

Orthogonality and Normalization of Bessel function:

$$\int_0^1 x J_p(ax) J_p(bx) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } a \neq b \\ \frac{1}{2} J_{p+1}^2(a) = \frac{1}{2} J_{p-1}^2(a) = \frac{1}{2} J_p'^2(a) & \text{if } a = b \end{cases},$$

where a and b are called zero's of $J_p(x)$.

Proof: To prove the orthogonality of Bessel function, we have to carry out the followings:

1. Rewrite the Bessel function

$$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - p^2)y = 0 \text{ in the form}$$

$$x(xy')' + (x^2 - p^2)y = 0.$$

2. Replace x by ax and you may get $ax \frac{dy}{dax}$ equal to $x \frac{dy}{dx}$ and similarly $x(xy')'$ is unchanged. Thus the DE $x(xy')' + (a^2 x^2 - p^2)y = 0$ has a solution $y = J_p(ax)$.

3. Replace x by bx and similarly you may get the DE $x(xy')' + (b^2 x^2 - p^2)y = 0$ with its solution $y = J_p(bx)$.

4. Multiply the DE in (2) by $J_p(bx)$ and that in (3) by $J_p(ax)$. Then subtract the resulting equations and divide by x to

$$\text{get: } \frac{d}{dx} (xJ_p(bx)J_p'(ax) - xJ_p(ax)J_p'(bx)) + (a^2 - b^2)xJ_p(ax)J_p(bx) = 0$$

5. Integrate the resulting equation in (4) from 0 to 1 to obtain:

$$(xJ_p(bx)J_p'(ax) - xJ_p(ax)J_p'(bx)) \Big|_0^1 + (a^2 - b^2) \int_0^1 xJ_p(ax)J_p(bx) dx = 0$$

6. The first term of the equation in (5) tends to zero. This is because a) at the lower limit ($x=0$) $J_p(ax)$, $J_p(bx)$, $J_p'(ax)$ and $J_p'(bx)$ are all finite. b) At the upper limit ($x=1$), $J_p(a) = J_p(b) = 0$, where a and b are considered as zero's of J_p .

Thus the final result is $\boxed{(a^2 - b^2) \int_0^1 xJ_p(ax)J_p(bx) dx = 0}$ Q.E.D

Hermite Functions and Laguerre Functions:

These functions arise as solutions of eigenvalue problems in Quantum Mechanics.

Hermite Functions and Ladder operators:

The DE for Hermite functions is $y_n'' - x^2 y_n + (2n + 1)y_n = 0$ (1)
where $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \text{etc.}$

By defining a differential operator $D = \frac{d}{dx}$ and substituting it into equation (1) we may write the DE in two forms:

Either

$$(D - x)(D + x)y_n = -2ny_n \quad (2)$$

Or

$$(D - x)(D + x)y_n = -2(n + 1)y_n \quad (3)$$

If n is replaced by m in equation (2) and operate with $D+x$ on this equation we get:

$$(D + x)(D - x)[(D + x)y_m] = -2m[(D + x)y_m] \quad (4)$$

Also if n is replaced by m in equation (3) and operate on this equation with $D-x$, then we have:

$$(D - x)(D + x)[(D - x)y_m] = -(2m + 1)[(D - x)y_m] \quad (5)$$

By comparing equations (2) and (5), you may get:

i) $y_n = [(D-x)y_m]$

and

ii) $n = m + 1$

$\therefore y_{m+1} = (D-x)y_m$

 . [Here $D-x$ is called raising operator].

Thus we have got a solution y_m of equation (1) for $n = m$.

How can we get a solution for $n = m + 1$?

Answer: We can get the solution for $m + 1$ by just applying the "raising operator" $D-x$ on y_m .

iii) Also by comparing equation (3) and (4), we get
 $y_n = [(D+x)y_m]$

and

iv) $n = m - 1$

$\therefore y_{m-1} = (D+x)y_m$ [Here $D+x$ is called lowering operator].

Notes: In Q.M. raising and lowering operators are called creation and annihilation operators respectively. And all such operators are called ladder operators.

Problem: Use equation (1) to show that $y_0 = e^{-x^2/2}$.

Solution: Put $n = 0$ in equation (1) to get $y_0'' - x^2 y_0 + y_0 = 0$.

Also from equation (2) we have $(D-x)(D+x)y_0 = 0$.

This will give $(\frac{d}{dx} - x)(y_0' + xy_0) = 0 \Rightarrow y_0'' - x^2 y_0 + y_0 = 0$.

Thus the operator equation is the same as the original DE.

Now if we find a solution to $(D+x)y_0 = 0$ and then operate with $D-x$ on this resulting solution we will get the final solution to our DE.

Thus $(D+x)y_0 = 0$ becomes $\frac{dy_0}{dx} + xy_0 = 0$. This last DE will be simply solved in this way:

$$\int_0^{y_0} \frac{dy_0}{y_0} = -\int_0^x x dx \Rightarrow \boxed{\therefore y_0 = e^{-x^2/2}}$$

But we have to remember that we are seeking a solution for n greater than zero. Here we can operate with $(D-x)$ n times, where $y_{m+1} = (D-x)y_m$, remembering that $n = m+1$.

$$\boxed{\therefore y_n = (D-x)^n e^{-x^2/2}}$$

These are called the Hermite functions and they can be

rewritten as
$$\therefore y_n = e^{x^2/2} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} e^{-x^2} \quad (\text{Solve problem 22.3})$$

Hermite Polynomials:

We can get the Hermite polynomials simply by developing their Rodrigues formula. This formula can be obtained by multiplying the last equation by $(-1)^n e^{x^2/2}$.

$$\therefore H_n(x) = (-1)^n e^{x^2} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} e^{-x^2} \quad (\text{The Rodrigues formula}).$$

To find the Hermite polynomials $H_0(x)$, $H_1(x)$ and $H_2(x)$, using the Rodrigues formula for the Hermite polynomials (problem 22.4), we will have:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{For } n=0 &\Rightarrow H_0(x) = 1 \\ \text{For } n=1 &\Rightarrow H_1(x) = 2x \\ \text{For } n=2 &\Rightarrow H_2(x) = 4x^2 - 2 \end{aligned}$$

[Note: Suggested problems (22.5, 22.6)]

Properties of Hermite Polynomials:

$$i) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} H_n(x) H_m(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n \neq m \\ \sqrt{\pi} 2^n n! & \text{if } n = m \end{cases} \quad (\text{Solve problem 10})$$

ii) The generating function for the Hermite polynomials can

be expressed by
$$\Phi(x, h) = e^{2xh - h^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{h^n}{n!} H_n(x)$$

(Solve problem 8).

iii) By using the generating function for the Hermite polynomials, two recursion relations can be found as: (Solve problem 9).

a. $H'_n(x) = 2nH_{n-1}(x)$

b. $H_{n+1}(x) = 2xH_n(x) - 2nH_{n-1}(x)$