

Littlewood Polynomials with Small L^4 Norm

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Littlewood asked how small the ratio $\frac{\|f\|_4}{\|f\|_2}$ (where $\|\cdot\|_\alpha$ denotes the L^α norm on the unit circle) can be for polynomials f having all coefficients in $\{1, -1\}$, as the degree tends to infinity. Since 1988, the least known asymptotic value of this ratio has been $\sqrt[4]{7/6}$, which was conjectured to be minimum. We disprove this conjecture by showing that there is a sequence of such polynomials, derived from the Fejete polynomials, for which the limit of this ratio is less than $\sqrt[4]{22/19}$.

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