

24. (Dr. Ayati: F12 Final – Javier and Zhihua) Show that the Chebyshev polynomials on $[-1,1]$, $T_n = \cos(n * \arccos x)$, $n = 0, \dots$, have the recurrence relationship
 $T_{n+1}(x) = 2xT_n(x) - T_{n-1}(x)$, $n=1, \dots$
 Use this to argue that the Chebyshev polynomials are indeed polynomials.
 Note: $\cos((n+1)\lambda) + \cos((n-1)\lambda) = 2\cos(\lambda)\cos(n\lambda)$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{n+1}(x) + T_{n-1}(x) &= \cos((n+1)\arccos(x)) + \cos((n-1)\arccos(x)) \\ &= 2\cos(\arccos(x))\cos(n\cdot\arccos(x)) \\ &= 2x\cos(n\cdot\arccos(x)) \\ &= 2xT_n(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow T_{n+1}(x) = 2xT_n(x) - T_{n-1}(x)$$

And since

$$T_0(x) = \cos(0) = 1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$T_1(x) = \cos(\arccos(x)) = x$$

we can see that all of the T_n will be a polynomial, as by the recurrence relation T_{n+1} is a polynomial in lower order terms.