where the constants $c_0, c_{-1}, \dots, c_n \geq 0$ sum to 1 and are explicitly given by a linear system, and the δ -Robin constant is

$$V_\delta(\pi^n O_k) = -\frac{q + q^{2n}}{q^2 - 1} \log |\pi|.$$

It is interesting to note that as $n \rightarrow -\infty$,

$$V_\delta(\pi^n O_K) \rightarrow V_\delta(\mathbb{P}^1(K)) = -\frac{q}{q^2-1} \log |\pi|,$$

which was computed in [3, Theorem 1]. (Note that $\log |\pi| < 0$.)

Proof of Theorem 10. The case of $n \geq 0$ follows immediately from Lemma 7 as $\delta(x, y) = |x - y|$ in this case, so the δ -energy reduces to the usual logarithmic energy with respect to infinity.

To see that the equilibrium measure μ_n must be defined as in the theorem statement for some constants c_0, c_{-1}, \dots, c_n , we note that the kernel $-\log \delta(x, y)$ is invariant under multiplication by elements $\alpha \in O_K^\times$, as $\delta(x, y)$ is $\text{PGL}_2(O_K)$ invariant, and thus by the uniqueness of the equilibrium measure, the measure in each shell $\pi^k O_K^\times$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ must be a multiple of the Haar measure of $\pi^k O_K^\times$, which we have denoted ν_k . Further, as O_K is invariant by the translation $x \mapsto x + \alpha$, for $\alpha \in O_K$, and δ is likewise invariant by O_K -translations, again by the uniqueness of the equilibrium measure, the measure in O_K must be a multiple of the additive Haar measure of O_K , which we have denoted λ_0 . Thus $\mu_n = c_0 \lambda_0 + c_{-1} \nu_{-1} + \dots + c_n \nu_n$ for some constants c_k , $0 \geq k \geq n$, and these constants must be nonnegative as the measures are disjointly supported and μ_n is a probability measure, establishing the first claim.

We will now proceed to determine the values of the constants c_k for which the δ -potential

$$U_\delta^{\mu_n}(x) = \int_{\pi^n O_K} -\log \delta(x, y) d\mu_n(y)$$

is constant on $\pi^n O_K$. Note that $\pi^n O_K$ is compact in the Berkovich analytification of the projective line minus the Gauss point. Since the δ -energy here coincides on K with the logarithmic energy with respect to the Gauss point of the ambient Berkovich projective line, it follows (by the same argument as in [3, Theorem 1(a)]) that there is a unique δ -equilibrium measure. Further, this measure is characterized by the fact that the associated δ -potential function is constant quasi-everywhere on $\pi^n O_K$ (see [1, Theorem 6.18, Corollary 7.21]).

By explicitly evaluating the potential $U_\delta^{\mu_n}(x)$ at $x = 0, \pi^{-1}, \dots, \pi^n$ and equating these values, we will arrive at the equations determining the c_k coefficients, $k = 0, -1, \dots, n$. (In fact, again using the invariance of our kernel and measure under multiplication $x \mapsto \alpha x$ for $\alpha \in O_K^\times$, it follows that $U_\delta^{\mu_n}$ will be constant on all of $\pi^n O_K$.) As $\delta(0, y) = 1$ for $|y| > 1$, we see that:

$$\begin{aligned} U_\delta^{\mu_n}(0) &= \int_{\pi^n O_K} -\log \delta(0, y) d\mu_n(y) \\ &= \int_{O_K} -\log \delta(0, y) d\mu_n(y) = \int_{O_K} -\log |0 - y| d\mu_n(y) \\ (6) \quad &= c_0 \int_{O_K} -\log |0 - y| d\lambda_0(y) \\ &= -c_0 \log \gamma_\infty(O_K) = -\frac{c_0}{q-1} \log |\pi|. \end{aligned}$$

To compute $U_\delta^{\mu_n}(\pi^k)$ for $k = -1, \dots, n$, we first evaluate the integral separately on the domains O_K , and $\pi^\ell O_K^\times$ for $-1 \geq \ell \geq n$, whose disjoint union gives $\pi^n O_K$.

First note that by Lemma 9, $-\log \delta(\pi^k, y) = 0$ for $|y| \leq 1$, so

$$(7) \quad \int_{O_K} -\log \delta(\pi^k, y) d\mu_n(y) = 0.$$

For the shells $\pi^\ell O_K^\times$ satisfying $0 > \ell > k$, we apply Lemma 9 to obtain $-\log \delta(\pi^k, y) = \log |\pi^\ell|$ for every $y \in \pi^\ell O_K^\times$, so that

$$(8) \quad \int_{\pi^\ell O_K^\times} -\log \delta(\pi^k, y) d\mu_n(y) = c_\ell \int_{\pi^\ell O_K^\times} \log |\pi^\ell| d\nu_\ell(y) = \ell c_\ell \log |\pi|.$$

For $\pi^k O_K^\times$ itself, we compute:

$$-\log \delta(\pi^k, y) = 2 \log |\pi^k| - \log |\pi^k - y|,$$

and as $\mu_n|_{\pi^k O_K^\times} = c_k \nu_k$ we obtain:

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{\pi^k O_K^\times} -\log \delta(\pi^k, y) d\mu_n(y) &= 2c_k \log |\pi^k| - c_k \int_{\pi^k O_K^\times} -\log |\pi^k - y| d\nu_k(y) \\ &= 2c_k \log |\pi^k| - c_k \log \gamma_\infty(\pi^k O_K^\times) \\ &= 2c_k \log |\pi^k| - c_k \log |\pi^k| - \frac{c_k q}{(q-1)^2} \log |\pi| \\ &= kc_k \log |\pi| - \frac{qc_k}{(q-1)^2} \log |\pi| \end{aligned}$$

where we used Lemma 8 to evaluate the integral on the right hand side. For the shells $\pi^\ell O_K^\times$ with $0 > k > \ell \geq n$, we see that $-\log \delta(\pi^k, y) = \log |\pi^k|$, and so

$$(10) \quad \int_{\pi^\ell O_K^\times} -\log \delta(\pi^k, y) d\mu_n(y) = c_\ell \int_{\pi^\ell O_K^\times} \log |\pi^k| d\nu_\ell(y) = kc_\ell \log |\pi|.$$

Combining equations (7), (8), (9), and (10) we find that

$$(11) \quad U_\delta^{\mu_n}(\pi^k) = \left(-\frac{qc_k}{(q-1)^2} + \sum_{\ell=k}^{-1} \ell c_\ell + \sum_{\ell=n}^{k-1} kc_\ell \right) \log |\pi|.$$

Setting $U_\delta^{\mu_n}(0) = U_\delta^{\mu_n}(\pi^k)$ for $k = -1, \dots, n$ then gives us n equations which, combined with the condition that the total mass of the measure be 1, uniquely determine the coefficients c_0, \dots, c_n (we cancel the common factors of $\log |\pi|$ on each side):

$$(12) \quad c_0 + c_{-1} + \dots + c_n = 1,$$

and

$$(13) \quad \frac{c_0}{q-1} - \frac{qc_k}{(q-1)^2} + \sum_{\ell=k}^{-1} \ell c_\ell + \sum_{\ell=n}^{k-1} kc_\ell = 0 \quad \text{for } k = -1, -2, \dots, n.$$

To solve, we first begin by subtracting $1/(q-1)$ times equation (12) from each equation (13) to obtain for each $k = -1, -2, \dots, n$ the new equation:

$$(14) \quad -\frac{qc_k}{(q-1)^2} + \sum_{\ell=k}^{-1} \left(\ell - \frac{1}{q-1} \right) c_\ell + \sum_{\ell=n}^{k-1} \left(k - \frac{1}{q-1} \right) c_\ell = -\frac{1}{q-1}.$$

Finally, for each k we multiply the above equation (14) by

$$\frac{(q-1)^2}{q^{k-2n+1}} \sum_{i=0}^{-2(n-k)} (-q)^i$$

and add all of the resulting equations to (12) to obtain

$$c_0 = 1 - \frac{1}{q} + \frac{1}{q^2} - \dots + \frac{1}{q^{-2n}} = \frac{q + q^{2n}}{q + 1}.$$

Lastly, as $U_\delta^{\mu_n}$ is constant on all of $\pi^n O_K$ and must equal $V_\delta(\pi^n O_K)$ quasi-everywhere, we can compute the δ -Robin constant by evaluating at 0 using (6):

$$(15) \quad V_\delta(\pi^n O_K) = U_\delta^{\mu_n}(0) = -\frac{q + q^{2n}}{q^2 - 1} \log |\pi|$$

for $n < 0$, which is the desired result. \square

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