

Some (definitely not all!) orthogonal polynomials and eigenfunctions of the Sturm-Liouville problem

Polynomial/ Function	Interval	$w(x)$	$p(x)$ (nb 1)	$s(x)$	λ	Standard normalization N^2	Generating function (nb 2)	K_n for Rodrigues's formula
Harmonic $\{e^{inx}\}$	$[-\pi, \pi]$	1	1	0	n^2	π	-	not a polynomial
Legendre $P_l(x)$	$[-1, 1]$	1	$1 - x^2$	0	$l(l+1)$	$\frac{2}{2l+1}$	$(1 - 2xt + t^2)^{-1/2}$	$\frac{1}{2^l l!} \cdot (-1)^l$ (nb 3)
Associated Legendre $P_l^m(x)$	$[-1, 1]$	1	$1 - x^2$	$\frac{m^2}{1 - x^2}$	$l(l+1)$	$\frac{2}{2l+1} \cdot \frac{(l+m)!}{(l-m)!}$	Modifications needed. Main definition: $P_l^m(x) = (-1)^m \frac{d^m}{dx^m} P_l(x)$	
Bessel of the first kind $J_p(x)$	$[0, 1]$	x	x	$-\frac{p^2}{x}$	1 (nb 4)	$\int_0^1 [J_p(ax)]^2 x dx$ $= \frac{1}{2} [J_p'(a)]^2$ (boundary condition $J_p(a) = 0$) (nb 5)	$e^{(x/2)(t-1/t)}$	not a polynomial
Laguerre $L_n(x)$	$[0, \infty]$	e^{-x}	$x e^{-x}$	0	n	1	$\frac{e^{-xt/(1-t)}}{1-t}, a_n = 1/n!$	$\frac{1}{n!}$
Associated Laguerre $L_n^k(x)$ (nb 6)	$[0, \infty]$	$x^k e^{-x}$	$x^{k+1} e^{-x}$	0	$-n$	$\frac{(n+k)!}{n!}$	$\frac{e^{-xt/(1-t)}}{(1-t)^{k+1}}, a_n = 1/n!$	$\frac{1}{n!}$
Hermite $H_n(x)$ (nb 7)	$[-\infty, \infty]$	e^{-x^2}	e^{-x^2}	0	$2n$	$2^n \pi^{1/2} n!$	$e^{-t^2+2tx}, a_n = 1/n!$	$(-1)^n$
Chebyshev polynomials $T_n(x)$	$[-1, 1]$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$	$(1-x^2)^{1/2}$	0	n^2	$\pi/2$, if $n \neq 0$; π , if $n = 0$	$\frac{1-tx}{1-2tx+t^2}$	$\frac{(-2)^n n!}{(2n)!}$

Checked against: Weber & Arfken (2003) *Essential Mathematical Methods for Physicists*, Academic Press. Chapters 9-13.

The Chebyshev polynomials are taken from Korn & Korn (1968) *Mathematical handbook...*, table 21.7-1.

However: please be careful and always check.

(nb 1) Warning, when computing the Rodrigues's formula: $p_0(x) = p(x)/w(x)$.

(nb 2) Here, $a_n = 1$ in the respective series expansion, unless otherwise specified. Warning: generating functions are not unique.

(nb 3) In most books, they take in Rodrigues's formula $p_0(x) \rightarrow -p_0(x)$ and therefore they show no factor $(-1)^l$ in K_l . However, they only do it in the Rodrigues's formula and not in the differential equation, so this is why we prefer to modify the K_l and introduce the minus sign there instead.

(nb 4) It is customary to make the change of variables $x = k\rho \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} = \frac{1}{k} \frac{d}{d\rho}$. After this change of variables, $\lambda = k^2$ and the interval is rescaled to $[0, \alpha]$ where the boundary condition is now $J_p(k\alpha) = 0$. Then, the normalization changes to

$$\int_0^\alpha \rho [J_p(k\rho)]^2 d\rho = \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \left[J_p'(c_{pm}) \right]^2 \text{ where } c_{pm} \text{ are the zeros of the Bessel function.}$$

(nb 5) See also nb 4. Because of recurrence formulae, one can express the normalization in other ways, for example, in terms of $J_\nu'(k_{\mu\nu}) = -J_{\nu+1}(k_{\mu\nu})$. The orthogonalization is achieved by considering Dirichlet boundary conditions, i.e., $J_\nu(k\alpha) = 0$. The Bessel function is oscillatory, so one needs to choose a zero at the right distance α to satisfy the boundary condition.

(nb 6) Similarly to the case of the associated Legendre polynomials, the Associated Laguerre polynomials are defined in terms of a

$$\text{derivative of the Laguerre polynomials, namely, } L_n^k(x) = (-1)^k \frac{d^k}{dx^k} L_{k+n}(x).$$

(nb 7) There is an alternative way of defining the Hermite polynomials and its differential equation. Here we take the "Physicist Hermite polynomials".

Generalized Bessel ODE

The ODE $y'' + \frac{1-2a}{x}y' + \left[(bcx^{c-1})^2 + \frac{a^2 - p^2c^2}{x^2} \right] y = 0$

with $a, b, c, p \in \mathbb{C}$ has the solution $y(x) = x^a Z_p(bx^c)$, where Z_p is a combination of Bessel $[J_p(x)]$ and Neumann $[Y_p(x) = (\cos(\pi p)J_p(x) - J_{-p}(x))/\sin(\pi p)]$ functions (multiplied by constants).

Equation	Solutions	a	b	c	p
Bessel	$J_p(x), Y_p(x)$ $H_p^{(1,2)} = J_p(x) \pm iY_p(x)$	0	1	1	p
Bessel (rescaled)	$J_p(k\rho), Y_p(k\rho), H_p(k\rho)$	0	k	1	p
Modified Bessel	$I_p(x) = i^{-p}J_p(ix)$ $K_p(x) = \frac{\pi}{2}i^{p+1}H_p^{(1)}(ix)$	0	i	1	p
Spherical Bessel	$j_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2x}}J_{(2n+1)/2}(x)$ $y_n(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2x}}Y_{(2n+1)/2}(x)$ $h_n^{(1,2)} = j_n(x) \pm iy_n(x)$	$-1/2$	1	1	$n + \frac{1}{2}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$
Ber, bei, ker, kei functions	$J_0(i^{3/2}x) = \text{ber } x + i \text{bei } x$ $K_0(i^{3/2}x) = \text{ker } x + i \text{kei } x$	0	$i^{3/2}$	1	0