

Math 1151, Chebyshev Polynomials

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To get the Chebyshev polynomial for $\sin n\theta$ or $\cos n\theta$:

1. If n is odd, use the sum formula: e.g. $\sin 3\theta = \sin(\theta + 2\theta) = \dots$
2. Then you will have some $\sin m\theta$'s and $\cos m\theta$'s, where now, m is even.
3. Use the double angle formulas: e.g. $\sin 4\theta = \sin(2 \cdot 2\theta) = \dots$
4. Repeat until all you have are powers of $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$.
5. Use the pythagorean identity to eliminate either the sines or the cosines, so that what you have left a polynomial $\cos \theta$ or $\sin \theta$.

For example:

$$\begin{aligned}\cos 5\theta &= \cos(\theta + 4\theta) \\ &= \cos \theta \cos 4\theta - \sin \theta \sin 4\theta \quad (\text{sum formula}) \\ &= \cos \theta (2 \cos^2 2\theta - 1) - \sin \theta (2 \sin 2\theta \cos 2\theta) \quad (\text{double-angle formulas}) \\ &= 2 \cos \theta \cos^2 2\theta - \cos \theta - 2 \sin \theta \sin 2\theta \cos 2\theta \\ &= 2 \cos \theta (2 \cos^2 \theta - 1)^2 - \cos \theta - 2 \sin \theta (2 \sin \theta \cos \theta) (2 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \quad (\text{double-angle formulas}) \\ &= 2 \cos \theta (4 \cos^4 \theta - 4 \cos^2 \theta + 1) - \cos \theta - 4 \sin^2 \theta \cos \theta (2 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \\ &= (8 \cos^5 \theta - 8 \cos^3 \theta + 2 \cos \theta) - \cos \theta - 4 \sin^2 \theta \cos \theta (2 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \\ &= 8 \cos^5 \theta - 8 \cos^3 \theta + \cos \theta - 4 \cos \theta (1 - \cos^2 \theta) (2 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \quad (\text{pythagorean identity}) \\ &= 8 \cos^5 \theta - 8 \cos^3 \theta + \cos \theta - 4 \cos \theta (-2 \cos^4 \theta + 3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \\ &= 8 \cos^5 \theta - 8 \cos^3 \theta + \cos \theta + 8 \cos^5 \theta - 12 \cos^3 \theta + 4 \cos \theta \\ &= 16 \cos^5 \theta - 20 \cos^3 \theta + 5 \cos \theta\end{aligned}$$