

Some properties of classes of real self-reciprocal polynomials

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The purpose of this paper is twofold. Firstly we investigate the distribution, simplicity and monotonicity of the zeros around the unit circle and real line of the real self-reciprocal polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = 1 + \lambda(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1}) + z^n$, $n \geq 2$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. Secondly, as an application of the first results we give necessary and sufficient conditions to guarantee that all zeros of the self-reciprocal polynomials $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n s_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} z^k$, $n \geq 2$, with $s_{n,0}^{(\lambda)} = s_{n,n}^{(\lambda)} = 1$, $s_{n,n-k}^{(\lambda)} = s_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} = 1 + k\lambda$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ when n is odd, and $s_{n,n-k}^{(\lambda)} = s_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} = 1 + k\lambda$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, n/2 - 1$, $s_{n,n/2}^{(\lambda)} = (n/2)\lambda$ when n is even, lie on the unit circle. Solving then an open problem given by Kim and Park in 2008.

Keywords: Self-reciprocal polynomials, unit circle, zeros, monotonicity, interlacing.

1. Introduction

Let the polynomial $P(z) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i z^i$, $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$. Define the polynomial

$$P^*(z) = z^n \overline{P\left(\frac{1}{\bar{z}}\right)} = \bar{a}_0 z^n + \bar{a}_1 z^{n-1} + \dots + \bar{a}_n = \bar{a}_0 \prod_{j=1}^n (z - z_j^*),$$

whose zeros z_k^* are the inverses of the zeros z_k of $P(z)$, that is, $z_k^* = 1/\bar{z}_k$.

If $P^*(z) = uP(z)$ with $|u| = 1$, then $P(z)$ is said to be a self-inversive polynomial, see [19]. If $P(z) = z^n P(1/z)$, then $P(z)$ is said to be self-reciprocal. If $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$,

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then $P(z)$ is called real self-reciprocal polynomials, see [14]. Notice that real self-reciprocal polynomials are also self-inversive polynomials. It is clear that if $P(z)$ is a self-reciprocal polynomial, then $a_i = a_{n-i}$, for $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$.

The properties of self-reciprocal polynomials are interesting topics to study and have many applications in some areas of mathematics, see for example [9, 10, 11, 13].

It is not difficult to verify that if a polynomial has all its zeros on the unit circle, then it is a self-inversive polynomial. The reciprocal is not always true, since self-inversive polynomials can have zeros that are symmetric with respect to the unit circle. The most famous result about the conditions for a self-inversive polynomial to have all its zeros on the unit circle is due to Conh, see [19, p. 18]: A necessary and sufficient condition for all the zeros of $P(z)$ to lie on the unit circle is that $P(z)$ is self-inversive and that all zeros of $P'(z)$ lie in or on this circle. In [4], Chen has given more flexible conditions than the Cohn's result. Choo and Kim in [7] gave an extension of Chen's result, to guarantee that the zeros on the unit circle are simple. Many authors have investigated special classes of self-inversive polynomials, see for example [14, 15, 16, 17].

In [14], Kim and Park investigate the distribution of zeros around the unit circle of real self-reciprocal polynomials of even degree with five terms whose absolute values of middle coefficients equal the sum of all other coefficients. As a consequence of this study, they present a result related to the location of the zeros of the real self-reciprocal polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n s_k^{(\lambda)} z^k$, with $s_k^{(\lambda)} = 1 + k\lambda$, for $k = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, for n odd and some values of $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ (see [14, Th. 7]). The authors remarked that for the three cases “ $2 < \lambda < 2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$ for $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ odd”, “ $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$ for $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ odd” and “ $\lambda = -\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$ ” the location of the zeros of $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ remain as an open problem. Here, we give a complete proof about the location of the zeros of $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ in the case n odd and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, answering the open problems of [14, Th. 7] and we present a new result when n is even. Precisely, we will deal with the polynomials

$$S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n s_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} z^k, \quad n \geq 2, \quad (1)$$

with $s_{n,0}^{(\lambda)} = s_{n,n}^{(\lambda)} = 1$ and

$$\begin{aligned} s_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} &= s_{n,n-k}^{(\lambda)} = 1 + k\lambda, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor, \quad \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ s_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} &= s_{n,n-k}^{(\lambda)} = 1 + k\lambda, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n}{2} - 1, \quad s_{n,n/2}^{(\lambda)} = \frac{n}{2}\lambda, \quad \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The proofs of these results are obtained using properties of the polynomials

$$R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = 1 + \lambda(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1}) + z^n, \quad n \geq 2, \quad (3)$$

with $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, studied in [1].

We denote the unit circle by $\mathcal{C} = \{z : z = e^{i\theta}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi\}$. For $z = e^{i\theta}$ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, we consider the transformation

$$x = x(z) = \frac{z^{1/2} + z^{-1/2}}{2} = \cos(\theta/2). \quad (4)$$

In the context of orthogonal polynomials, see [6, 12], the transformation (4) was first used by Delsarte and Genin in [8], and later, was further explored by Zhedanov in [23]. We also consider and present some properties of the zeros of the polynomials $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ defined by

$$W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) = W_n^{(\lambda)}(x(z)) = z^{-n/2} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z), \quad \text{for } n \geq 1. \quad (5)$$

For the general case, the relation (5) has been used in [3] for an application of real orthogonal polynomials in the frequency analysis problem, also it has been used in [9] and [10] for classes of hypergeometric polynomials with zeros on the unit circle.

In [22] we find the following results. Let the sequence of polynomials $\{Q_m\}$ be generated by the three term recurrence relation

$$Q_{m+1}(z) = (z + \beta_{m+1})Q_m(z) - \alpha_{m+1}zQ_{m-1}(z), \quad m \geq 1, \quad (6)$$

with $Q_0(z) = 1$ and $Q_1(z) = z + \beta_1$, where the complex numbers α_m and β_m are such that $\alpha_m \neq 0$, $m \geq 2$ and $\beta_m \neq 0$, $m \geq 1$.

Theorem 1 ([22]). *Let $\beta_k = \beta > 0$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $\alpha_k > 0$ for $k = 2, \dots, n$. Then the zeros of any $Q_k(z)$, $1 \leq k \leq n$, are distinct (except for a possible double zero at $z = \beta$) and lie on $\mathcal{C}(\beta) \cup (0, \infty)$, where $\mathcal{C}(\beta) \equiv \{z : z = \beta e^{i\theta}, 0 < \theta < 2\pi\}$. In particular, if $\left\{\frac{\alpha_{k+1}}{4\beta}\right\}_{k=1}^{n-1}$ is a positive chain sequence then all the zeros are distinct and lie on the open circle $\mathcal{C}(\beta)$.*

We use this result to verify the location of zeros of the polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, see Section 3. Notice that $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}(1) \cup \{1\}$.

If there exists a sequence of real numbers $\{g_k\}$ such that $0 \leq g_0 < 1$, $0 < g_k < 1$ for $k \geq 1$ and $a_k = (1 - g_{k-1})g_k$ for $k \geq 1$, then $\{a_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ is said to be a positive chain sequence and $\{g_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ is called parameter sequence of the sequence $\{a_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$.

This manuscript is organized as follow. In Section 2 we write explicitly our main results about the behaviour of the zeros of the real self-reciprocal polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, with respect to the parameter λ . In Section 3 we give some old and new properties of the polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ for different choices of parameter λ , that are necessary to show the main results. Using the transformation (4) we prove, in Section 4, results about the location and monotonicity behaviour of the zeros of the polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. Finally in Section 5 we show completely the location of the zeros of $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ in the case n odd, answering the open problems of [14, Th. 7] and we show a new result when n is even. As consequence of this last result, in Section 5, we also provide some relations between polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, for different choices of parameter λ .

2. Main results

In Sections 3 and 4, we develop all the necessary preliminaries to show our main result about the distribution, simplicity and monotonicity of the zeros of polynomial $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, defined by (3), on the unit circle, that it is:

Theorem 2. For $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda \leq 2$ (n even) or $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ (n odd), the zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, defined by (3), are represented by $z_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = e^{i\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}}$, with $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)})$, where $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ are the non-negative zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, defined by (5). For n odd, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1$ and $\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = \pi$. Furthermore,

$$0 \leq \theta_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} < \theta_{n,2}^{(\lambda)} < \dots < \theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} \leq \pi,$$

$\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = \pi$ (n odd) and $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, are increasing functions of λ .

Also the main result about the monotonicity behaviour of the two positive zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and behaviour of the two negative zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, when these zeros exist, that it is:

Theorem 3.

1. If $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$, $n > 1$, $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two positive zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$, where $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (1, \infty)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (0, 1)$. Moreover, $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ is a decreasing function of λ and, consequently, $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ is an increasing function of λ .
2. If $\lambda > 2$ (when $n > 1$ is even) or $\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ (when $n > 1$ is odd), $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two negative zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$, where $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-\infty, -1)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-1, 0)$. Moreover, $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ is a decreasing function of λ and, consequently, $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ is an increasing function of λ .

Another new result of this manuscript is the location of the zeros of the polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ defined by (1) and (2), proved in Section 5, answering the open problem of [14, Th. 7] when n is odd and also presenting a new result when n is even.

Theorem 4. The zeros of the polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, $n \geq 2$, defined by (1) and (2) lie on the unit circle if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} &-\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \leq \lambda \leq 2, \text{ when } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \text{ is odd;} \\ &-\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}, \text{ when } \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \text{ is even.} \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

- if $\lambda \in \left(-\infty, -\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}\right)$, $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two positive zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (1, +\infty)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (0, 1)$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle;
- if $\lambda \in (2, +\infty)$ ($\lambda \in \left(2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}, +\infty\right)$) and $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ is odd ($\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ is even), $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two negative zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-\infty, -1)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-1, 0)$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle.

3. Some properties of the polynomial $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$

Firstly we give some results about the zeros of the polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and, for specific values of λ , how they can be factorized.

Lemma 5. *Let $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = 1 + \lambda(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1}) + z^n$, $n \geq 2$, be a polynomial of degree n and*

$$\begin{aligned} A_l^{(\lambda)}(z) &= \sum_{k=0}^l a_k^{(\lambda)} z^k, \text{ with } l \text{ natural and } a_k^{(\lambda)} = \begin{cases} 1, & k \text{ even} \\ \lambda - 1, & k \text{ odd} \end{cases}, \\ B_{n-2}(z) &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} b_k z^k, \text{ with } b_k = \frac{(k+1)(n-(k+1))}{(n-1)}, \\ C_{n-3}(z) &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-3} c_k z^k, \text{ with } c_k = \begin{cases} \frac{(k+2)(n-1-k)}{2(n-1)}, & k \text{ even} \\ -\frac{(k+1)(n-1-(k+1))}{2(n-1)}, & k \text{ odd} \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

1. If $\lambda = -\frac{2}{n-1}$, $n > 1$, then $z = 1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ of multiplicity 2 and $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z-1)^2 B_{n-2}(z)$.
2. If n is odd, then $z = -1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)A_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$.
3. If n is odd and $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$, $n > 1$, then $z = -1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ of multiplicity 3 and $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)^3 C_{n-3}(z)$.
4. If n is even and $\lambda = 2$, $n > 1$, then $z = -1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ of multiplicity 2 and $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)^2 A_{n-2}^{(1)}(z)$.

The proof of items 1 (when n is odd), 2 and 3 of Lemma 5 can be found in [18]. By simple manipulations we can prove the other results.

In [1], one can find the following result about necessary and sufficient conditions to guarantee that all the zeros of polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ lie on the unit circle.

Theorem 6 ([1]). *The zeros of the polynomial $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = 1 + \lambda(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1}) + z^n$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, of degree $n \geq 2$, lie on the unit circle if and only if*

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{2}{n-1} &\leq \lambda \leq 2, \text{ when } n \text{ is even;} \\ -\frac{2}{n-1} &\leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}, \text{ when } n \text{ is odd.} \end{aligned}$$

Observe that it is considered $n > 1$ in the conditions of Theorem 6. If $n = 1$, $z = -1$ is a single root of $R_1^{(\lambda)}(z) = 0$, for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$.

Also, it can be proved that

1. If $\lambda \in (-\infty, -\frac{2}{n-1})$, $R_n^{(\lambda)}$ has two positive zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle.

2. If $\lambda \in (2, \infty)$ (even case) and $\lambda \in (2 + \frac{2}{n-1}, \infty)$ (odd case), $R_n^{(\lambda)}$ has two negative zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle.

Indeed:

1. For $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$,

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) > 0, \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow 1} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = 2 + (n-1)\lambda < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow +\infty} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) > 0.$$

That is, when $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$, there is a sign change of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ in $(0, 1)$ and $(1, \infty)$. Thus, there is an odd number of zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ in $(0, 1)$ and $(1, \infty)$. From [16, Th. 2.1 item (a)(ii)] follows that there is exactly one zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}$ in $(0, 1)$, one zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}$ in $(1, \infty)$ and $n-2$ zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are located on the unit circle.

2. For n even, if $\lambda > 2$,

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow -\infty} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) > 0, \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow -1} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = 2 - \lambda < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) > 0.$$

Hence, there is a sign change of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ in $(-\infty, -1)$ and $(-1, 0)$. Using the same arguments as above and [16, Th. 2.1 item (b)(ii)] follows the result.

For n odd, if $\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$, since $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)A_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ we have

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow -\infty} A_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z) > 0, \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow -1} A_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z) = n - \frac{n-1}{2}\lambda < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} A_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z) > 0.$$

That is, there is a sign change of $A_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ in $(-\infty, -1)$ and $(-1, 0)$, and, from [16, Th. 2.1 item (b)(ii)], $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has one real zero in $(-\infty, -1)$, another in $(-1, 0)$ and $n-2$ on the unit circle.

It is also easy to verify, by mathematical induction, that the sequence of polynomials $\{R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is generated by the three term recurrence relation

$$R_{n+1}^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) - \alpha_{n+1}zR_{n-1}^{(\lambda)}(z), \quad n \geq 1, \quad (7)$$

where $R_0(z) = 1$, $R_1(z) = z+1$, $\alpha_2 = 2 - \lambda$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\alpha_n = 1$ for $n \geq 3$.

Using results from [22] and the recurrence relation (7) we can show that for any $n \geq 1$, the two consecutive polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $R_{n+1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ do not have common zeros.

Since the sequence of polynomials $\{R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)\}$ satisfies the three term recurrence relation of type (6) with $\beta_n = 1$ for $n \geq 1$, $\alpha_2 = 2 - \lambda$, and $\alpha_n = 1$ for $n \geq 3$, we can apply Theorem 1. If $\lambda < 2$ and, consequently, $\alpha_2 = 2 - \lambda > 0$, then all zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are distinct (except for a possible double zero at $z = 1$ that occur when

$\lambda = -\frac{2}{n-1}$) and lie on $\mathcal{C}(1) \cup (0, \infty)$, where $\mathcal{C}(1) \equiv \{z : z = e^{i\theta}, 0 < \theta < 2\pi\}$. In particular, from Theorem 1, if $0 \leq \lambda < 2$, $\{\frac{2-\lambda}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots\}$ is a positive chain sequence, whose parameter sequence is $\{\frac{\lambda}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, \dots\}$. Then, for $0 \leq \lambda < 2$ all the zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are distinct and lie on the unit circle. These facts were partially given in the proof of Theorem 6, in [1], using different techniques.

Now we consider $z = e^{i\theta}$ with $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, and the transformation (4). For $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ then $x \in [-1, 1]$, and $z = z(x) = 2x^2 - 1 + 2x\sqrt{x^2 - 1}$.

The polynomials $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, defined in (5), are given by

$$W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) = U_n(x) - (1 - \lambda)U_{n-2}(x), \quad n \geq 1, \quad (8)$$

where the polynomials $U_n(x)$, $n \geq 0$, with $U_{-1}(x) = 0$, are the Chebyshev polynomials of second kind. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) &= 1 + \lambda(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1}) + z^n \\ &= 1 + z + \dots + z^n + (\lambda - 1)z(1 + z + \dots + z^{n-2}) \\ &= \frac{z^{n+1} - 1}{z - 1} + (\lambda - 1)z \frac{z^{n-1} - 1}{z - 1} \\ &= z^{n/2} \frac{z^{(n+1)/2} - z^{-(n+1)/2}}{z^{1/2} - z^{-1/2}} + (\lambda - 1)z^{n/2} \frac{z^{(n-1)/2} - z^{-(n-1)/2}}{z^{1/2} - z^{-1/2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Using that $(z^{1/2} + z^{-1/2})/2 = \cos(\theta/2) = x$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) &= z^{-n/2} R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = \frac{z^{(n+1)/2} - z^{-(n+1)/2}}{z^{1/2} - z^{-1/2}} + (\lambda - 1) \frac{z^{(n-1)/2} - z^{-(n-1)/2}}{z^{1/2} - z^{-1/2}} \\ &= \frac{\sin((n+1)\theta/2)}{\sin(\theta/2)} + (\lambda - 1) \frac{\sin((n-1)\theta/2)}{\sin(\theta/2)} \\ &= U_n(x) - (1 - \lambda)U_{n-2}(x). \end{aligned}$$

Since $U_n(x) - U_{n-2}(x) = 2T_n(x)$, for $n \geq 2$, see [20], where the polynomial $T_n(x)$ is the Chebyshev polynomial of first kind, we also can write

$$W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) = \lambda U_n(x) + 2(1 - \lambda)T_n(x). \quad (9)$$

4. Zeros of the polynomials $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$

From relation (8) the polynomials $\{W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)\}$ are quasi-orthogonal polynomials associated with the polynomials $\{U_n(x)\}$, see [5, 6]. Furthermore, $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ has at least $n - 2$ real distinct zeros in $(-1, 1)$ for $\lambda \neq 1$, see [21].

The trivial case $\lambda = 1$ in relation (8) means that $W_n^{(1)}(x) = U_n(x)$ and all zeros of $W_n^{(1)}(x)$ are real, distinct and they are located in $(-1, 1)$. The following results provide the location of the zeros of the polynomial $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ for different choices of the parameter λ .

Lemma 7. For $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ we have the following results about the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$.

1. At least $n - 2$ zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are real, distinct and are located in $(-1, 1)$.
2. If $-\frac{2}{n-1} < \lambda < 2$ ($-\frac{2}{n-1} < \lambda < 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) then all the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are distinct and located in $(-1, 1)$, when n is even (odd).
3. If $\lambda = 2$ ($\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$), then $x = 0$ is zero of multiplicity 2 (3) of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, when n is even (odd).
4. If $\lambda > 2$ ($\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$), then $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ has two purely imaginary zeros, when n is even (odd).
5. If $\lambda = -\frac{2}{n-1}$, then $x = 1$ and $x = -1$ are zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$.
6. If $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$, $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ has two real zeros ($\xi_{n,k}^{(\lambda)}$ and $-\xi_{n,k}^{(\lambda)}$) outside of the interval $[-1, 1]$.

Proof. 1. Follows directly, since $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ is quasi-orthogonal polynomial of order 2 with respect to $w(x) = \sqrt{1-x^2}$ on $(-1, 1)$ when $\lambda - 1 \neq 0$, and when $\lambda = 1$, $W_n^{(1)}(x) = U_n(x)$.

2. For these values of λ , $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has all its zeros on the unit circle. Consequently, from relation (5) all the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x(z))$ are in $(-1, 1)$. Observe that $z = 1$ is not a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $z(1) = z(-1) = 1$. Hence, $x = 1$ and $x = -1$ are not zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x(z))$. For this reason, we consider the open interval $(-1, 1)$. Furthermore, in the even case, from Theorem 1 follows that all the zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are distinct and, consequently, all the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are distinct. For n odd, the result that the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are distinct follow by the facts that $x = 0$ is a simple zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, $n - 2$ zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are distinct in the interval $(-1, 1)$ and $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) = (-1)^n W_n^{(\lambda)}(-x)$ (i.e., the real zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are symmetric with respect to the origin).
3. In this case, $z = -1$ is zero of multiplicity 2 (n even) and multiplicity 3 (n odd) of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$. Observe that $x(-1) = 0$. Hence, $x = 0$ is zero of multiplicity 2 (3) of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ when n is even (odd).
4. If $\lambda > 2$ ($\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$), from Theorem 6 we know that $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two negative zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and the remaining $n - 2$ zeros are on the unit circle. We can write $z_k^{(\lambda)} = r_k^{(\lambda)} e^{i\pi}$ for $r_k^{(\lambda)} > 1$, and

$$\begin{aligned} x(z_k^{(\lambda)}) = x(r_k^{(\lambda)} e^{i\pi}) &= \frac{(r_k^{(\lambda)} e^{i\pi})^{1/2} + (r_k^{(\lambda)} e^{i\pi})^{-1/2}}{2} \\ &= \left(\frac{(r_k^{(\lambda)})^{1/2} - (r_k^{(\lambda)})^{-1/2}}{2} \right) i = \beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} i, \end{aligned}$$

also

$$x\left(\frac{1}{z_k^{(\lambda)}}\right) = x\left(\frac{e^{i\pi}}{r_k^{(\lambda)}}\right) = \frac{(e^{i\pi}/r_k^{(\lambda)})^{1/2} + (e^{i\pi}/r_k^{(\lambda)})^{-1/2}}{2} = -\beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} i,$$

then $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ has two zeros that are purely imaginary complex numbers and the remaining $n - 2$ zeros are in $(-1, 1)$.

5. If $\lambda = -\frac{2}{n-1}$, $z = 1$ is zero of multiplicity 2 of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$. Observe that $z(1) = z(-1) = 1$. Hence, $x = 1$ and $x = -1$ are zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$.
6. If $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$, from Theorem 6 we know that $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two positive zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ and $n-2$ zeros on the unit circle. Observe that if $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (1, \infty)$, then $x(z_k^{(\lambda)}) = x(1/z_k^{(\lambda)}) \in (1, \infty)$. As the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are symmetric with respect to the origin, we conclude that $-x(z_k^{(\lambda)})$ is zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. Hence, $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ has two zeros outside $[-1, 1]$.

□

Remark 8. From Lemma 7 there follows that all the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are distinct, except in the cases $\lambda = 2$ for n even, and $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ for n odd.

Let $x_{n,1}, x_{n,2}, \dots, x_{n,n}$ and $x_{n-2,1}, x_{n-2,2}, \dots, x_{n-2,n-2}$ be zeros of $U_n(x)$ and $U_{n-2}(x)$, respectively. We know that the zeros of $U_n(x)$ and $U_{n-2}(x)$ are real, simple and they are located in $(-1, 1)$. Furthermore, since $U_n(x) = (-1)^n U_n(-x)$ and their zeros are symmetric with respect to the origin, it suffices to consider only their positive zeros, i.e., $x_{n,1} > x_{n,2} > \dots > x_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor} > 0$ and $x_{n-2,1} > x_{n-2,2} > \dots > x_{n-2, \lfloor (n-2)/2 \rfloor} > 0$, here denoted in decreasing order. It is very well known that these zeros satisfy the interlacing property

$$x_{n,1} > x_{n-2,1} > \dots > x_{n-2, \lfloor (n-2)/2 \rfloor} > x_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor} > 0.$$

Observe, from relation (8), that also $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) = (-1)^n W_n^{(\lambda)}(-x)$. Let $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)}, \xi_{n,2}^{(\lambda)}, \dots, \xi_{n,n}^{(\lambda)}$ be zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. As $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ is an even (odd) polynomial for n even (odd), their real zeros are symmetric with respect to the origin and also it suffices to consider only the positive zeros, $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)}, \xi_{n,2}^{(\lambda)}, \dots, \xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}^{(\lambda)}$. If n is odd, $\xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = 0$ is zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. We also denote the positive zeros in decreasing order, i.e.,

$$\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} > \xi_{n,2}^{(\lambda)} > \dots > \xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}^{(\lambda)} > 0.$$

The following results deal with the location of the zeros of polynomials $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ with respect to the zeros of polynomials $U_n(x)$ and $U_{n-2}(x)$.

Lemma 9. For $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, we have the following results about the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$:

1. If $\lambda < 1$, then

$$x_{n,1} < \xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} \quad \text{and} \quad x_{n,r} < \xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n-2,r-1}, \quad r = 2, 3, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor.$$

Furthermore,

- if $-\frac{2}{n-1} < \lambda < 1$, then $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} < 1$.

- If $\lambda = -\frac{2}{n-1}$, then $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} = 1$.
 - If $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$, then $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} > 1$.
2. If $\lambda > 1$, then

$$x_{n-2,r} < \xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,r}, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1.$$

Furthermore,

- if $1 < \lambda < 2$ ($1 < \lambda < 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) for n even (odd), then $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} < 1$.
- If $\lambda = 2$ ($\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) for n even (odd), then $0 = \xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$, that is, 0 is zero of multiplicity 2 (3) of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$.
- If $\lambda > 2$ ($\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) for n even (odd), then the other zero is $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} = \beta_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} i$.

Proof. 1. The proof of this interlacing property of zeros of combination of polynomials, for general case, can be found in [2, Lemma 2]. For the sake of the completeness of this work we give the proof for the zeros of $U_n(x)$, $U_{n-2}(x)$ and $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$.

For $\lambda < 1$ and $r = 2, 3, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$,

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n,r+1})) = -\text{sign}(U_{n-2}(x_{n,r+1})) = (-1)^{r-1}$$

and

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n-2,r})) = \text{sign}(U_n(x_{n-2,r})) = (-1)^r.$$

Hence there exist zeros $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$, $r = 2, 3, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ such that $x_{n,r} < \xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n-2,r-1}$. Furthermore,

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n,1})) = -\text{sign}(U_{n-2}(x_{n,1})) = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} W_n^{(\lambda)}(x) = \infty.$$

Hence, $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)}$ is a real zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ and $x_{n,1} < \xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)}$. Furthermore,

- if $-\frac{2}{n-1} < \lambda < 1$, from Lemma 7 item 2 it follows that $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} < 1$;
- if $\lambda = -\frac{2}{n-1}$, from Lemma 7 item 5 it follows that $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} = 1$;
- if $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$, from Lemma 7 item 6 it follows that $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} > 1$.

2. Similarly we have for $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1$, that

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n,r})) = \text{sign}(U_{n-2}(x_{n,r})) = (-1)^{r-1}$$

and

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n-2,r})) = \text{sign}(U_n(x_{n-2,r})) = (-1)^r.$$

Hence there exist zeros $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1$, of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ such that $x_{n-2,r} < \xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,r}$. Furthermore,

- If $1 < \lambda < 2$ and n even, for $r = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ we get $\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor})) = (-1)^{n/2-1}$ and $\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(0)) = (-1)^{n/2-1} \text{sign}(-2 + \lambda)$.

Hence, if $n/2$ is even,

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor})) = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(0)) = 1,$$

and, for $n/2$ odd,

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor})) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(0)) = -1.$$

Then, $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)}$ is zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ and $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$.

Similarly, if $1 < \lambda < 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ and n odd, for $r = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, we get

$$\text{sign}(W_n^{(\lambda)}(x_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)})) = (-1)^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1} \quad \text{and} \quad W_n^{(\lambda)}(0) = 0.$$

Then, we need to analyse the behaviour of $[W_n^{(\lambda)}(0)]'$. Firstly, we have

$$[W_n^{(\lambda)}(0)]' = (-1)^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (\lambda(1-n) + 2n) = (-1)^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (n-1) \left(2 + \frac{2}{n-1} - \lambda \right).$$

Since $(n-1) \left(2 + \frac{2}{n-1} - \lambda \right) > 0$, it follows that $\text{sign}([W_n^{(\lambda)}(0)]') = (-1)^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$.

Hence, $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ is an increasing (decreasing) function at the point $x = 0$ when $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ is even (odd). Consequently, $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)}$ is real zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ and $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$.

- If $\lambda = 2$ ($\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) and n even (odd), for $r = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, we have that $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} = 0$ is zero of multiplicity 2 (3) of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ and $0 = \xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} < x_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$, see Lemma 7 item 3.

- If $\lambda > 2$ ($\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) and n even (odd), from Lemma 7 item 4 it follows that $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} = \beta_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} i$ is zero of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$.

□

Lemma 10. *Every positive zero $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$ of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, for $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, is an increasing function of $1 - \lambda$ (consequently, decreasing function of λ).*

The proof of this result, for general case, can be found in [2].

From items 2 and 5 of Lemma 7 we know that if $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda < 2$ for n even or $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda < 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ for n odd, the zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are real, distinct and lie in the interval $[-1, 1]$. In this case we are denoting the positive zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ by $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ and if n is odd $\xi_{n,\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = 0$. Observe that, from Lemma 7 item

3, if $\lambda = 2$ ($\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$), $x = 0$ is zero of multiplicity 2 (3) of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, when n is even (odd). Hence, in these cases, we are considering $\xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} = 0$.

Now we are able to prove Theorem 2 with results about the distribution, simplicity and monotonicity of the zeros of polynomial $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ on the unit circle. Also we show Theorem 3 that deals with the monotonicity behaviour of the two positive zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ with respect to the parameter λ , when $\lambda < -\frac{2}{n-1}$ and $n > 1$, and with the behaviour of the two negative zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, when $\lambda > 2$ for n even or when $\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ for n odd, and $n > 1$.

Proof of Theorem 2. For $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda \leq 2$ (n even) or $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ (n odd), we know from Theorem 6 that all the zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ lie on the unit circle. From (5) and using the mapping (4) the zeros $z_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$ of the polynomial $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are represented by $z_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = e^{i\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}}$, with $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)})$, where $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ are the non-negative zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. For n odd, since $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ has a zero at $\xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = 0$, then $z_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = -1$ is zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and $\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = \pi$.

Since $\xi_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} > \xi_{n,2}^{(\lambda)} > \dots > \xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} \geq 0$ and $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)})$ is a decreasing function in $[-1, 1]$, it follows that $0 \leq \theta_{n,1}^{(\lambda)} < \theta_{n,2}^{(\lambda)} < \dots < \theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)} \leq \pi$.

For $\lambda_j < \lambda_l$, from Lemma 10 it follows that $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda_j)} > \xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda_l)}$. Hence, since $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)})$ is a decreasing function in $[-1, 1]$, we have $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda_j)} < \theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda_l)}$. Then, for $\lambda_j < \lambda_l$, $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda_j)} < \theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda_l)}$. □

Proof of Theorem 3.

1. We consider $\epsilon \geq 0$, such that $\lambda + \epsilon < -\frac{2}{n-1}$ (to guarantee the existence of two positive zeros) and

$$R_{n,\epsilon}^{(\lambda)}(z) = 1 + (\lambda + \epsilon)(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1}) + z^n,$$

with its real zeros are represented by $z_k^{(\lambda)}(\epsilon)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}(\epsilon)$.

It is clear that $z_k^{(\lambda)} = z_k^{(\lambda)}(0)$ and $R_{n,\epsilon}^{(\lambda)}(z) = R_n^{(\lambda)}(z) + \epsilon(z + z^2 + \dots + z^{n-1})$. Thus $R_{n,\epsilon}^{(\lambda)}(z_k^{(\lambda)}) = \epsilon(z_k^{(\lambda)}) + (z_k^{(\lambda)})^2 + \dots + (z_k^{(\lambda)})^{n-1}$ and then, for $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\text{sign}(R_{n,\epsilon}^{(\lambda)}(z_k^{(\lambda)})) = 1.$$

Hence, $z_k^{(\lambda)}(0) > z_k^{(\lambda)}(\epsilon)$, showing that $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ is a decreasing function of λ . Consequently, $1/z_k^{(\lambda)}$ is an increasing function of λ .

2. The result follows using the same idea of the proof of the previous item and the fact that $\text{sign}(R_{n,\epsilon}^{(\lambda)}(z_k^{(\lambda)})) = (-1)^{n-1}$. □

Now we can give other information about the monotonicity of the complex zeros of polynomials $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$, when they exist, with respect to parameter λ .

Theorem 11. For $\lambda > 2$ ($\lambda > 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$) and n even (odd), let $\pm\beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)}i$ be the purely imaginary zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. Then $\beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)}$ is an increasing function of λ .

Proof. From item 4 of Lemma 7, the purely imaginary zeros $\pm\beta_k^{(\lambda)}i$ of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$ are represented by

$$x(z_k^{(\lambda)}) = \left(\frac{(r_k^{(\lambda)})^{1/2} - (r_k^{(\lambda)})^{-1/2}}{2} \right) i \quad \text{and} \quad x\left(\frac{1}{z_k^{(\lambda)}}\right) = \left(\frac{(r_k^{(\lambda)})^{-1/2} - (r_k^{(\lambda)})^{1/2}}{2} \right) i,$$

where $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-\infty, -1)$ is a negative zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, i.e., $z_k^{(\lambda)} = -r_k^{(\lambda)}$ with $r_k^{(\lambda)} > 1$, and also $\beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)} = ((r_k^{(\lambda)})^{1/2} - (r_k^{(\lambda)})^{-1/2})/2 > 0$.

Observe that $\beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)}$ is a decreasing function of $z_k^{(\lambda)}$ in the interval $(-\infty, 0)$. Hence, from item 2 of Theorem 3, if $\lambda_j < \lambda_l$ then $z_k^{(\lambda_j)} > z_k^{(\lambda_l)}$ and, consequently, $x(z_k^{(\lambda_j)}) < x(z_k^{(\lambda_l)})$. Hence, $\beta_{n,k}^{(\lambda)}$ is an increasing function of λ . \square

Remark 12. From Lemma 5 and Theorems 2, 3 and 11, it follows that the zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are distinct, except in the cases: $\lambda = \frac{2}{n-1}$ ($z = 1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ of multiplicity 2); n even and $\lambda = 2$ ($z = -1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ of multiplicity 2); n odd and $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ ($z = -1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ of multiplicity 3).

Furthermore, we observe that for any $\tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ there exists a parameter $\tilde{\lambda}$ such that $W_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(\tilde{x}) = 0$. Indeed,

- If \tilde{x} is such that $U_{n-2}(\tilde{x}) = 0$, i.e., $\tilde{x} = x_{n-2,r}$ for $r = 1, 2, \dots, n-2$, since

$$\frac{W_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(\tilde{x})}{\tilde{\lambda}} = U_n(\tilde{x}) + 2\left(\frac{1}{\tilde{\lambda}} - 1\right)T_n(\tilde{x}),$$

then, when $\tilde{\lambda} \rightarrow +\infty$ or $\tilde{\lambda} \rightarrow -\infty$, the $n-2$ real zeros of the polynomial $W_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(x)$ tend, respectively, to the $n-2$ zeros of the polynomial $U_n(x) - 2T_n(x) = U_{n-2}(x)$.

- If \tilde{x} is such that $U_{n-2}(\tilde{x}) \neq 0$, then we may choose

$$\tilde{\lambda} = 1 - \frac{U_n(\tilde{x})}{U_{n-2}(\tilde{x})}$$

and from (8) we have that $W_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(\tilde{x}) = U_n(\tilde{x}) - (1 - \tilde{\lambda})U_{n-2}(\tilde{x}) = 0$.

From the three term recurrence relation for the Chebyshev polynomial of second kind, $U_{n+1}(x) = 2xU_n(x) - U_{n-1}(x)$, for $n \geq 1$, with $U_0(x) = 1$ and $U_1(x) = 2x$, one can easily show that $U_n(1) = (-1)^n U_n(-1) = n+1$. Furthermore that, for $n \geq 2$,

$$U_n(x) > \frac{n+1}{n}U_{n-1}(x) > \frac{n+1}{n-1}U_{n-2}(x), \quad \text{for } x > 1.$$

Notice that if $\tilde{x} = 1$ (or $\tilde{x} = -1$), then

$$\tilde{\lambda} = 1 - \frac{U_n(1)}{U_{n-2}(1)} = 1 - \frac{(-1)^n U_n(-1)}{(-1)^{n-2} U_{n-2}(-1)} = 1 - \frac{n+1}{n-1} = -\frac{2}{n-1}.$$

From Remark 12, when $\tilde{\lambda} = -\frac{2}{n-1}$, the value $\tilde{z} = 1$ is a zero of $R_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(z)$ of multiplicity 2, that correspond to $\tilde{x} = 1$ and $\tilde{x} = -1$.

If $\tilde{x} > 1$ (or $\tilde{x} < -1$), then

$$\tilde{\lambda} = 1 - \frac{U_n(\tilde{x})}{U_{n-2}(\tilde{x})} = 1 - \frac{(-1)^n U_n(-\tilde{x})}{(-1)^{n-2} U_{n-2}(-\tilde{x})} < 1 - \frac{n+1}{n-1} = -\frac{2}{n-1}.$$

Also, $\tilde{z} \in (1, \infty)$ and $1/\tilde{z} \in (0, 1)$ are zeros of $R_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(z)$.

Consequently, using the transformation (4) and the relation (8) we can observe the following.

Remark 13. For any $\tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}$ there exists a parameter $\tilde{\lambda}$ such that $W_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(\tilde{x}) = 0$. For any $\tilde{\theta} \in [0, 2\pi]$ there exists a parameter $\tilde{\lambda}$ such that $R_n^{(\tilde{\lambda})}(e^{i\tilde{\theta}}) = 0$. It means that the unit circle is covered by zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ for different choices of the parameter $\lambda \in (-\infty, \infty)$.

4.1. Special cases

For $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda \leq 2$ (n even) or $-\frac{2}{n-1} \leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{n-1}$ (n odd), we know that the zeros of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ located in the first and second quadrants are represented by $z_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = e^{i\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$, $0 \leq \theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} \leq \pi$, with $\theta_{n,r}^{(\lambda)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)})$, where $\xi_{n,r}^{(\lambda)}$ are the non-negative zeros of $W_n^{(\lambda)}(x)$. If n is odd, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1$ and $\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)} = \pi$.

If $\lambda = 0$, from equation (9) we have $z^{-n/2} R_n^{(0)}(z) = W_n^{(0)}(x) = 2T_n(x)$. Then, the zeros of $W_n^{(0)}(x)$ are represented by $\xi_{n,r}^{(0)} = \cos\left(\frac{(2r-1)\pi}{2n}\right)$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$. Hence,

$$\theta_{n,r}^{(0)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(0)}) = \frac{(2r-1)\pi}{n}$$

and, for n odd, $\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(0)} = \pi$.

If $\lambda = 1$, from equation (8) we have $W_n^{(1)}(x) = U_n(x)$. Then, the zeros of $W_n^{(1)}(x)$ are represented by $\xi_{n,r}^{(1)} = \cos\left(\frac{r\pi}{n+1}\right)$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$. Hence,

$$\theta_{n,r}^{(1)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(1)}) = \frac{2r\pi}{n+1}$$

and, for n odd, $\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(1)} = \pi$.

If $\lambda = 2$, from equation (8) we have $W_n^{(2)}(x) = U_n(x) - T_n(x)$. Then, the zeros of $W_n^{(2)}(x)$ are represented by $\xi_{n,r}^{(2)} = \cos\left(\frac{r\pi}{n}\right)$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ and $\xi_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(2)} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$ (for n odd). Hence,

$$\theta_{n,r}^{(2)} = 2 \arccos(\xi_{n,r}^{(2)}) = \frac{2r\pi}{n}, r = 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(2)} = \pi \quad (\text{for } n \text{ odd}).$$

Observe that, if $\lambda = 2$ and n is even, from Lemma 5 follows that $z = -1$ is zero of multiplicity 2 of $R_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ and, consequently, $\theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(2)} = \theta_{n, \lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(2)} = \pi$.

5. An application: zeros of the polynomials $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$

We give here the proof of Theorem 4, about the location of the zeros of the polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$ defined by (1) and (2).

Proof of Theorem 4. Observe that, if n is even,

$$S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = \left(\frac{z^{n/2} - 1}{z - 1} \right) R_{n/2+1}^{(\lambda)}(z) = R_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z) R_{n/2+1}^{(\lambda)}(z). \quad (10)$$

Hence, we need to analyse the zeros of $R_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z)$ and $R_{n/2+1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$.

From Theorem 6 and the results presented in Section 4.1, we have that the zeros of $R_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z)$ are located on the unit circle and are given by $z_{n/2-1,r}^{(1)} = e^{i\theta_{n/2-1,r}^{(1)}}$, where $\theta_{n/2-1,r}^{(1)} = \frac{4r\pi}{n}$, $r = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n/2-1}{2} = \frac{n-2}{4}$, if $n/2 - 1$ is even, and $r = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{n/2-1}{2} + 1 = \frac{n+2}{4}$, if $n/2 - 1$ is odd. Notice that $0 \leq \theta_{n/2-1,r}^{(1)} \leq \pi$ (we are considering just the zeros on the first and second quadrants; the other zeros are the complex conjugate ones). Notice, also, that the zeros of $R_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z)$ are fixed.

Also, from Theorem 6 we know that the zeros of $R_{n/2+1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are located on the unit circle if

$$-\frac{2}{n/2} \leq \lambda \leq 2, \quad \text{when } \frac{n}{2} \text{ is odd}$$

or

$$-\frac{2}{n/2} \leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{n/2}, \quad \text{when } \frac{n}{2} \text{ is even.}$$

Furthermore, if $\lambda \in \left(-\infty, -\frac{2}{n/2}\right)$, $R_{n/2+1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two positive zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (1, +\infty)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (0, 1)$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle. In the same way, if $\lambda \in (2, +\infty)$ (when $\frac{n}{2}$ odd) and $\lambda \in \left(2 + \frac{2}{n/2}, +\infty\right)$ (when $\frac{n}{2}$ even), $R_{n/2+1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two negative zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-\infty, -1)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-1, 0)$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle.

In the case that n is odd,

$$S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = \left(\frac{z^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1} - 1}{z - 1} \right) R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z) = R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z) R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z). \quad (11)$$

Hence, we need to analyse the zeros of $R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z)$ and $R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$.

From Theorem 6 and the results presented in Section 4.1, we have that the zeros of $R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z)$ are located on the unit circle and they are given by $z_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, r}^{(1)} = e^{i\theta_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, r}^{(1)}}$, where $\theta_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, r}^{(1)} = \frac{2r\pi}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}$, for $r = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}{2}$, if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is even, and for $r = 1, 2, \dots, \frac{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}{2} + 1$, if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is odd. Here $0 \leq \theta_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor, r}^{(1)} \leq \pi$ (again we are considering just the zeros on the first and second quadrants).

Also, from Theorem 6 we have that the zeros of $R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ are located on the unit circle if

$$-\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \leq \lambda \leq 2, \quad \text{when } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \text{ is odd}$$

or

$$-\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \leq \lambda \leq 2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}, \quad \text{when } \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor \text{ is even.}$$

Furthermore, if $\lambda \in \left(-\infty, -\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}\right)$, $R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two positive zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (1, +\infty)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (0, 1)$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle. In the same way, if $\lambda \in (2, +\infty)$ (when $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ odd) and $\lambda \in \left(2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}, +\infty\right)$ (when $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ even), $R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z)$ has two negative zeros $z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-\infty, -1)$ and $1/z_k^{(\lambda)} \in (-1, 0)$ and the other zeros are located on the unit circle. \square

As consequence of Lemma 5 and Theorem 4 (relations (10) and (11)) we have the following results:

Corollary 14. *Considering the polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, $n \geq 3$ with n odd, then*

1. if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is odd,

$$S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)A_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}^{(1)}(z)R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor + 1}^{(\lambda)}(z);$$

2. if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is odd and $\lambda = 2$,

$$S_n^{(2)}(z) = (z+1)A_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}^{(1)}(z)(z+1)^2 A_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}^{(1)}(z) = (z+1)^3 \left(A_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}^{(1)}(z)\right)^2;$$

3. if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is even,

$$S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z)A_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(\lambda)}(z);$$

4. if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is even and $\lambda = 2$,

$$S_n^{(2)}(z) = (z+1)R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z)A_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(2)}(z) = (z+1) \left(R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z)\right)^2;$$

5. if $\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ is even and $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$,

$$S_n^{(2+2/\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)}(z) = (z+1)^3 R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z)C_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 2}(z).$$

Corollary 15. *Considering the polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, $n \geq 2$ with n even, then*

1. *if $\frac{n}{2}$ is even,*

$$S_n^{(\lambda)}(z) = (z+1)^2 A_{n/2-2}^{(1)}(z) A_{n/2}^{(\lambda)}(z);$$

2. *if $\frac{n}{2}$ is even and $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{n/2}$,*

$$S_n^{(2+2/(n/2))}(z) = (z+1)^4 A_{n/2-2}^{(1)}(z) C_{n/2-2}(z);$$

3. *if $\frac{n}{2}$ is odd and $\lambda = 2$,*

$$S_n^{(2)}(z) = (z+1)^2 R_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z) A_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z).$$

Corollary 16. *Considering the polynomial $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, $n \geq 2$ with $\lambda = -\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$, then*

1. *if n is even,*

$$S_n^{(-2/\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)}(z) = (z-1)^2 R_{n/2-1}^{(1)}(z) B_{n/2-1}(z);$$

2. *if n is odd,*

$$S_n^{(-2/\lfloor n/2 \rfloor)}(z) = (z-1)^2 R_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}^{(1)}(z) B_{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1}(z).$$

Remark 17. *The zeros of $S_n^{(\lambda)}(z)$, $n \geq 2$, are distinct, except in the following cases*

1. *n even and $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ even (Corollary 15 item 1);*
2. *$\lambda = -\frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$ (Corollary 16);*
3. *n odd, $\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ even and $\lambda = 2$ (Corollary 14 item 4);*
4. *$\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ odd and $\lambda = 2$ (Corollary 14 item 2 and Corollary 15 item 3);*
5. *$\lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ even and $\lambda = 2 + \frac{2}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor}$ (Corollary 14 item 5 and Corollary 15 item 2).*

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