

Solution (#1528) From #474 we have that

$$T_n(\cos \theta) = \cos n\theta.$$

So if $m \neq n$ then the substitution $x = \cos \theta$ leads to

$$T_m \cdot T_n = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{T_m(x)T_n(x)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \int_{\pi}^0 \frac{T_m(\cos \theta)T_n(\cos \theta)}{\sin \theta} (-\sin \theta d\theta) = \int_0^{\pi} \cos m\theta \cos n\theta d\theta.$$

We have the trigonometric identity

$$2 \cos m\theta \cos n\theta = \cos(m-n)\theta + \cos(m+n)\theta$$

and so for $m \neq n$ we have

$$T_m \cdot T_n = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{\sin(m-n)\theta}{m-n} + \frac{\sin(m+n)\theta}{m+n} \right]_0^{\pi} = 0.$$

When $m = n$ we have

$$T_m \cdot T_n = \begin{cases} \pi & \text{when } m = n = 0; \\ \frac{\pi}{2} & \text{when } m = n > 0. \end{cases}$$

Hence the Chebyshev polynomials are orthogonal but not orthonormal with respect to this inner product.