Norms of cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials

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Abstract

The main result of this paper gives an explicit computation of the $L_4$ norm of any cyclotomic polynomial of the form

$$f(x) = \Phi_{p_1}(\pm x)\Phi_{p_2}(\pm x^{p_1}) \cdots \Phi_{p_r}(\pm x^{p_1p_2\cdots p_{r-1}}).$$

Here $\Phi_p$ is the $p$th cyclotomic polynomial and the $p_i$ are primes that are not necessarily distinct.

A corollary of this is the following theorem.

THEOREM. If

$$f(x) = \Phi_{p_1}(\epsilon_1 x)\Phi_{p_2}(\epsilon_2 x^{p_1}) \cdots \Phi_{p_r}(\epsilon_r x^{p_1p_2\cdots p_{r-1}}),$$

where $N = p_1p_2\cdots p_r$ and $\epsilon_j = \pm$, then

$$\|f\|_4^4 \geq \|\Phi_2(-x)\Phi_2(-x^2) \cdots \Phi_2(-x^{2^{r-1}})\|_4^4$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{34} \sqrt{17} \right) (1 + \sqrt{17})^r - \left( -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{34} \sqrt{17} \right) (1 - \sqrt{17})^r.$$ $$\frac{4^r}{N^2}$$

In particular the minimum possible normalized $L_4$ norm of any polynomial of the above form is attained by

$$\Phi_2(-x)\Phi_2(-x^2) \cdots \Phi_2(-x^{2^{r-1}}).$$

1. Introduction

For positive $\alpha$, the $L_\alpha$ norm on the boundary of the unit disk is defined by

$$\|p\|_\alpha := \left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |p(e^{i\theta})|^\alpha \, d\theta \right)^{1/\alpha}.$$ $\|$ $p$ $\|$ $\alpha$ $=$ $\left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |p(e^{i\theta})|^\alpha \, d\theta \right)^{1/\alpha}$

For a polynomial $p(z) := a_n z^n + \cdots + a_1 z + a_0$, the $L_2$ norm is also given by

$$\|p\|_2 = \sqrt{|a_n|^2 + \cdots + |a_1|^2 + |a_0|^2}.$$ $\| p \| _ 2 = \sqrt { \left| a_n \right| ^ 2 + \cdots + \left| a_1 \right| ^ 2 + \left| a_0 \right| ^ 2 }$
Let
\[ \mathcal{L}_n := \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{n} a_i z^i : a_i \in \{-1, 1\} \right\} \]
denote the set of polynomials of degree exactly \( n \) with coefficients from \( \{-1, 1\} \). In general, we will call polynomials with coefficients in \( \{-1, 1\} \) Littlewood polynomials.

There are three classical conjectures concerning Littlewood polynomials. Each of these is at least 50 years old and while there is a host of interesting partial results none of the conjectures has been solved. This is discussed in detail in [1] and also [8].

**Conjecture 1·1 (Littlewood).** There exist positive constants \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) such that for any \( n \) it is possible to find \( p_n \in \mathcal{L}_n \) with
\[ c_1 \sqrt{n+1} \leq |p_n(z)| \leq c_2 \sqrt{n+1} \]
for all complex \( z \) with \( |z| = 1 \).

**Conjecture 1·2 (Erdős).** There exists a positive constant \( c \) such that for all sufficiently large \( n \) and all \( p_n \in \mathcal{L}_n \) we have \( \|p_n\|_\infty \geq (1 + c) \sqrt{n+1} \).

**Conjecture 1·3 (Golay).** There exists a positive constant \( c \) such that for all \( n \) and all \( p_n \in \mathcal{L}_n \) we have \( \|p_n\|_4 \geq (1 + c) \sqrt{n+1} \).

Because of the monotonicity of the \( L_p \) norms, the conjecture of Golay implies the conjecture of Erdős.

The Mahler measure of a polynomial
\[ p_n(z) := a(z - \alpha_1)(z - \alpha_2) \cdots (z - \alpha_n) \]
is, by definition, the product of all the roots of \( p_n \) that have modulus at least 1 multiplied by the leading coefficient. That is,
\[ M(p_n) = |a| \prod_{|\alpha_i| \geq 1} |\alpha_i|. \]

It is also the \( L_0 \) norm:
\[ \lim_{\alpha \to 0} \|p\|_\alpha = \exp\left( \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log |p(e^{i\theta})| \, d\theta \right) =: \|p\|_0. \]

The following conjecture is proved in [3] for \( N \) odd and for a variety of even \( N \) including \( N = 2^k \). It is still open in general for \( N \) even. There are some partial results for even case. In [5], Conjecture 1·4 is proved when \( N = 2p^l \) or when \( P(x) \) is a separable polynomial.

**Conjecture 1·4 (Characterization of cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials).** A Littlewood polynomial \( P(z) \) of degree \( N - 1 \) has Mahler measure 1 if and only if \( P \) can be written in the form
\[ P(z) = \pm \Phi_{p_1}(\pm z)\Phi_{p_2}(\pm z^{p_1}) \cdots \Phi_{p_r}(\pm z^{p_1p_2 \cdots p_{r-1}}), \]
where \( N = p_1p_2 \cdots p_r \) and the \( p_i \) are primes, not necessarily distinct and
\[ \Phi_{\phi(n)}(z) := \sum_{m=0}^{\phi(n)} a(m, n)z^m \]
is the \( n \)th cyclotomic polynomial.
Identifying extremal polynomials with respect to any of the above conjectures is hard. The Littlewood polynomials of measure 1 (which we call cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials) are clearly the minimal polynomials with respect to the $L_0$ norm and, thus one expects them to have relatively large $L_p$ norm when $p > 2$ (because of Hölder’s inequality: if $1 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq \infty$ and $\alpha^{-1} + \beta^{-1} = 1$, then $\|fg\|_1 \leq \|f\|_\alpha \|g\|_\beta$).

The main purpose of this paper is to explicitly compute the $L_4$ norms of the type of cyclotomic polynomials that arise in the above conjecture (and hence, conjecturally, all cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials). This will show that both the $L_4$ norm and the supremum norm of such polynomials must be relatively large.

The size of the coefficients of general cyclotomic polynomials has been the subject of numerous investigations. Erdős conjectured that $A(n) := \max_m |a(m, n)|$ tends to infinity for almost all $n$. This conjecture is proved by Maier in [9] (also see [10] and [11]). In general, the coefficients of $\Phi_n(z)$ can be large.

Cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials of degree $N - 1$ have all coefficients of size 1 and hence have $L_2$ norm $\sqrt{N}$. So by monotonicity of the norms, $\|P\|_4 \geq \sqrt{N}$. We will prove in Theorem 2·6 below that a considerably stronger result holds. Namely

$$\|P\|_4 \geq N^{\frac{\log(1+\sqrt{17})}{4}} = N^{0.589...}.$$  

2. Proofs

Consider a cyclotomic Littlewood polynomial $h(x)$ which factors in the form $h(x) = f(x)g(x^k)$

where $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials of degrees $k - 1$ and $l - 1$. The 4th power of the 4-norm of $h(x)$ on the unit circle has the same value as the constant term of $(h(x)h(x^{-1}))^2$. If $(f(x)f(x^{-1}))^2 = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{2(k-1)} a_i(x^i + x^{-i})$ and $(g(x)g(x^{-1}))^2 = b_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{2(l-1)} b_i(x^i + x^{-i})$, then this constant term has value $c_0 = a_0b_0 + 2a_k b_1$. Furthermore, $h(x)$ has degree $kl - 1$ and the coefficient of $x^{kl}$, $c_{kl}$, in $(h(x)h(x^{-1}))^2$ has value $a_kb_{l+1} + a_0b_l + a_kb_{l-1}$. Written in matrix form, this becomes

$$\begin{bmatrix} c_0 \\ c_{kl} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 & 2b_1 \\ b_l & b_{l-1} + b_{l+1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_k \end{bmatrix}.$$  

Each $g(x)$ of degree $l - 1$ has an associated $2 \times 2$ matrix

$$G = \begin{bmatrix} b_0/l^2 & 2b_1/l^2 \\ b_l/l^2 & (b_{l-1} + b_{l+1})/l^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$  

Here we normalize the matrix by dividing $l^2$ which is $\|g\|_2^4$. For example, $\Phi_1(x) = 1 + x$ has the associated matrix

$$G_2^+ = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{2} & 2 \\ \frac{1}{4} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$  

and $\Phi_2(x) = 1 - x$ has the associated matrix

$$G_2^- = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{2} & -2 \\ \frac{1}{4} & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$
More generally, for odd prime \( p \), \( \Phi_p = \Phi_p(x) = 1 + x + \cdots + x^{p-1} \) is associated with
\[
G_p^+ = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{2}{3}(p + \frac{1}{2p}) & \frac{1}{3}(p - \frac{1}{p}) \\
\frac{1}{6}(p - \frac{1}{p}) & \frac{1}{3}(p + \frac{2}{p})
\end{bmatrix}
\]
and \( \Phi_{2p} = \Phi_p(-x) = 1 - x + x^2 - \cdots + x^{p-1} \) is associated with
\[
G_p^- = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{2}{3}(p + \frac{1}{2p}) & -\frac{1}{3}(p - \frac{1}{p}) \\
-\frac{1}{6}(p - \frac{1}{p}) & \frac{1}{3}(p + \frac{2}{p})
\end{bmatrix}
\]
for odd prime \( p \). This gives an inductive method for determining the 4-norms of cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials built up in the fashion (2.1).

**Proposition 2.1.** If
\[
f(x) = \Phi_{p_1}(\epsilon_1 x)\Phi_{p_2}(\epsilon_2 x^{p_1}) \cdots \Phi_{p_r}(\epsilon_r x^{p_1 p_2 \cdots p_{r-1}}),
\]
where \( N = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r \) and \( \epsilon_j = \pm 1 \), then
\[
\frac{\|f\|_4^4}{N^2} = \frac{\|f\|_4^4}{\|f\|_2^4} = [1 0]\left[ G_{p_r}^{\epsilon_r} \cdots G_{p_2}^{\epsilon_2} G_{p_1}^{\epsilon_1} \right] \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.
\]

For example, let \( c_{n,0} \) be the 4th power of the 4-norm of the polynomial \( f_n(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{n}(x^{2^{n-1}} - 1) \) of degree \( 2^n - 1 \) and \( c_{n,2^n} \) the coefficient of \( x^{2^n} \) in \( (f_n(x)f_n(x^{-1}))^2 \). Then
\[
\begin{bmatrix} c_{n,0} \\ c_{n,2^n} \end{bmatrix} = G_2^- \begin{bmatrix} c_{n-1,0} \\ c_{n-1,2^{n-1}} \end{bmatrix} = (G_2^-)^{n-1} \begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.
\]
In fact, we can eliminate the coefficients of the form \( c_{n,2^n} \) in the recursion. Starting from the equations
\[
c_{n+1,0} = 6c_{n,0} - 8c_{n,2^n} \\
c_{n+1,2^n+1} = c_{n,0} - 4c_{n,2^n}
\]
we eliminate \( c_{n,2^n} \) to obtain \( c_{n+1,2^n+1} = \frac{1}{2}c_{n+1,0} - 2c_{n,0} \) and thus \( c_{n,2^n} = \frac{1}{2}c_{n,0} - 2c_{n-1,0} \). Substituting this in the first equation gives
\[
c_{n+1,0} = 2c_{n,0} + 16c_{n-1,0},
\]
a recursion involving only the 4-norms.

The eigenvalues for the matrix \( G_2^- \) are \( (1 \pm \sqrt{17})/4 \). The 4th power of the 4-norm will thus increase by a factor of approximately \( 1 + \sqrt{17} \) for each doubling of the length. The 4th power of the 4-norm divided by the 2nd power of the 2-norm will increase by a factor of approximately \( (1 + \sqrt{17})/4 \). For length \( n \), this quotient will be of the order
\[
\left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{17}}{4} \right)^{\log_2 n} = n^{0.357\ldots}.
\]

We extend the definition of the matrix \( G_p^\pm \) by
\[
G_p^+ = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{2}{3}(n + \frac{1}{2n}) & \frac{1}{3}(n - \frac{1}{n}) \\
\frac{1}{6}(n - \frac{1}{n}) & \frac{1}{3}(n + \frac{2}{n})
\end{bmatrix}
\]
for \( n = 2, 3, \ldots \) and
\[
G_n^- = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3}(n + \frac{1}{2n}) & -\frac{1}{3}(n - \frac{1}{n}) \\ -\frac{1}{6}(n - \frac{1}{n}) & \frac{1}{3}(n + \frac{2}{n}) \end{bmatrix}
\]
for \( n = 3, 4, \ldots \). The matrices \( G_n^\pm \) satisfy the following properties.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let
\[
E = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.
\]
Then for odd primes \( p \) and \( q \), we have:
(i) \( G^+_p = E G^+_p E \) and \( G^-_p = E G^-_p E \);
(ii) \( G^+_2 = G^+_2 E \) and \( G^+_2 = G^-_2 E \);
(iii) \( G^\pm_p \cdot G^\pm_q = G^\pm_{pq} = G^\pm_q \cdot G^\pm_p \);
(iv) \( G^+_p \cdot G^+_2 = G^+_2 \cdot G^+_p \);
(v) \( (G^+_2)^r = G^+_2 \).

The aim of this paper is to consider the set of the cyclotomic Littlewood polynomial of degree \( N - 1 \) such that \( N \) is a product of \( r \) primes and to show that the normalized \( L_4 \) norm \( \|f\|^4_4 / \|f\|^2_2 \) attains its minimal value when \( f(x) = f_r(x) \), i.e., \( p_1 = p_2 = \cdots = p_r = 2 \) and \( \epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = \cdots = \epsilon_r = + \) in (2.1).

**Lemma 2.3.** Let \( r \geq 1 \) and
\[
G^{\epsilon_r}_{p_r} \cdots G^{\epsilon_1}_{p_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix}.
\]
Then \( A > 4|B| > 0 \). Moreover, \( B < 0 \) if and only if \( G^{\epsilon_r}_{p_r} = G^-_{p_r} \) for odd prime \( p \geq 3 \).

**Proof.** We prove by induction on \( r \). When \( r = 1 \),
\[
G^-_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = G^+_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3/2 \\ 1/4 \end{bmatrix}
\]
and
\[
G^+_p \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3}(p + \frac{1}{2p}) \\ \frac{1}{6}(p - \frac{1}{p}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad G^-_p \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3}(p + \frac{1}{2p}) \\ -\frac{1}{6}(p - \frac{1}{p}) \end{bmatrix}.
\]
Since \( \frac{2}{3}(p + \frac{1}{2p}) - 4 \times (\frac{1}{6}(p - \frac{1}{p})) = \frac{1}{p} > 0 \), the lemma is true for \( r = 1 \).

Suppose
\[
G^{\epsilon_{r-1}}_{p_{r-1}} \cdots G^{\epsilon_1}_{p_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix}
\]
with \( A > 4|B| > 0 \).

If \( G^{\epsilon_r}_{p_r} = G^-_2 \) then
\[
G^{\epsilon_r}_{p_r} \cdots G^{\epsilon_1}_{p_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = G^-_2 \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3A/2 - 2B \\ A/4 - B \end{bmatrix}
\]
Since \( A/4 - B \geq A/4 - |B| > 0 \), so
\[
\left( \frac{3}{2}A - 2B \right) - 4 \left| \frac{1}{4}A - B \right| = \frac{1}{2}A + 2B \geq \frac{A - 4|B|}{2} > 0.
\]
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\[
\frac{1}{6} \left( p - \frac{1}{p} \right) A + \frac{1}{3} \left( p + \frac{2}{p} \right) B \geq \frac{1}{6} \left( p - \frac{1}{p} \right) A - \frac{1}{3} \left( p + \frac{2}{p} \right) |B| > 0,
\]

it then follows that

\[
\begin{align*}
\left( \frac{2}{3} \left( p + \frac{1}{2p} \right) A + \frac{4}{3} \left( p - \frac{1}{p} \right) B \right) - 4 \left| \frac{1}{6} \left( p - \frac{1}{p} \right) A + \frac{1}{3} \left( p + \frac{2}{p} \right) B \right| &
\end{align*}
\]

\[
= \frac{2}{3} \left( p + \frac{1}{2p} \right) A + \frac{4}{3} \left( p - \frac{1}{p} \right) B - 4 \left( \frac{1}{6} \left( p - \frac{1}{p} \right) A + \frac{1}{3} \left( p + \frac{2}{p} \right) B \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{p} A - \frac{4}{p} B > 0.
\]

The case can be proved in the same way.

For integer , we let

\[
\begin{align*}
\alpha_t & := \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{32} \sqrt{17} \right) (1 + \sqrt{17})^t - \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{32} \sqrt{17} \right) (1 - \sqrt{17})^t \\
b_t & := \frac{4\sqrt{17} ((1 - \sqrt{17})^t - (1 + \sqrt{17})^t)}{17 \cdot 4^t} \\
c_t & := \frac{\sqrt{17} ((1 + \sqrt{17})^t - (1 - \sqrt{17})^t)}{34 \cdot 4^t} \\
d_t & := \frac{\left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{32} \sqrt{17} \right) (1 - \sqrt{17})^t - \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{32} \sqrt{17} \right) (1 + \sqrt{17})^t}{4^t}
\end{align*}
\]

and

\[
A_t := (1 + \sqrt{17})^t + (1 - \sqrt{17})^t \quad \text{and} \quad B_t := (1 + \sqrt{17})^t - (1 - \sqrt{17})^t.
\]

Since

\[
\begin{align*}
A_t &= \sum_{m=0}^{t} \binom{t}{m} (\sqrt{17})^m + \sum_{m=0}^{t} \binom{t}{m} (-\sqrt{17})^m \\
&= 2 \sum_{m \equiv 0 \pmod{2}} \binom{t}{m} (\sqrt{17})^m > 0
\end{align*}
\]

and

\[
B_t = 2 \sum_{m \equiv 1 \pmod{2}} \binom{t}{m} (\sqrt{17})^m > 0,
\]
it then follows that
\[
a_t = \frac{\frac{1}{2}A_t + \frac{5}{34}\sqrt{17}B_t}{4^t} > 0
\]
\[
b_t = \frac{-4\sqrt{17}B_t}{17 \cdot 4^t} < 0
\]
\[
c_t = \frac{\sqrt{17}B_t}{34 \cdot 4^t} > 0
\]
and \(d_t\) can take positive or negative values for various \(t\). By diagonalizing \(G_{2^-}\), it can be shown that for integer \(t \geq 0\),
\[
(G_{2^-})^t = \begin{bmatrix} a_t & b_t \\ c_t & d_t \end{bmatrix}.
\] (2.2)

**Lemma 2.4.** Let \(A > 0\), \(B \geq 0\) and \(t \geq 0\). If \(p \geq 3\) or if \(p = 2\) and \(B > 0\), then we have
\[
[1 \ 0](G_{2^-})^t G_p^+ \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} > [1 \ 0](G_{2^-})^t+1 \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix}.
\] (2.3)

**Proof.** Note that in view of (2.3), we have \([1 \ 0](G_{2^-})^t = \begin{bmatrix} a_t & b_t \end{bmatrix} \). So
\[
[1 \ 0](G_{2^-})^t(G_p^+ - G_{2^-}) = \begin{bmatrix} a_t & b_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3}p + \frac{1}{3p} - \frac{3}{2} \frac{4}{3}p - \frac{4}{3p} + 2 \\ \frac{1}{6p} - \frac{1}{6p} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{3}p + \frac{2}{3p} + 1 \end{bmatrix}
\]
\[
= \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_t(p) \\ \mu_t(p) \end{bmatrix}
\]
where
\[
\lambda_t(p) := \left(\frac{2}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{6}b_t\right)p^2 - \left(\frac{3}{2}a_t + \frac{1}{4}b_t\right)p + \left(\frac{1}{3}a_t - \frac{1}{6}b_t\right)
\]
and
\[
\mu_t(p) := \left(\frac{4}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{3}b_t\right)p^2 + (2a_t + b_t)p + \left(-\frac{4}{3}a_t + \frac{2}{3}b_t\right).
\]
Note that \(\frac{2}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{6}b_t = \frac{1}{4t}\left(\frac{2}{3}A_t + \frac{\sqrt{17}}{17}B_t\right) > 0\) since \(A_t, B_t > 0\) and
\[
\frac{d}{dp} \lambda_t(p) = 2\left(\frac{2}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{6}b_t\right)p - \left(\frac{3}{2}a_t + \frac{1}{4}b_t\right) \geq 4\left(\frac{2}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{6}b_t\right) - \left(\frac{3}{2}a_t + \frac{1}{4}b_t\right)
\]
\[
= \frac{1}{4t}\left(\frac{7}{12}A_t + \frac{5\sqrt{17}}{68}B_t\right) > 0.
\]
Thus \(\lambda_t(p)\) is increasing in \(p\). Hence \(\lambda_t(p) \geq \lambda_t(2) = 0\) if \(p \geq 2\) and
\[
\lambda_t(p) \geq \lambda_t(3) = \frac{1}{4t}\left(\frac{11}{12}A_t + \frac{9\sqrt{17}}{68}B_t\right) > 0
\] (2.4)
if \(p \geq 3\). Similarly, \(\frac{4}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{3}b_t = \frac{1}{4t}\left(\frac{4}{3}A_t + \frac{2\sqrt{17}}{17}B_t\right) > 0\) and
\[
\frac{d}{dp} \mu_t(p) = 2\left(\frac{4}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{3}b_t\right)p + (2a_t + b_t) \geq 4\left(\frac{4}{3}a_t + \frac{1}{3}b_t\right) + (2a_t + b_t)
\]
\[
= \frac{1}{4t}\left(\frac{11}{3}A_t + \frac{9\sqrt{17}}{17}B_t\right) > 0.
\]
So \(\mu_t(p)\) is increasing in \(p\) and
\[
\mu_t(p) \geq \mu_t(2) = \frac{1}{4^t} \left( 4A_t + \frac{4\sqrt{17}}{17}B_t \right) > 0. \quad (2.5)
\]
for \(p \geq 2\). Therefore, for \(p \geq 3\),
\[
[1 0](G_2^+)^t(G_p^+ - G_2^-) \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_t(p) & \mu_t(p) \\ p & p \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\lambda_t(p)A + \mu_t(p)B}{p} > 0
\]
by (2.4) and (2.5) and for \(p = 2\) and \(B > 0\),
\[
[1 0](G_2^+)^t(G_2^-)^t(G_p^+ G_q^- - (G_2^-)^2) \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\lambda_t(2)A + \mu_t(2)B}{2} = \frac{\mu_t(2)B}{2} > 0.
\]
This proves Lemma 2.4.

**Lemma 2.5.** If \(A > 4|B| \geq 0, p \geq 2, q \geq 3\) and \(t \geq 0\), then
\[
[1 0](G_2^-)^t(G_p^+ G_q^- - (G_2^-)^2) = [a b]
\]
and claim that \(a > 0\) and \(b < 0\). In fact, by (2.2) we get
\[
1224 \cdot 4^t \cdot p \cdot q \cdot a = ((136A_t + 24\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 + 272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t)p^2
\]
\[-(1071A_t + 279\sqrt{17}B_t)pq
\]
\[+(272A_t + 144\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 - (68A_t + 36\sqrt{17}B_t))
\]
\[:= f(p, q)
\]
and
\[
-1224 \cdot 4^t \cdot p \cdot q \cdot b = ((272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 - (1088A_t + 192\sqrt{17}B_t)p^2
\]
\[-(612A_t + 324\sqrt{17}B_t)pq
\]
\[+(544A_t + 288\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 + (272A_t + 144\sqrt{17}B_t))
\]
\[:= g(p, q).
\]
Since
\[
\frac{\partial f(p, q)}{\partial p} = 2((136A_t + 24\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 + 272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t)p - (1071A_t + 279\sqrt{17}B_t)q
\]
\[\geq 4((136A_t + 24\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 + 272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t) - (1071A_t + 279\sqrt{17}B_t)q
\]
\[> 12(136A_t + 24\sqrt{17}B_t)q - (1071A_t + 279\sqrt{17}B_t)q
\]
\[= (561A_t + 9\sqrt{17}B_t)q > 0
\]
for \( q \geq 3 \), hence
\[
f(p, q) \geq f(2, q) = 4((136A_t + 24\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 + 272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t)q
\]
\[
+ ((272A_t + 144\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 - (68A_t + 36\sqrt{17}B_t))q
\]
\[
\geq 4((136A_t + 24\sqrt{17}B_t)3q + 272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t)q
\]
\[
+ ((272A_t + 144\sqrt{17}B_t)3q - (68A_t + 36\sqrt{17}B_t))q
\]
\[
= (306A_t + 162\sqrt{17}B_t)q + 1020A_t + 156\sqrt{17}B_t > 0.
\]

Similarly we can prove that \( g(p, q) \) is increasing both in \( p \) and \( q \). Hence \( g(p, q) \geq g(2, 3) = 6936A_t + 1752\sqrt{17}B_t > 0 \). Therefore \( a > 0 \) and \( b < 0 \). It then follows that
\[
[1 0](G_2^-)^t(G_2^+G_q^- - (G_2^-)^2) \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = [a b] \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = aA + bB
\]
\[
\geq aA - |bB| = aA + |bB|
\]
\[
> a4|B| + b|B| = (4a + b)|B|,
\]
because \( A > 4|B| > 0 \). It suffices to show that \( 4a + b > 0 \) or equivalently \( 4f(p, q) - g(p, q) > 0 \). Since
\[
4f(p, q) - g(p, q) = ((272A_t + 48\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 + 2176A_t + 384\sqrt{17}B_t)p^2
\]
\[
- (3672A_t + 792\sqrt{17}B_t)pq
\]
\[
+ ((544A_t + 288\sqrt{17}B_t)q^2 - (544A_t + 288\sqrt{17}B_t))
\]
\[
:= k(p, q).
\]

As before, we can show that \( k(p, q) \) is increasing both in \( p \) and \( q \). Hence
\[
k(p, q) \geq k(2, 3) = 816A_t + 816\sqrt{17}B_t > 0.
\]

This completes the proof of the lemma.

**Theorem 2.6.** If
\[
f(x) = \Phi_{p_1}(\epsilon_1 x)\Phi_{p_2}(\epsilon_2 x^{p_1}) \cdots \Phi_{p_r}(\epsilon_r x^{p_1 p_2 \cdots p_{r-1}}),
\]
where \( N = p_1 p_2 \cdots p_r \) and \( \epsilon_j = \pm \), then
\[
\|f\|^4_{N^2} \geq \|\Phi_2(-x)\Phi_2(-x^2) \cdots \Phi_2(-x^{2^{r-1}})\|^4_{4^r}
\]
\[
= \|f_r\|^4_{4^r}
\]
\[
= \|f_r\|^4_{1}
\]
\[
= [1 0](G_2^-)^r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}
\]
\[
= \left( \frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{17}}{32}\right)(1 + \sqrt{17})^r - \left( -\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{17}}{32}\right)(1 - \sqrt{17})^r.
\]

**Proof.** We consider the set of all cyclotomic Littlewood polynomials of degree \( N-1 \) such that \( N \) is a product of \( r \) primes. We prove by induction on \( r \). It is clear that for
\[ \epsilon = \pm 1, \]
\[
[1 \ 0] G_p^{e_{r}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \geq [1 \ 0] G_2^- \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{3}{2}.
\]

So the theorem is true for \( r = 1 \) by Proposition 2.1. Let
\[
G_{p_r}^{e_r} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1} = (G_2^-)^t (G_{p_1}^{e_{p_1}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1})
\]
be a Littlewood polynomial \( f \) with the smallest normalized \( L_4 \) norm \( \| f \|_4^4 / \| f \|_2^4 \) of degree \( N - 1 \) and \( t \geq 0 \) and \( l = r - t \) and \( G_{p_1}^{e_{p_1}} \neq G_2^- \). We will show that
\[
[1 \ 0] G_{p_r}^{e_r} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \geq [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.
\]

If \( \epsilon_l = + \), then write \( G_{p_{l-1}}^{e_{l-1}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} \).

If \( B > 0 \), then by Lemma 2.4, we have \( l \geq 2 \) and
\[
[1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^t (G_{p_1}^{e_{p_1}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^t G_{p_1}^{e_1} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} > [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^{t+1} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^{t+1} (G_{p_{l-1}}^{e_{p_{l-1}}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix},
\]

which contradicts the minimality of \( \| f \|_4^4 / \| f \|_2^4 \).

If \( B = 0 \), by Lemma 2.3, we have \( l = 1 \) and by Lemma 2.4
\[
[1 \ 0] (G_{p_r}^{e_r} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^{r-1} G_{p_1}^{e_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \geq [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}
\]
and the equality only holds when \( p_1 = 2 \). So
\[
G_{p_r}^{e_r} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1} = (G_2^-)^{r-1} G_2^+.
\]

But
\[
[1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^{r-1} G_2^+ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.
\]

If \( B < 0 \), then by Lemma 2.3, \( A > 4|B| > 0 \) and \( \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = G_q^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} A' \\ B' \end{bmatrix} \) with \( q \geq 3 \) and \( A' > 4|B'| \geq 0 \). So
\[
[1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^t (G_{p_1}^{e_{p_1}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^t G_{p_1}^{e_1} G_{q}^{e_{q}} \begin{bmatrix} A' \\ B' \end{bmatrix}
\]
\[
> [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^{t+2} \begin{bmatrix} A' \\ B' \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] (G_2^-)^{t+2} (G_{p_{l-2}}^{e_{p_{l-2}}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1}) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}
\]
by Lemma 2.5. This contradicts the minimality.

If \( \epsilon_l = - \), then we write
\[
G_{p_1}^{e_{p_1}} G_{p_{l-1}}^{e_{p_{l-1}}} \cdots G_{p_1}^{e_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix}
\]
with $B \leq 0$ by Lemma 2.3. Thus
\[
\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (G_2^-)^t (G_{p_i}^- \cdots G_{p_i}^\epsilon_i) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (G_2^-)^t \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_t & b_t \\ c_t & d_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = a_t A + b_t B.
\]
By induction assumption,
\[
A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (G_{p_i}^- \cdots G_{p_i}^\epsilon_i) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \geq \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (G_2^-)^t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = a_t = a_{r-t}.
\]
Since $b_t < 0$, $c_{r-t} > 0$ and $B \leq 0$, so
\[
a_t A + b_t B \geq a_t A \\
\geq a_t a_{r-t} \\
\geq a_t a_{r-t} + b_t c_{r-t}.
\]
On the other hand,
\[
\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (G_2^-)^r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (G_2^-)^t (G_2^-)^r - t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_t & b_t \\ c_t & d_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{r-t} & b_{r-t} \\ c_{r-t} & d_{r-t} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
= \begin{bmatrix} a_t & b_t \\ c_t & d_t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{r-t} \\ c_{r-t} \end{bmatrix} \\
= a_t a_{r-t} + b_t c_{r-t}.
\]
So
\[
[1 0] (G_2^-)^t (G_{p_i}^- \cdots G_{p_i}^\epsilon_i) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \geq [1 0] (G_2^-)^r \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.
\]
This completes the proof of Theorem 2.6.

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REFERENCES


