

ORBITS LENGTHS OF MODULAR REDUCTIONS OF PAIRS OF POLYNOMIAL DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT. We obtain various bounds on orbit length of modular reductions of algebraic dynamical systems generated by polynomials with integer coefficients. In particular we extend a recent result of Chang (2015) in two different directions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let

$$\mathbf{F} = (F_1, \dots, F_m), \quad F_1, \dots, F_m \in \mathbb{K}[\mathbf{X}],$$

be a system of m polynomials in m variables $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_m)$ over a field \mathbb{K} . The iterations of this system are given by

$$(1.1) \quad F_i^{(0)} = X_i \quad \text{and} \quad F_i^{(k)} = F_i \left(F_1^{(k-1)}, \dots, F_m^{(k-1)} \right)$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$ and $k \geq 1$. We refer to [AnaKhr09, Sch95, Sil07] for a background on the dynamical systems associated with these iterations.

Given a point $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{K}^m$ we define its orbit with respect to the system \mathbf{F} as the set

$$(1.2) \quad \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{w}) = \{\mathbf{w}_n \mid \text{with } \mathbf{w}_0 = \mathbf{w} \text{ and } \mathbf{w}_k = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{w}_{k-1}), \ k = 1, 2, \dots\}.$$

The set $\text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{F})$ of preperiodic points of \mathbf{F} is the set of points $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{K}^m$ for which $\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{w})$ is a finite set.

Sets $\text{PrePer}_K(\mathbf{F})$ are classical objects of study and in particular for polynomial systems over \mathbb{C} . For example, by the celebrated result of Northcott [Nor50], if \mathbb{K} is an algebraic number field, for any system of nonlinear polynomials the set $\text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{F})$ is finite, see also [Sil07, Theorem 3.12]. The *Uniform Boundedness Conjecture* of Morton and Silverman [MS94] asserts that the cardinality $\#\text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{F})$ can be bounded only in terms of degrees of the polynomials in \mathbf{F} and the

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 37P05; Secondary 11G25, 11G35, 13P15, 37P25.

Key words and phrases. Algebraic dynamical system, orbit length, arithmetic Nullstellensatz, resultant.

degree of \mathbb{K} over \mathbb{Q} . Recently, several very deep results have been obtained towards this conjecture, see [BDeM11, BDeM13, GHT13, GHT15, GKN16, GKNY16, GNT15, Ing12] and references there in. In a similar spirit, Dvornicich and Zannier [DvZan07] show that under some very natural necessary conditions a polynomial f may have only finitely many preperiodic points in the set \mathcal{U} of roots of unity (or more generally in the cyclotomic closure $\mathbb{K}[\mathcal{U}]$ of an algebraic number field \mathbb{K}). On the other hand, if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}_q$ is a finite field of q elements then all orbits $\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{w})$ are finite and in fact $\#\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}}(\mathbf{w}) \leq q^m$.

We also note the result of Ingram [Ing12] which shows that the set of $t \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ for which the critical points of a parametric polynomial $f_t(X) \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ are preperiodic (such polynomials are called *post-critically finite*) is a set of bounded height.

Recently, there has been active interest in the study of orbits of reductions \mathbf{F}_p modulo distinct primes p of a polynomial system \mathbf{F} defined over \mathbb{Q} , see [AkbGhi09, BGH+13, Cha15, DOSS15, Sil08]. We use $\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F},p}(\mathbf{w})$ to denote the orbit of the reduction of $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ modulo p in the dynamical system over \mathbb{F}_p generated by the reduction of polynomial system $\mathbf{F} \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}]$ modulo p . Alternatively, $\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F},p}(\mathbf{w})$ is the reduction modulo p of the elements of the orbit (1.2).

Silverman [Sil08] has shown that under some natural conditions on a fixed $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, for almost all primes p (in the sense of asymptotic relative density) we have $\#\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F},p}(\mathbf{w}) \geq (\log p)^{1+o(1)}$. This result has been improved slightly by Akbary and Ghioca [AkbGhi09].

Chang [Cha15] has given a result of a new type involving two distinct orbits. The method of [Cha15] is based on a result of Ghioca, Krieger and Nguyen [GKN16] on the finiteness of the set of $t \in \mathbb{C}$ for which $0 \in \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(f_t) \cap \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(g_t)$ for the polynomials $f_t(X) = X^d + t$ and $g_t(X) = X^d + a(t)$ with $a \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ and a fixed integer $d \geq 2$. This result has been extended by Ghioca, Krieger, Nguyen and Ye [GKNY16] to much wider families of polynomials.

Let $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ denote the algebraic closure of \mathbb{F}_p . Then, by [Cha15, Theorem 1], there are constants c_1, c_2 depending on d and $a(T)$ such that for almost all primes p , there is a set $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ with $\#\mathcal{T} \leq c_1$ such that for every $t \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p \setminus \mathcal{T}$ we have

$$(1.3) \quad \max \{ \#\text{Orb}_{f_t,p}(0), \#\text{Orb}_{g_t,p}(0) \} \geq c_2 \log p.$$

Here we consider a more general case of $r \geq 1$ distinct n -parametric m -dimensional polynomial systems

$$(1.4) \quad \mathbf{F}_{t,\nu}(\mathbf{X}) = (F_{1,\nu}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{t}), \dots, F_{m,\nu}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{t})), \quad \nu = 1, \dots, r,$$

with polynomials

$$(1.5) \quad F_{i,\nu}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}) \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}; \mathbf{T}], \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \nu = 1, \dots, r,$$

where $\mathbf{T} = (T_1, \dots, T_n)$, specialised at the values of the parameter $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n$.

It is also convenient to denote

$$\mathbf{0}_m = \underbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}_m.$$

Here we extend [Cha15, Theorem 1] in several different directions:

- We use some results of [DOSS15] to obtain an analogue of the result of Chang [Cha15, Theorem 1] for r distinct n -parametric m -dimensional polynomial systems $\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu}$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, for which

$$\mathbf{0}_m \in \bigcap_{\nu=1}^r \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu})$$

for only finitely many values of the parameter $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n$;

- We obtain a somewhat dual result of similar flavour, which applies to one polynomial system and several initial points.
- We use a result on divisibility of resultants which is due to Gómez-Pérez, Gutierrez, Ibeas and Sevilla [GGIS09] in the settings of [Cha15] with two parametric families of univariate polynomials to get a trade-off between the size of the exceptional set $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ and $\max\{\#\text{Orb}_{f_t,p}(0), \#\text{Orb}_{g_t,p}(0)\}$ in [Cha15, Theorem 1].

Note that our results can be derived for any fixed initial point $\mathbf{w}_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, not necessary for $\mathbf{w}_0 = \mathbf{0}_m$. In fact no special adjustment is needed, one simply considers the polynomial systems $\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{w}_0) + \mathbf{w}_0$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, with shifted arguments and polynomials.

Throughout the paper, given functions

$$\Phi, \Psi: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N},$$

the symbols $\Phi = O(\Psi)$ and $\Phi \ll \Psi$ both mean that there is a constant $c \geq 0$ such that $\Phi(k) \leq c\Psi(k)$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. To emphasise the dependence of the implied constant c on a list of parameters $\boldsymbol{\rho}$, we write $\Phi = O_{\boldsymbol{\rho}}(\Psi)$ or $\Phi \ll_{\boldsymbol{\rho}} \Psi$.

2. MAIN RESULTS

2.1. Multivariate systems. We start with a generalisation of the result of Chang [Cha15, Theorem 1] and obtain a version of the lower bound (1.3) for several parametric multivariate polynomial systems as in (1.4) and (1.5).

Theorem 2.1. *Let $\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu}$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, be $r \geq 1$ parametric systems of polynomials as in (1.4) and (1.5) with*

$$\max_{\substack{i=1,\dots,m \\ \nu=1,\dots,r}} \deg F_{i,\nu} \leq d \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{\substack{i=1,\dots,m \\ \nu=1,\dots,r}} h(F_{i,\nu}) \leq h.$$

Assume that there exists $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\# \left\{ \mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n : \mathbf{0}_m \in \bigcap_{\nu=1}^r \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu}) \right\} \leq K.$$

Then, for any integer L , there exists an integer $\mathfrak{A} \geq 1$ with

$$\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} (Ld^L)^{3n+2}$$

such that for a prime p with $p \nmid \mathfrak{A}$, for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$, we have

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu,p}}(\mathbf{0}_m) : \nu = 1, \dots, r \} > L.$$

Corollary 2.2. *Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, for any prime p we have*

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu,p}}(\mathbf{0}_m) : \nu = 1, \dots, r \} \gg_{d,h,m,n,r} \log \log p$$

for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$.

For almost all primes, we have a stronger result.

Corollary 2.3. *Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, for any fixed $\varepsilon > 0$ and sufficiently large integer $Q \geq 2$, for all but Q^ε primes $p \leq Q$ we have*

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{t,\nu,p}}(\mathbf{0}_m) : \nu = 1, \dots, r \} \gg_{d,h,m,n,r} \log p$$

for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$.

It is interesting to compare the bound of Corollary 2.3 with the result of Silverman [Sil08] and its improvement due to Akbary and Ghioca [AkbGhi09].

We now obtain a dual result for a polynomial system but with several initial points.

Theorem 2.4. *Let $\{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}\}_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n} = \{(F_1(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{t}), \dots, F_m(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{t}))\}_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n}$ be a parametric system with polynomials as in (1.4) and (1.5) and let $\mathbf{a}_\nu \in \mathbb{Z}^m$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, be r integer vectors with*

$$\max_{i=1,\dots,m} \deg F_i \leq d \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{\substack{i=1,\dots,m \\ \nu=1,\dots,r}} \{h(F_i), h(\mathbf{a}_\nu)\} \leq h.$$

Assume that there exists $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\# \{ \mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n : \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_r\} \subseteq \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}) \} \leq K.$$

Then, for any integer L , there exists an integer $\mathfrak{A} \geq 1$ with

$$\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} (Ld^L)^{3n+2}$$

such that for a prime p with $p \nmid \mathfrak{A}$, for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$, we have

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{t,p}}(\mathbf{a}_\nu) : \nu = 1, \dots, r \} > L.$$

For a parametric system $\{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}\}_{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n}$ with polynomials defined over \mathbb{C} as in (1.4) and (1.5) and $\mathbf{a}_\nu \in \mathbb{C}^m$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, it is certainly desirable to control the finiteness of the set

$$\{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n : \{\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_r\} \subseteq \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}})\},$$

as well as the uniform boundedness of this set, as required in Theorem 2.4.

For instance, Baker and DeMarco [BDeM11, Theorem 1.1] prove that for any fixed $a_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ and any integer $d \geq 2$, the set of $t \in \mathbb{C}$ such that a_1, a_2 are preperiodic for $f_t(X) = X^d + t$ is infinite if and only if $a_1^d = a_2^d$. Thus this gives an example of polynomials to which Theorem 2.4 applies.

2.2. Univariate systems. In the case of the univariate systems with $\mathbf{X} = X$ and a univariate parameter $\mathbf{T} = T$ (that is, for $m = 1$, $n = 1$), we also extend the result of Chang [Cha15, Theorem 1] in a different direction.

Theorem 2.5. *Let $\{f_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{C}}$ and $\{g_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{C}}$ be two parametric families of univariate polynomials defined by (1.4) and (1.5) with polynomials $f(X, T), g(X, T) \in \mathbb{Z}[X, T]$ of degree at most d and of height at most h . Assume that the following set is finite and satisfies*

$$\#\{t \in \mathbb{C} : 0 \in \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(f_t) \cap \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(g_t)\} \leq K.$$

Then, for any integer L , there exists an integer $\mathfrak{B} \geq 1$ with

$$\log \mathfrak{B} \ll_{d,h} L^2 d^{2L}$$

such that for a prime p and a positive integer N with $p^N \nmid \mathfrak{B}$, for all but at most $N + K - 1$ values of $t \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ we have

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{f_{t,p}}(0), \# \text{Orb}_{g_{t,p}}(0) \} > L.$$

As in [Cha15], we note that by the result of Ghioca, Krieger and Nguyen [GKN16] the conditions of Theorem 2.5 are satisfied for the pair of polynomials $f_t(X) = X^d + t$ and $g_t(X) = X^d + a(t)$ with $a \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ which is not of the form $a(T) = \zeta T$, where $\zeta^{d-1} = 1$, see also [GKNY16] for a much broader family of examples.

We also have:

Corollary 2.6. *Under the conditions of Theorem 2.5, for any integers $E, L, Q \geq 1$ the number R of primes $p \in [Q, 2Q]$ such that*

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{f_t, p}(0), \# \text{Orb}_{g_t, p}(0) \} \leq L$$

for at least E values of $t \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$, satisfies

$$ER \ll_{d,h} L^2 d^{2L} / \log Q + K.$$

For example, we see that for any function ψ with $\psi(z) \rightarrow \infty$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$ for all but $o(Q/\log Q)$ primes $p \in [Q, 2Q]$ we have

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{f_t, p}(0), \# \text{Orb}_{g_t, p}(0) \} \leq \frac{\log Q - 2 \log \log Q}{2 \log d} - \psi(Q)$$

for at most $K + O_{d,h}(1)$ values of $t \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$, which is a more explicit form of the bound (1.3).

Theorem 2.7. *Let $\{f_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{C}}$ be a parametric family of univariate polynomials defined by (1.4) and (1.5) with a polynomial $f(X, T) \in \mathbb{Z}[X, T]$ and let $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ betwo integers with*

$$\deg f \leq d \quad \text{and} \quad \max \{ h(f), \log |a|, \log |b| \} \leq h.$$

Assume that there exists $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\# \{ t \in \mathbb{C}^n : \{a, b\} \subseteq \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(f_t) \} \leq K.$$

Then, for any integer L , there exists an integer $\mathfrak{B} \geq 1$ with

$$\log \mathfrak{B} \ll_{d,h,m} L^2 d^{2L}$$

such that for a prime p and a positive integer N with $p^N \nmid \mathfrak{B}$, for all but at most $N + K - 1$ values of $t \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ we have

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{f_t, p}(a), \# \text{Orb}_{f_t, p}(b) \} > L.$$

As we have mentioned, the result of Baker and DeMarco [BDeM11, Theorem 1.1] shows that the class of polynomials to which Theorem 2.7 applies is not void.

Finally, as before, we also have:

Corollary 2.8. *Under the conditions of Theorem 2.7, for any integers $E, L, Q \geq 1$ the number R of primes $p \in [Q, 2Q]$ such that*

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{f_t, p}(a), \# \text{Orb}_{f_t, p}(b) \} \leq L$$

for at least E values of $t \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$, satisfies

$$ER \ll_{d,h} L^2 d^{2L} / \log Q + K.$$

3. AUXILIARY RESULTS

3.1. Heights of polynomials and their iterates. For an integer vector $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_\ell) \in \mathbb{Z}^\ell$ we define its height $h(\mathbf{a})$ as

$$h(\mathbf{a}) = \max_{j=1, \dots, \ell} \log \max\{1, |a_j|\}.$$

For a polynomial $\Psi \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}]$, we define its *height*, denoted by $h(\Psi)$, as the height of the vector formed by its coefficients.

The following bound on the height of a product of polynomials is important for our results. It follows from [KPS01, Lemma 1.2].

Lemma 3.1. *Let $\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_s \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{Z}]$ be polynomials in n variables $\mathbf{Z} = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n)$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} -2 \sum_{i=1}^s \deg \Psi_i \log(n+1) &\leq h\left(\prod_{i=1}^s \Psi_i\right) - \sum_{i=1}^s h(\Psi_i) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^s \deg \Psi_i \log(n+1). \end{aligned}$$

We also frequently use the trivial bound on the height of a sum of polynomials

$$(3.1) \quad h\left(\sum_{i=1}^s \Psi_i\right) \leq \max_{i=1, \dots, s} h(\Psi_i) + \log s.$$

Moreover, we need a bound of [DOSS15] on the degree and height of iterations of polynomial systems.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_s \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{Z}]$ be polynomials in s variables $\mathbf{Z} = (Z_1, \dots, Z_s)$ of degree at most $D \geq 2$ and of height at most H . Then, for any positive integer k , the polynomials $\Psi_1^{(k)}, \dots, \Psi_s^{(k)}$ defined as in (1.1), are of degree at most*

$$\max_{j=1, \dots, s} \deg \Psi_j^{(k)} \leq D^k$$

and of height at most

$$\max_{j=1, \dots, s} h(\Psi_j^{(k)}) \leq H \frac{D^k - 1}{D - 1} + D(D+1) \frac{D^{k-1} - 1}{D - 1} \log(s+1).$$

3.2. Modular reduction of systems of polynomial equations.

We recall the following result of [DOSS15] concerning the reduction modulo prime numbers of systems of multivariate polynomials over the integers.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_s \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{T}]$ in n variables $\mathbf{T} = (T_1, \dots, T_n)$ of degree at most $D \geq 2$ and of height at most H , whose zero set in \mathbb{C}^n has a finite number K of distinct points. Then there exists $\mathfrak{A} \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfying*

$$\log \mathfrak{A} \leq C_1(n)D^{3n+1}H + C_2(n, s)D^{3n+2},$$

with

$$C_1(n) = 11n + 4 \quad \text{and} \quad C_2(n, s) = (55n + 99) \log((2n + 5)s)$$

and such that, if p is a prime number not dividing \mathfrak{A} , then the zero set in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$ of the system of polynomials $\Psi_i \pmod{p}$, $i = 1, \dots, s$, consists of exactly K distinct points.

3.3. Common zeros and resultants of polynomials. One of our main results relies on a generalisation of the well known fact that if two univariate polynomials $f(T), g(T) \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ have a common zero modulo p then their resultant $\text{Res}(f, g)$ is divisible by p . We need the following extension of this property, due to Gómez-Pérez, Gutierrez, Ibeas and Sevilla [GGIS09], to polynomials with several common roots modulo a prime.

Lemma 3.4. *Let p be a prime and let $f, g \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ be two univariate polynomials such that their reduction modulo p do not vanish identically and have at least N common roots in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ counted with multiplicities. Then $p^N \mid \text{Res}(f, g)$.*

We remark that for applications, the result of [KS99, Lemma 5.3] (which counts only simple roots) is sufficient.

4. PROOFS OF MAIN RESULTS

4.1. Proof of Theorem 2.1. Consider the systems

$$\mathbf{R}_\nu = (F_{1,\nu}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}), \dots, F_{m,\nu}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}), T_1, \dots, T_n), \quad \nu = 1, \dots, r,$$

of $m + n$ polynomials in $m + n$ variables, each.

Let \mathcal{T} be set of those $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ for which $\mathbf{0}_m$ is a preperiodic point of every system $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t},\nu}$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$. By our assumptions, we have that $\#\mathcal{T} \leq K$.

For every choice of nonnegative integers $k_1, \dots, k_r < L$, we consider the system of $(m + n)r$ equations formed by the iterations

$$(4.1) \quad \mathbf{R}_\nu^{(L)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) = \mathbf{R}_\nu^{(k_\nu)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}), \quad \nu = 1, \dots, r.$$

Observe that in each group of $m + n$ equations corresponding to the same value of ν , the bottom n equations in (4.1) are automatically

satisfied. So we have mr equations in n variables:

$$(4.2) \quad F_{i,\nu}^{(L)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) = F_{i,\nu}^{(k_\nu)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \nu = 1, \dots, r.$$

Furthermore, we consider now the system of mr equations

$$(4.3) \quad \prod_{k_\nu < L} \left(F_{i,\nu}^{(L)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) - F_{i,\nu}^{(k_\nu)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \right) = 0, \\ i = 1, \dots, m, \nu = 1, \dots, r,$$

which by the above, has at most K solutions $\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{T}$.

Now note that if

$$\max \left\{ \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t},\nu,p}}(\mathbf{0}_m) : \nu = 1, \dots, r \right\} \leq L$$

for some parameter $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$, then there are some nonnegative integers $k_1, \dots, k_r < L$ for which we have (4.1), and thus (4.3) (considered over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$ with reductions modulo p of the corresponding polynomials).

Applying Lemma 3.2 to the systems \mathbf{R}_ν in $n+m$ variables, we obtain that for $i = 1, \dots, m, \nu = 1, \dots, r$ and an integer $k \geq 0$ we have

$$(4.4) \quad \deg F_{i,\nu}^{(k)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \leq d^k$$

and

$$(4.5) \quad h \left(F_{i,\nu}^{(k)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \right) \leq h \frac{d^k - 1}{d - 1} + d(d+1) \frac{d^{k-1} - 1}{d - 1} \log(n+m+1).$$

From (6), we immediately conclude

$$(4.6) \quad \deg \left(\prod_{k < L} \left(F_{i,\nu}^{(L)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) - F_{i,\nu}^{(k)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \right) \right) \ll_{d,h,n,m} L d^L,$$

and furthermore by (3.1) and (4.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & h \left(F_{i,\nu}^{(L)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) - F_{i,\nu}^{(k)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \right) \\ & \leq h \frac{d^L - 1}{d - 1} + d(d+1) \frac{d^{L-1} - 1}{d - 1} \log(n+m+1) + \log 2 \\ & \ll_{d,h,n,m} d^L, \end{aligned}$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$ and $\nu = 1, \dots, r$.

Hence, by Lemma 3.1, we immediately obtain

$$(4.7) \quad h \left(\prod_{k < L} \left(F_{i,\nu}^{(L)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) - F_{i,\nu}^{(k)}(\mathbf{0}_m, \mathbf{T}) \right) \right) \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} L d^L,$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$ and $\nu = 1, \dots, r$.

Now we apply Lemma 3.3 with $s = mr$. Hence, if $p \nmid \mathfrak{A}$, where \mathfrak{A} is as in Lemma 3.3, and thus

$$(4.8) \quad \log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} (Ld^L)^{3n+2},$$

then the system (4.3) (considered over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$ again) has at most K zeros in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$. The bound (4.8) gives the desired inequality.

4.2. Proof of Corollary 2.2. We can assume that p is sufficiently large. Theorem 2.1 applied with

$$L = \left\lfloor \frac{\log \log p}{3(n+1) \log d} \right\rfloor$$

implies $\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,m,n,r} (\log p)^{1-1/(3n+3)} (\log \log p)^{3n+2}$. Since p is large enough we have $p \nmid \mathfrak{A}$ and the result now follows.

4.3. Proof of Corollary 2.3. Theorem 2.1 applied with

$$L = \left\lfloor \varepsilon \frac{\log Q}{3(n+1) \log d} \right\rfloor$$

implies $\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,m,n,r} Q^{(1-1/(3n+3))\varepsilon} (\log Q)^{3n+2}$. The divisibility $p \mid \mathfrak{A}$ is possible for at most $2 \log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,m,n,r} Q^{(1-1/(3n+3))\varepsilon} (\log Q)^{3n+2}$ primes p and since Q is large enough the result now follows.

4.4. Proof of Theorem 2.4. The proof follows the same way as for Theorem 2.1. Consider the system

$$\mathbf{R} = (F_1(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}), \dots, F_m(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}), T_1, \dots, T_n)$$

of $m+n$ polynomials in $m+n$ variables, each.

Let \mathcal{T} be set of those $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ for which $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_r$ are preperiodic points of $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}$. By our assumptions, we have that $\#\mathcal{T} \leq K$.

For every choice of nonnegative integers $k_1, \dots, k_r < L$, we consider the system of $(m+n)r$ equations formed by the iterations

$$(4.9) \quad \mathbf{R}^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) = \mathbf{R}^{(k_\nu)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}), \quad \nu = 1, \dots, r.$$

Observe that in each group of equations the bottom n equations in (4.1) are automatically satisfied. So we have mr equation (formed by the first m components of $\mathbf{R}^{(k_\nu)}$) in n variables:

$$(4.10) \quad F_i^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) = F_i^{(k_\nu)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}), \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \nu = 1, \dots, r.$$

We consider now the system of mr equations

$$(4.11) \quad \prod_{k_\nu \leq L} \left(F_i^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) - F_i^{(k_\nu)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) \right) = 0, \\ i = 1, \dots, m, \nu = 1, \dots, r,$$

which by the above, has at most K solutions $\mathbf{t} \in \mathcal{T}$.

Now note that if

$$\max \{ \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{t,p}}(\mathbf{a}_\nu) : \nu = 1, \dots, r \} \leq L$$

for some parameter $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$, then there are some nonnegative integers $k_1, \dots, k_r < L$ for which we have (4.9), and thus (4.11) (considered over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$ with reductions modulo p of the corresponding polynomials).

As before, applying Lemma 3.2 to the system \mathbf{R} in $n + m$ variables, we see that for any integer $k \geq 1$ we have a full analogues of (4.6) and (4.7), that is,

$$\deg \left(\prod_{k < L} \left(F_i^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) - F_i^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) \right) \right) \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} Ld^L$$

and

$$h \left(\prod_{k < L} \left(F_i^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) - F_i^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_\nu, \mathbf{T}) \right) \right) \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} Ld^L,$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$ and $\nu = 1, \dots, r$.

Now we apply Lemma 3.3 with $s = mr$. Hence, if $p \nmid \mathfrak{A}$, where \mathfrak{A} is as in Lemma 3.3, and thus

$$(4.12) \quad \log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h,n,m,r} (Ld^L)^{3n+2},$$

then the system (4.11) (considered over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$ again) has at most K zeros in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$. The bound (4.12) gives the desired inequality.

4.5. Proof of Theorem 2.5. As in Theorem 2.1, consider the two dimensional dynamical systems

$$\mathbf{R} = (f(X, T), T), \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{Q} = (g(X, T), T).$$

By the finiteness assumption, the polynomials

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_L(T) &= \prod_{k=0}^{L-1} (f^{(L)}(0, T) - f^{(k)}(0, T)), \\ \Psi_L(T) &= \prod_{k=0}^{L-1} (g^{(L)}(0, T) - g^{(k)}(0, T)), \end{aligned}$$

have at most K common zeros $t \in \mathbb{C}$. This implies that at least one among $\Phi_L(T)$ and $\Psi_L(T)$ is not zero. If one of them is identically zero, then the degree of the other is bounded by K and the claim follows straightforwardly by taking $\mathfrak{B} = 1$.

Suppose then without loss of generality that $\Psi_L(T) \neq 0 \neq \Phi_L(T)$, and write

$$\Phi_L(T) = \tilde{\Phi}_L(T)H_L(T) \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_L(T) = \tilde{\Psi}_L(T)H_L(T),$$

for nonzero polynomials $\tilde{\Phi}_L(T), \tilde{\Psi}_L(T), H_L(T) \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ such that the polynomials $\tilde{\Phi}_L(T)$ and $\tilde{\Psi}_L(T)$ have no common root in \mathbb{C} and $H_L(T)$ has at most K distinct zeros.

Let M the number of their common zeros in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. At most K of them come from the polynomial $H_L(T)$. Hence, the polynomials, $\tilde{\Phi}_L(T)$ and $\tilde{\Psi}_L(T)$ have at least $M - K$ common zeros.

In particular, by Lemma 3.4, we deduce that $p^{M-K} \mid \mathfrak{B}$, where

$$\mathfrak{B} = \left| \text{Res} \left(\tilde{\Phi}_L(T), \tilde{\Psi}_L(T) \right) \right| > 0.$$

Hence, for a bound N such that $p^N \nmid \mathfrak{B}$, we must have $M \leq N + K - 1$. One checks that this is also true if one of the polynomials $\tilde{\Phi}_L(T)$ and $\tilde{\Psi}_L(T)$ vanishes identically modulo p .

To finish the proof we need to bound the size of \mathfrak{B} . As in the proof of Theorem 2.1, applying Lemma 3.2 to the system \mathbf{R} and \mathbf{Q} in two variables, we get

$$\deg \Phi_L, \deg \Psi_L \leq Ld^L$$

and

$$(4.13) \quad h(\Phi_L(T)), h(\Psi_L(T)) \ll_{d,h} Ld^L.$$

We apply now Lemma 3.1 and using (4.13), we conclude that

$$(4.14) \quad h(\tilde{\Phi}_L), h(\tilde{\Psi}_L) \ll_{d,h} Ld^L.$$

We now use the trivial bound

$$|\det B| \leq s!H^s \leq s^s H^s$$

on the determinant of an $s \times s$ matrix B with complex entries of absolute value at most H (note that the Hadamard inequality does not lead to any advantage here). We apply it to the Sylvester determinant formula for the resultant \mathfrak{B} (with $\log H \ll_{d,h,m} Ld^L$ and $s \leq Ld^L$). Hence we derive

$$\log \mathfrak{B} \ll_{d,h} L^2 d^{2L},$$

which concludes the proof.

4.6. Proof of Corollary 2.6. Theorem 2.5 implies

$$(E - K + 1)R \log Q \leq \log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h} L^2 d^{2L}$$

and the result now follows.

4.7. **Proof of Theorem 2.7.** By consider the polynomials

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_L(T) &= \prod_{k=0}^{L-1} (f^{(L)}(a, T) - f^{(k)}(a, T)) , \\ \Psi_L(T) &= \prod_{k=0}^{L-1} (f^{(L)}(b, T) - g^{(k)}(b, T)) ,\end{aligned}$$

which have at most K common zeros $t \in \mathbb{C}$, and then follow the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 2.5. In particular, we have full analogues of the bounds (4.13) and (4.14).

4.8. **Proof of Corollary 2.8.** Similarly to the proof of Corollary 2.6 we note that Theorem 2.7 implies

$$(E - K + 1)R \log Q \leq \log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d,h} L^2 d^{2L}$$

and the result now follows.

5. COMMENTS

We remark that considering the systems of equations (4.2) and (4.10) separately for each choice of the parameters k_1, \dots, k_r and k , respectively, instead of the systems of equations (4.3) and (4.11), one can slightly improve polynomial factors in the dependence on L in the bounds of Theorems 2.1 and 2.4.

6. REDUCTION MODULO p OF FAMILIES OF MULTIVARIATE PARAMETRIC SYSTEMS

Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ and $\mathbf{T} = (T_1, \dots, T_n)$ be groups of $m \geq 1$ and $n \geq 0$ variables, respectively. Let $\mathbf{F} = (F_1, \dots, F_m) \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}]^m$ be a family of m polynomials in the variables \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{T} . We respectively define the *degree* and the *height* of \mathbf{F} as

$$\deg \mathbf{F} = \max_i \deg F_i \quad \text{and} \quad h(\mathbf{F}) = \max_i h(F_i).$$

Given a field K and $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_n) \in K^n$, we denote by $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}$ the map $K^m \rightarrow K^m$ defined, for $\mathbf{x} \in K^m$, by

$$(6.1) \quad \mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}).$$

Hence, \mathbf{F} defines a n -parametric family of polynomial dynamical systems on K^m . The fields relevant to our applications are the field of complex numbers \mathbb{C} and the algebraic closure $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ of a finite field corresponding to a prime p .

Given a point $\mathbf{w} \in K^n$, we denote by $\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}}(\mathbf{w})$ the *orbit* of \mathbf{w} under the map in (6.1). The set of preperiodic points of $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}$, denoted by $\text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}})$, is the set of points $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{K}^m$ with finite \mathbf{F} -orbit.

For a point $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ and a prime p , we denote by $\mathbf{a} \bmod p$ the reduction of \mathbf{a} modulo p , which is a point in \mathbb{F}_p^m . For $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^m$, we denote by

$$\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}}(\mathbf{a} \bmod p)$$

the orbit of this point under the map $\mathbf{F}_{\mathbf{t}}: \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^m \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^m$.

Theorem 6.1. *Let $\mathbf{F}_{\nu} \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}]^m$, $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, be a family of $r \geq 1$ parametric systems of polynomials and $\mathbf{a}_j \in \mathbb{Z}$, $j = 1, \dots, s$, a family of $s \geq 1$ integer vectors, such that the set*

$$(6.2) \quad \#\{\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n : \mathbf{a}_j \in \text{PrePer}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbf{F}_{\nu, \mathbf{t}}) \text{ for all } \nu, j\}$$

is finite. Let also $L \geq 1$.

Set K for the cardinality of the set in (6.2), and let $d \geq \deg \mathbf{F}_{\nu}$ for all ν and $h \geq h(\mathbf{F}_{\nu}), h(\mathbf{a}_j)$ for all ν and j . Then there is $\mathfrak{A} \geq 1$ with

$$\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{m,n,r,s,d,h} (Ld^L)^{3n+2}$$

such that, for every prime p not dividing \mathfrak{A} , for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$,

$$\max_{\substack{1 \leq \nu \leq r \\ 1 \leq j \leq s}} \#\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\nu, \mathbf{t}}}(\mathbf{a}_j \bmod p) > L.$$

This definition was implicit but missing

I took out p from the index, to be consistent with the previous notation for orbits. The underlying field is implicit from the choice of the point to which the map is applied

I prefer $F_{\nu, \mathbf{t}}$ (the evaluation $\mathbf{T} \leftarrow \mathbf{t}$ of \mathbf{F}_{ν}) rather than $F_{\mathbf{t}, \nu}$.

Proof. Fix $1 \leq \nu \leq r$ and $1 \leq j \leq s$. Given $0 \leq k \leq L-1$, a point $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ verifies that

$$F_{\nu,i}^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{t}) = F_{\nu,i}^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{t})$$

if and only if it lies in the zero set of the ideal of $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{T}]$ given by

$$I_{\nu,j,k} = (\{F_{\nu,i}^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{T}) - F_{\nu,i}^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{T}) : 1 \leq i \leq m, 1 \leq j \leq s\}).$$

Hence, $\text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_\nu, \mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{a}_j) \leq L$ if and only if $\mathbf{t} \in V(\prod_{k=0}^{L-1} I_{\nu,j,k})$.

For $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, $\mathbf{i} \in \{1, \dots, m\}^L$ and $j = 1, \dots, s$, consider the polynomial

$$(6.3) \quad \Psi_{\nu, \mathbf{i}, j} = \prod_{k=0}^{L-1} (F_{\nu, \mathbf{i}_{k+1}}^{(L)}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{T}) - F_{\nu, \mathbf{i}_{k+1}}^{(k)}(\mathbf{a}_j, \mathbf{T})) \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{T}].$$

This gives a set of generators for the ideal $\sum_{\nu,j} \prod_{k=0}^{L-1} I_{\nu,j,k} \subset \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{T}]$. Hence, for a point $\mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ we have that

$$(6.4) \quad \max_{\nu,j} \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_\nu, \mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{a}_j) \leq L$$

if and only if \mathbf{t} lies in the zero set of the $\Psi_{\nu, \mathbf{i}, j}$'s. By our hypothesis on the set in (6.2), the number of such \mathbf{t} 's is finite and bounded by K .

For $\nu = 1, \dots, r$, consider the family of $m+n$ polynomials in $m+n$ variables given by

$$\mathbf{R}_\nu = (\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{T}) \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{T}]^{m+n}.$$

For $k \geq 0$, we have that $\mathbf{R}_\nu^{(k)} = (\mathbf{F}_\nu^{(k)}, \mathbf{T})$. Applying Lemma 3.2 to \mathbf{R}_ν , we obtain that

$$\deg \mathbf{F}_\nu^{(k)} \leq d^k, \quad h(\mathbf{F}_\nu^{(k)}) \leq h \frac{d^k - 1}{d - 1} + d(d+1) \frac{d^{k-1} - 1}{d - 1} \log(n+m+1).$$

Applying Lemma 3.1, we deduce from this that, for all ν, \mathbf{i} and j ,

$$\deg \Psi_{\nu, \mathbf{i}, j} \leq Ld^L \quad \text{and} \quad h(\Psi_{\nu, \mathbf{i}, j}) \ll_{m,n,r,s,d,h} Ld^L.$$

By Lemma 3.3 applied to the family of polynomials in (6.3), there exists an integer $\mathfrak{A} \geq 1$ with $\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{m,n,r,s,d,h} (Ld^L)^{3n+2}$ such that the system of equations

$$(6.5) \quad \Psi_{\nu, \mathbf{i}, j}(\mathbf{a}_j \bmod p, \mathbf{t}) = 0$$

at most K solutions $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$. Similarly as before, this is equivalent to the statement that

$$\max_{\nu,j} \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_\nu, \mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{a}_j \bmod p) > L,$$

for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$. □

I also prefer $F_{\nu,i}$ (the i th component of \mathbf{F}_ν) rather than $F_{i,\nu}$.

In think we needed a bigger set of equations to translate the condition (6.4). This enlargement does not affect our conclusion

Corollary 6.2. *Under the conditions of Theorem 6.1, for any prime p we have*

$$\max_{\nu, j} \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\nu, \mathbf{t}}}(\mathbf{a}_j \bmod p) \gg_{m, n, r, s, d, h} \log \log p$$

for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$.

Proof. We can assume that p is sufficiently large. Theorem 6.1 applied with

$$L = \left\lfloor \frac{\log \log p}{3(n+1) \log d} \right\rfloor$$

implies $\log \mathfrak{A} \ll (\log p)^{1-1/(3n+3)} (\log \log p)^{3n+2}$. Since p is large enough, we have $p \nmid \mathfrak{A}$ and the result now follows. \square

In the case when $n = 0$, that is, when there are no parameters, Corollary 6.2 applied to a point $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ with infinite orbit over \mathbb{C} , gives that

$$(6.6) \quad \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\nu, \mathbf{t}}}(\mathbf{a} \bmod p) \gg_{m, n, r, s, d, h} \log \log p$$

for every prime p . This is [Sil08, Corollary 12] for a dynamical system on \mathbb{P}^m defined by polynomials with integer coefficients.

For almost all primes, we have a stronger result.

Corollary 6.3. *Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, for any fixed $\varepsilon > 0$ and sufficiently large integer $Q \geq 2$, for all but Q^ε primes $p \leq Q$ we have*

$$\max_{\nu, j} \# \text{Orb}_{\mathbf{F}_{\nu, \mathbf{t}}}(\mathbf{a}_j \bmod p) \gg_{m, n, r, s, d, h} \varepsilon \log p$$

for all but at most K values of $\mathbf{t} \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^n$.

Proof. Theorem 6.1 applied with

$$L = \left\lfloor \varepsilon \frac{\log Q}{3(n+1) \log d} \right\rfloor$$

implies $\log \mathfrak{A} \ll_{d, h, m, n, r} Q^{(1-1/(3n+3))\varepsilon} (\log Q)^{3n+2}$. The divisibility $p \mid \mathfrak{A}$ is possible for at most $\log \mathfrak{A} / \log 2$ primes p . Since Q is large enough, the result follows. \square

This result should contain both [Sil08, Theorem 1] and [AkbGhi09, Theorem 1.1], for a dynamical system on \mathbb{P}^m defined by polynomials with integer coefficients, and a point with infinite orbit.

Silverman treats more general dynamical systems on quasiprojective varieties over number fields

We should specify that the implicit constant in the notation \gg is > 0 .

This has to be verified. it would good be good to state this corollary 6.3 in terms of natural density of primes.

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