

Bounds on Autocorrelation Coefficients of Rudin-Shapiro Polynomials

Stephen Choi

(joint work with J.P. Allouche, T. Erdélyi, A. Denise, B. Saffari)

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Number Theory in Honor of
Jeffrey Vaaler

Polynomials with Restricted coefficients

Let N be positive integer. Then we denote

$$\mathcal{U}_N := \{P(z) = a_0 + a_1z + \cdots + a_{N-1}z^{N-1} : |a_\ell| = 1, \forall \ell.\}$$

We call these polynomials, **Unimodular Polynomials of degree $N-1$** .

$$\mathcal{L}_N := \{P(z) = a_0 + a_1z + \cdots + a_{N-1}z^{N-1} : a_\ell \in \{-1, +1\}, \forall \ell.\}$$

We call these polynomials, **Littlewood Polynomials of degree $N-1$** .

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Ultra-Flat Polynomials

A sequence of polynomials $P_N(z) \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ of degree $N-1$ is called **Ultra-Flat** if there are absolute constants $0 < c_1 < c_2$ such that

Ultra-Flat Polynomials

$$c_1 \|P_N\|_2 \leq |P_N(e^{i\theta})| \leq c_2 \|P_N\|_2, \quad \forall \theta \in [0, 2\pi), \forall N.$$

Here $\|P\|_p := \left\{ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |P(e^{i\theta})|^p d\theta \right\}^{\frac{1}{p}}$ for $p > 0$.

Question: When do sequences of ultra-flat polynomials exist?

Note that if $P(z) \in \mathcal{U}_N$ or $P(z) \in \mathcal{L}_N$, then $\|P\|_2 = \sqrt{N}$.

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Kahane's Theorem and Erdős' Conjecture

Kahane's Theorem.

For any sequence of real number $\varepsilon_N \rightarrow 0$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$, there is a sequence of unimodular polynomials $P_N(z) \in \mathcal{U}_N$ such that

$$(1 - \varepsilon_N)\sqrt{N} \leq |P_N(e^{i\theta})| \leq (1 + \varepsilon_N)\sqrt{N}, \quad \forall \theta \in [0, 2\pi), \forall N$$

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Let $P_0(z) = 1$ and $Q_0(z) = 1$. For any integer $n \geq 1$, define

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Polynomials $P_n(z)$ and $Q_n(z)$ are called **Rudin-Shapiro polynomials**. Note that $P_n(z)$ and $Q_n(z)$ are polynomials with ± 1 coefficients of degree $L_n - 1$ where $L_n = 2^n$.

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Rudin-Shapiro Polynomials

It is well-known and easy to show that

$$|P_n(e^{it})|^2 + |Q_n(e^{it})|^2 = L_{n+1} = 2^{n+1}, \quad \text{for any } t \in [0, 2\pi).$$

Hence

$$|P_n(e^{it})| \leq 2^{\frac{n+1}{2}} = \sqrt{2}\sqrt{N}, \quad \text{for any } t \in [0, 2\pi).$$

Rudin-Shapiro polynomials satisfy the upper bound in the form of Kahane's theorem.

We don't know Rudin-Shapiro polynomials satisfy the lower bound in the form of Kahane's theorem or not.

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By the Fourier coefficients of f at k , we mean the coefficient for the term z^k , or simply

$$\widehat{f}(k) = (f)^\wedge(k) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(e^{it}) e^{-ikt} dt.$$

By the recursive relation of the definition we have

$$|P_n|^2(z) = z^{2^{n-1}} \overline{P_{n-1}(z)} Q_{n-1}(z) + \bar{z}^{2^{n-1}} P_{n-1}(z) \overline{Q_{n-1}(z)} + 2^n,$$

$$(\overline{P_n} Q_n)(z) = 2|P_{n-1}(z)|^2 - z^{2^{n-1}} \overline{P_{n-1}(z)} Q_{n-1}(z) + \bar{z}^{2^{n-1}} P_{n-1}(z) \overline{Q_{n-1}(z)} - 2^n$$

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Main Results

We are interested in estimating $\max_k |(|P_n|^2)^\wedge(k)|$. If we write

$$|P_n(e^{it})|^2 = \sum_{k=-L_n+1}^{L_n-1} a_k z^k,$$

then

$$\begin{cases} (|P_n|^2)^\wedge(k) = a_k, & \text{when } -L_n+1 \leq k \leq L_n-1, \\ (|P_n|^2)^\wedge(k) = 0, & \text{when } |k| > L_n. \end{cases}$$

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Main Results

Theorem 1.

If P_n and Q_n are the n -th Rudin-Shapiro polynomials and

$$|P_n(z)|^2 = \sum_{k=-L_n+1}^{L_n-1} a_k z^k, \quad |z| = 1$$

then

$$C_1 2^{\frac{n \log \lambda}{2 \log 2}} \leq \max_{1 \leq k \leq L_n-1} |a_k| \leq C_2 2^{(0.7302859812 \dots)n}$$

with absolute constants $C_1, C_2 > 0$ and

$$\lambda := \frac{(71+6\sqrt{177})^{1/3} + (71-6\sqrt{177})^{1/3} + 5}{3} = 2.75217177 \dots$$

is the real root of $x^3 - 5x^2 + 12x - 16 = 0$.

Note that $\frac{\log \lambda}{2 \log 2} = 0.7302852598 \dots$.

Main Results

Theorem 1 (Cont.).

Also, if we let

$$(\overline{P_n} Q_n)(z) = (P_n \overline{Q_n})(1/z) = \sum_{k=-L_n+1}^{L_n-1} b_k z^k, \quad |z| = 1$$

then

$$C_3 2^{\frac{n \log \lambda}{2 \log 2}} \leq \max_{-L_n+1 \leq k \leq L_n-1} |b_k| \leq C_4 2^{(0.7302859812 \dots)n}$$

with absolute constants $C_3, C_4 > 0$.

Application

Littlewood Theorem [J. London Math. Soc. **41** (1966) 336-342].

Let $n \geq 1$. If $f(t) = \sum_{m=0}^{L_n-1} b_m \cos(mt + \alpha_m)$, $b_m, \alpha_m \in \mathbb{R}$, $b_0 = 0$ satisfies

$$\|f\|_1 \geq c\mu, \quad \mu := \|f\|_2, \quad \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor (L_n-1)/h \rfloor} b_m^2 \leq 2^{-9} c^6 \mu^2$$

for some constants $c, h > 0$, and $|v| \leq 2^{-5} c^3$, then

$$\mathcal{N}(f, v) > Ah^{-1} c^5 2^n,$$

where $\mathcal{N}(f, v)$ denotes the number of real zeros of $f - v\mu$ in $(-\pi, \pi)$, and $A > 0$ is an absolute constant.

Application

Theorem 2.

If P_n and Q_n are the n -th Rudin-Shapiro polynomials,

$$R(t) := |P_n(e^{it})|^2 = \sum_{k=-L_n+1}^{L_n-1} a_k e^{ikt}$$

and

$$\max_{1 \leq k \leq L_n-1} |a_k| \leq C 2^{(\lambda-\varepsilon)n}$$

with absolute constants $C > 0$, $\lambda \geq 1/2$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, then there are absolute constants $A > 0$ and $B > 0$ such that the equation $R(t) = (1 + \eta)2^n$ has at least $A 2^{(2-2\lambda)n}$ distinct solutions in $(-\pi, \pi)$ whenever $\eta \in [-B, B]$.

Main Results

In view of Theorem Theorem 1, we have

Corollary.

There is absolute constant $A > 0$ such that the equation $R(t) = (1 + \eta)2^n$ has at least $A2^{0.5394282n}$ distinct solutions in $(-\pi, \pi)$ whenever $|\eta| \leq 2^{-11}$.

Sketch of the Proofs

M Taghavi in 1997 first claimed

$$\max_{1 \leq k \leq L_n - 1} |a_k| \leq (3.2134)2^{0.7303n}.$$

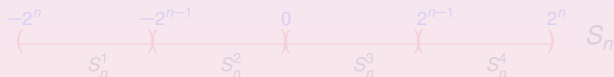
However, as Allouche and Saffari observed, in his proof Taghavi used an incorrect statement saying that the spectral radius of the product of some matrices is independent of the order of the factors.

Sketch of the Proofs

By induction, we have

$$(|P_n|^2)^\wedge(2k) = (\overline{P_n}Q_n)^\wedge(2k) = (P_n\overline{Q_n})^\wedge(2k) = 0.$$

For $n \geq 1$, let S_n be the set of all **odd integers** k with $-L_n < k < L_n$ and let



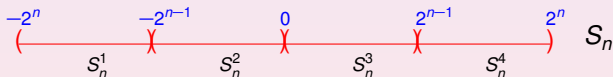
so that S_n is the disjoint union of S_n^1, S_n^2, S_n^3 and S_n^4 .

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Sketch of the Proofs

For $n \geq 2$, let k_n be an odd integer in S_n . We define k_{n-1} and k'_n from k_n as follows

$$k'_n := \begin{cases} k_n + 2^n & \text{if } k_n \in S_n^1 \cup S_n^2, \\ k_n - 2^n & \text{if } k_n \in S_n^3 \cup S_n^4, \end{cases}$$

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It is easily to see that if $k_n \in S_n$, then $k_{n-1} \in S_{n-1}$ and $k'_n \in S_n$.

$$|P_n|^2(z) = z^{2^{n-1}} \overline{P_{n-1}(z)} Q_{n-1}(z) + \bar{z}^{2^{n-1}} P_{n-1}(z) \overline{Q_{n-1}(z)} + 2^n,$$

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It is easily to see that if $k_n \in S_n$, then $k_{n-1} \in S_{n-1}$ and $k'_n \in S_n$.

$$|P_n|^2(z) = z^{2^{n-1}} \overline{P_{n-1}(z)} Q_{n-1}(z) + \bar{z}^{2^{n-1}} P_{n-1}(z) \overline{Q_{n-1}(z)} + 2^n,$$

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$$(\overline{P_n} Q_n)(z) = 2|P_{n-1}(z)|^2 - z^{2^{n-1}} \overline{P_{n-1}(z)} Q_{n-1}(z) + \bar{z}^{2^{n-1}} P_{n-1}(z) \overline{Q_{n-1}(z)} - 2^n$$

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Let

$$\omega_n(k_n) := \begin{pmatrix} (|P_n|^2)^\wedge(k_n) \\ (\overline{P_n} Q_n)^\wedge(k'_n) \\ (P_n \overline{Q_n})^\wedge(k'_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Sketch of the Proofs

Recursive Formula.

For $n \geq 2$, we have

$$\omega_n(k_n) = \begin{cases} A\omega_{n-1}(k_{n-1}), & \text{if } k_n \in S_n^1, \\ B\omega_{n-1}(k_{n-1}), & \text{if } k_n \in S_n^2, \\ C\omega_{n-1}(k_{n-1}), & \text{if } k_n \in S_n^3, \\ D\omega_{n-1}(k_{n-1}), & \text{if } k_n \in S_n^4, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Applying Recursive relation repeatedly , we get

$$\omega_n(k_n) = \mathcal{M}_{n-1} \cdots \mathcal{M}_2 \mathcal{M}_1 \omega_1(k_1)$$

with $\omega_1(k_1) = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$, $k_1 = \pm 1$, and

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We let

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad M_1 = AT.$$

Factorization.

For even n , every $M \in T_n$ can be written in the form of

$$M = T^{\delta_1} B^{k_0} (M_1^{\ell_1} B^{k_1}) (M_1^{\ell_2} B^{k_2}) \cdots (M_1^{\ell_L} B^{k_L}) (M_1^{\ell_{L+1}} B^{k_{L+1}}) T^{\delta_2}$$

for $\ell_1, \ell_2, \dots, \ell_{L+1} \geq 1$, $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_L \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, $k_0, k_{L+1} \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$,
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The characteristic polynomial of $M_1^2 = AD$ is

$$g(x) = x^3 - 5x^2 + 12x - 16.$$

Then $g(x) = 0$ has one real root λ and two complex roots λ' and $\overline{\lambda'}$ with $|\lambda| > |\lambda'|$. Since these eigenvalues are distinct, so there is a nonsingular matrix S such that $S^{-1}M_1^2S = \Lambda$ with $\Lambda = \text{diag}[\lambda, \lambda', \overline{\lambda'}]$. Since

$$M_1^{2\ell} = S\Lambda^\ell S^{-1}$$

Therefore, we have proved that

$$\|M_1^{2\ell}\| \leq \|S\| \|\Lambda^\ell\| \|S^{-1}\| \leq (\|S\| \|S^{-1}\|) \lambda^\ell$$

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We hope from

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Instead, we will prove our result by induction on L .

In the initial step, we prove

$$\|M_1^\ell B^k\| \leq ((1.0000005)^2 \lambda)^{\frac{1}{2}(\ell+k)} \quad (2)$$

for all $0 \leq k \leq 3$, $1 \leq \ell$ and $(\ell, k) \neq (1, 1)$. Namely, for $\ell + k \geq \frac{\log(C_5)}{\log(1.0000005)}$, we have

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Proposition.

We have

$$\|M\| \ll ((1.0000005)^2 \lambda)^{n/2} = e^{0.73028598 \cdots n}$$

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