

## Minimizing Multiplier polynomials

Doron S Lubinsky

In some investigations of Padé approximation, the following problem arises: let  $Q$  be a given polynomial of degree  $n$ , and  $|z| < 1$ . Find a polynomial  $S$  of degree  $n$  that minimizes

$$\Lambda_n(Q, z) = \frac{\max_{|t|=1} |QS|(t)}{|QS|(z)}$$

over all polynomials  $S$  of degree  $n$ . That is,

$$\Lambda_n(Q, z) = \inf_{\deg(S)=n} \frac{\max_{|t|=1} |QS|(t)}{|QS|(z)}$$

If

$$Q(z) = \prod_{j=1}^n (z - z_j),$$

then it is easy to see that

$$\Lambda_n(Q, z) \leq \prod_{j=1}^n \Lambda_1(\ell_j; z)$$

where for each  $j$ ,

$$\ell_j(t) = t - z_j.$$

**Problem:**

Compute  $\Lambda_1(\ell; z)$  where  $\ell(t) = t - a$  is a linear function.

This looks trivial, doesn't it? Try it for a while, and you will see it is not so simple.