

Hardy inequalities for fractional operators

Óscar Ciaurri Ramírez

Departamento de Matemáticas y Computación
Universidad de La Rioja

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Note on a Theorem of Hilbert.

By

G. H. Hardy.

1. It was proved by Hilbert, in the course of his investigations in the theory of integral equations, that the series

$$\sum_{m, n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_m a_n}{m+n} \quad (a_m \geq 0)$$

is convergent whenever $\sum a_n^2$ is convergent. Of this theorem, which is one of the simplest and most beautiful in the theory of double series of positive terms, at least five essentially different proofs have been published. Hilbert's own proof, which depends upon the theory of Fourier's series, is outlined by Weyl in his *Inaugural-Dissertation*¹⁾. Another proof was given by Wiener²⁾, and two more by Schur³⁾; but none of these proofs is as simple and elementary as might be desired. Thus Schur's first proof depends upon the theory of quadratic and bilinear forms in an infinity of variables; and his second (which is unquestionably the most elegant of all) on a change of variables in a double integral. And Wiener's proof, while genuinely elementary, is distinctly artificial.

To these four proofs I added recently⁴⁾ a fifth which seemed to me to lack nothing in simplicity. I observed first that Hilbert's theorem is an immediate corollary of another theorem which seems of some interest in itself. This theorem is as follows:

¹⁾ H. Weyl, „Singuläre Integralgleichungen“, Göttingen 1908, p. 88.

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Math.Z. 1920, p. 314

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Theorem A. If $\sum a_n^2$ is convergent then

$$\sum \left(\frac{A_n}{n}\right)^2,$$

where $A_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$, is convergent.

In order to deduce Hilbert's theorem from Theorem A, we have only to observe that the convergence of the two series in question involves that of

$$\sum \frac{a_n A_n}{n},$$

and a fortiori of

$$\sum a_n \sum_{m=1}^n \frac{a_m}{m+n}$$

or of

$$\sum_{m \leq n} \frac{a_m a_n}{m+n}.$$

2. Dr. Marcel Riesz, to whom recently I communicated Theorem A, at once found another proof which is equal to my own in simplicity, and which seems to both of us more natural and therefore preferable. His proof naturally suggests an interesting generalisation, viz:

Theorem B. If $\kappa > 1$ and $\sum a_n^\kappa$ is convergent, then

$$\sum \left(\frac{A_n}{n}\right)^\kappa$$

is convergent.

I give the proof of this theorem here: Riesz's proof of Theorem A is obtained by writing $\kappa = 2$ throughout the argument.

Let

$$\phi_n = n^{-\kappa} + (n+1)^{-\kappa} + (n+2)^{-\kappa} + \dots$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_1^N \left(\frac{A_n}{n}\right)^\kappa &= \sum_1^N A_n^\kappa (\phi_n - \phi_{n+1}) = \sum_1^N (A_n^\kappa - A_{n-1}^\kappa) \phi_n - A_N^\kappa \phi_{N+1} \\ &\leq \sum_1^N (A_n^\kappa - A_{n-1}^\kappa) \phi_n \leq \kappa \sum_1^N a_n A_{n-1}^{\kappa-1} \phi_n. \end{aligned}$$

But

$$(1) \quad \phi_n < n^{-\kappa} + \int_1^{\infty} x^{-\kappa} dx = n^{-\kappa} + \frac{n^{-(\kappa-1)}}{\kappa-1} \leq \frac{\kappa}{\kappa-1} n^{-(\kappa-1)};$$

$\therefore A_n = 0$.

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The corresponding inequality for integrals is

$$(4) \quad \int_a^{\infty} \left(\frac{F}{x}\right)^{\kappa} dx \leq \left(\frac{\kappa}{\kappa-1}\right)^{\kappa} \int_a^{\infty} f^{\kappa} dx.$$

Here

$$F = \int_a^x f dt,$$

and a and f are positive. It will be observed that in this inequality we have a smaller constant than in (1), and it is easy to show, by taking $f = x^{-\frac{\kappa}{\kappa-1}-\varepsilon}$, where ε is small, that the constant is in fact the correct one. I can show that, in (2), the constant cannot be replaced by any smaller constant than that which occurs in (4); but whether this constant will suffice I cannot say.

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- A. Kufner, L. Maligranda and L. E. Persson, The Prehistory of the Hardy Inequality, *Amer. Math. Monthly*, 2006.

The Hardy inequality for the fractional Laplacian

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$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u(x)|^2 dx > \frac{(d-2)^2}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(x)|^2}{|x|^2} dx,$$

or, equivalently,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \bar{u}(x)(-\Delta)u(x) dx > \frac{(d-2)^2}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(x)|^2}{|x|^2} dx.$$

The Hardy inequality for the fractional Laplacian

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- A proof with integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left| \nabla u(x) - \alpha \frac{x}{|x|} u(x) \right|^2 dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u(x)|^2 dx - \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left\langle \nabla u(x), x \frac{u(x)}{|x|} \right\rangle + \alpha^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(x)|^2}{|x|^2} dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\nabla u(x)|^2 dx + ((d-2)\alpha + \alpha^2) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(x)|^2}{|x|^2} dx. \end{aligned}$$

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- The minimum is attained for $\alpha = -(d-2)/2$ and in that case $(d-2)\alpha + \alpha^2 = -(d-2)^2/4$.

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- The constant is optimal but not attained.

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$$h[u] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \bar{u}(x) (-\Delta)^\sigma u(x) dx - C_\sigma \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(x)|^2}{|x|^{2\sigma}} dx \geq 0$$

holds, with

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- **First ingredient:** for $0 < \alpha < d$,

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- Then, for $0 < \alpha < d - 2\sigma$,

$$(-\Delta)^\sigma |\cdot|^{-\alpha} = 2^{2\sigma} \frac{\Gamma((d-\alpha)/2)}{\Gamma((d-\alpha)/2 - \sigma)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha/2 + \sigma)}{\Gamma(\alpha/2)} |\cdot|^{-\alpha-2\sigma}.$$

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- **Second ingredient:** for $0 < \sigma < 1$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \bar{f}(x) (-\Delta)^\sigma f(x) dx = c_{d,\sigma} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{d+2\sigma}} dy,$$

$$\text{con } c_{d,\sigma} = \frac{2^{2\sigma-1} \Gamma(\sigma+d/2)}{\pi^{d/2} |\Gamma(-\sigma)|}.$$

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- Taking $g(x) = |x|^{-(d-2\sigma)/2}$ and $f(x) = |u(x)|^2/g(x)$ we obtain

$$h[u] = a_\sigma \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|v(x) - v(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{d+2\sigma}} \frac{dx}{|x|^{(d-2\sigma)/2}} \frac{dy}{|y|^{(d-2\sigma)/2}},$$

with $v(x) = |x|^{(d-2\sigma)/2} u(x)$ and the Hardy inequality is obtained.

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- *Ground state representation*, Frank, Lieb and Seiringer (2007) (Loss in a particular case).

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- By using Yafaev's technique, Gorbachev, Ivanov, and Tikhonov have obtained the Hardy inequality for the Dunkl Laplacian (JAT, 2016) and its a -deformed version (IMRN, 2016).

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- For the discrete Laplacian: C. and Roncal (Journal of Analysis, 2018).

The Hardy inequality for ultraspherical expansions

The Hardy inequality for ultraspherical expansions

- For $\lambda > -1/2$, let $\{c_n^\lambda\}_{n \geq 0}$ be the sequence of ultraspherical polynomials normalized in $L^2((-1, 1), d\mu_\lambda)$, with

$$d\mu_\lambda(x) = (1 - x^2)^{\lambda-1/2} dx.$$

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- For each function f in $(-1, 1)$, we define its ultraspherical expansion

$$f \longmapsto \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(f) c_n^\lambda, \quad a_n(f) = \int_{-1}^1 f(x) c_n^\lambda(x) d\mu_\lambda(x).$$

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- For each $\sigma > 0$, we define the operator

$$\mathbf{A}_\sigma^\lambda f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(n + \lambda + \frac{1+\sigma}{2})}{\Gamma(n + \lambda + \frac{1-\sigma}{2})} a_n(f) c_n^\lambda(x).$$

The Hardy inequality for ultraspherical expansions

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- The natural Sobolev space to analyse Hardy type inequalities is

$$H_{\lambda}^{\sigma} = \left\{ f : \|f\|_{H_{\lambda}^{\sigma}} := \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n + \lambda)^{\sigma} (a_n(f))^2 \right)^{1/2} < \infty \right\}.$$

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Theorem

Let $\lambda > 0$ and $0 < \sigma < 1$. Then for $u \in H_{\lambda}^{\sigma}$

$$Q_{\sigma, \lambda} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{u^2(x)}{(1-x^2)^{\sigma/2}} d\mu_{\lambda}(x) \leq \int_{-1}^1 u(x) \mathbf{A}_{\sigma}^{\lambda} u(x) d\mu_{\lambda}(x),$$

where

$$Q_{\sigma, \lambda} = 2^{\sigma} \left(\frac{\Gamma(\frac{\lambda}{2} + \frac{1+\sigma}{4})}{\Gamma(\frac{\lambda}{2} + \frac{1-\sigma}{4})} \right)^2.$$

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- An uncertainty principle:

Corollary

Let $\lambda > 0$ and $0 < \sigma < 1$. Then for $u \in H_\lambda^\sigma$

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{\sigma,\lambda} \left(\int_{-1}^1 u^2(x) d\mu_\lambda(x) \right)^2 \\ \leq \int_{-1}^1 u^2(x) (1-x^2)^{\sigma/2} d\mu_\lambda(x) \int_{-1}^1 u(x) \mathbf{A}_\sigma^\lambda u(x) d\mu_\lambda(x), \end{aligned}$$

where $Q_{\sigma,\lambda}$ is the constant in the Hardy inequality.

The Hardy inequality for ultraspherical expansions

The Hardy inequality for ultraspherical expansions

- The Pitt inequality allows us to prove a logarithmic uncertainty principle for the ultraspherical expansions: if $\psi(a) = \frac{\Gamma'(a)}{\Gamma(a)}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\log 2 + \psi \left(\frac{\lambda}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \right) \right) \int_{-1}^1 u^2(x) d\mu_\lambda(x) \\ & \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi \left(n + \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \right) (a_n(u))^2 + \int_{-1}^1 \log(\sqrt{1-x^2}) u^2(x) d\mu_\lambda(x). \end{aligned}$$

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- The proof follows Beckner (1995). For a derivable function such that $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(\sigma) > 0$ for $\sigma \in (0, \varepsilon)$, with $\varepsilon > 0$, it is verified that $\phi'(0_+) > 0$.

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- The proof follows Beckner (1995). For a derivable function such that $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(\sigma) > 0$ for $\sigma \in (0, \varepsilon)$, with $\varepsilon > 0$, it is verified that $\phi'(0_+) > 0$.
- Taking the function

$$\phi(\sigma) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(n + \lambda + \frac{1+\sigma}{2})}{\Gamma(n + \lambda + \frac{1-\sigma}{2})} (a_n(u))^2 - Q_{\sigma,\lambda} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{u^2(x)}{(1-x^2)^{\sigma/2}} d\mu_\lambda(x),$$

we have $\phi(0) = 0$ (the Parseval identity) and $\phi(\sigma) > 0$ for $\sigma \in (0, 1)$ (the Pitt inequality), then $\phi'(0_+) > 0$ and this is the logarithmic uncertainty principle.

The first ingredient

The first ingredient

Lemma

Let $\lambda > 0$ and $2\lambda + 1 > \sigma > 0$. Then

$$\mathbf{A}_\sigma^\lambda \left(\frac{1}{(1-x^2)^{\lambda/2+(1-\sigma)/4}} \right) = \frac{Q_{\sigma,\lambda}}{(1-x^2)^{\lambda/2+(1+\sigma)/4}},$$

where $Q_{\sigma,\lambda}$ is the constant given in the Hardy inequality.

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- The proof is obtained evaluating some integrals containing ultraspherical polynomials and manipulating some ${}_3F_2$ involve in them.

The second ingredient

The second ingredient

Lemma

Let $\lambda > 0$, $0 < \sigma < 1$, and $f \in H_\lambda^\sigma$. Then

$$\mathbf{A}_\sigma^\lambda f(x) = \int_{-1}^1 (f(x) - f(y)) K_\sigma^\lambda(x, y) d\mu_\lambda(y) + E_{\sigma, \lambda} f(x),$$

where the kernel is given by

$$K_\sigma^\lambda(x, y) = D_{\sigma, \lambda} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{d\mu_\lambda(t)}{(1 - xy - \sqrt{1 - x^2} \sqrt{1 - y^2} t)^{\lambda + (1 + \sigma)/2}},$$

with

$$D_{\sigma, \lambda} = \frac{c_\lambda^2}{2^{\lambda + (1 + \sigma)/2}} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1 - \sigma}{2}) \Gamma(\lambda + \frac{1 + \sigma}{2})}{|\Gamma(-\sigma)| \Gamma(1 + \lambda)}, \quad E_{\sigma, \lambda} = \frac{\Gamma(\lambda + \frac{1 + \sigma}{2})}{\Gamma(\lambda + \frac{1 - \sigma}{2})}.$$

The Hardy inequality on the sphere

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- For a function f in the sphere, we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \text{proj}_k f(x),$$

where $\text{proj}_k f$ is the projection of the function f onto \mathcal{H}_k^d , the space of spherical harmonics of degree k , and it is given by

$$\text{proj}_k f(x) = \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) Z_k(x, y) \frac{d\omega(y)}{s_d}, \quad Z_k(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_k^d} Y_j(x) Y_j(y),$$

for $\{Y_j : 1 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_k^d\}$ an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{H}_k^d .

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- Taking the operator

$$L_d = \Delta_{S^{d-1}} - ((d-2)/2)^2$$

where $-\Delta_{S^{d-1}}$ is the Laplace-Beltrami operator on the sphere, we have

$$-L_d Y_j(x) = (k + (d-2)/2)^2 Y_j(x),$$

for each spherical harmonic of degree k .

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- The analogous of the operator $\mathbf{A}_\sigma^\lambda$ on \mathbb{S}^d is defined by

$$A_\sigma f = \frac{\Gamma\left(\sqrt{-L_d} + \frac{1+\sigma}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\sqrt{-L_d} + \frac{1-\sigma}{2}\right)} f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma\left(n + \frac{d-2}{2} + \frac{1+\sigma}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(n + \frac{d-2}{2} + \frac{1-\sigma}{2}\right)} \text{proj}_n f,$$

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- We consider the Sobolev space

$$\mathbf{H}^\sigma = \left\{ f : \|f\|_{\mathbf{H}^\sigma} := \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(n + \frac{d-1}{2} \right)^\sigma \| \text{proj}_n f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})}^2 \right)^{1/2} < \infty \right\}.$$

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Theorem

Let $d \geq 3$, $0 < \sigma < 1$, and e_d be the north pole of the sphere \mathbb{S}^{d-1} . Then for $f \in \mathbf{H}^\sigma$

$$2^\sigma Q_{\sigma, (d-2)/2} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \frac{|f(x)|^2}{(|x - e_d||x + e_d|)^\sigma} dx \leq \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \bar{f}(x) A_\sigma f(x) dx.$$

A discrete Hardy inequality in the Jacobi setting

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- For $\alpha, \beta > -1$, we consider the sequences

$$a_n^{(\alpha, \beta)} = \frac{2}{2n+2+\alpha+\beta} \sqrt{\frac{(n+1)(n+1+\alpha)(n+1+\beta)(n+1+\alpha+\beta)}{(2n+1+\alpha+\beta)(2n+3+\alpha+\beta)}}$$

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- We consider the measure $d\mu_{\alpha, \beta}(x) = (1-x)^\alpha (1+x)^\beta dx$, with $x \in [-1, 1]$.
- The orthonormal polynomials in $L^2([-1, 1], d\mu_{\alpha, \beta})$ are

$$p_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x) = P_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x) \|P_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}\|_{L^2([-1, 1], \mu_{\alpha, \beta})}^{-1},$$

where $P_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}$ is the standard Jacobi polynomial.

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- The heat semigroup associated with $\mathcal{J}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ is given by

$$W_t^{(\alpha,\beta)} f(n) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f(k) K_t^{(\alpha,\beta)}(k, n)$$

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- $W_t^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ is the solution of the heat equation

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u(j, t)}{\partial t} = \mathcal{J}^{(\alpha,\beta)} u(j, t), \\ u(j, 0) = f(j). \end{cases}$$

A discrete Hardy inequality in the Jacobi setting

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- For $0 < \sigma < 1$, we define the fractional powers of $\mathcal{J}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ by using the subordination formula

$$(\mathcal{J}^{(\alpha,\beta)})^\sigma f(n) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(-\sigma)} \int_0^\infty (W_t^{(\alpha,\beta)} f(n) - f(n)) \frac{dt}{t^{1+\sigma}}.$$

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- We consider the sequence

$$\omega_\sigma^{(\alpha,\beta)}(n) = \frac{\Gamma\left(n+1+\beta+\frac{\alpha-\sigma+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(n+1+\frac{\alpha-\sigma-1}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(n+1+\beta+\frac{\alpha+\sigma+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(n+1+\frac{\alpha+\sigma-1}{2}\right)}.$$

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- We say that (α, β) belongs to the set V if $\alpha \geq \beta$ and

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha + \beta + 1)(\alpha + \beta + 4)^2(\alpha + \beta + 6) \\ \geq (\alpha - \beta)^2((\alpha + \beta + 1)^2 - 7(\alpha + \beta + 1) - 24). \end{aligned}$$

A discrete Hardy inequality in the Jacobi setting: the result

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Theorem

Let $(\alpha, \beta) \in V$, $0 < \sigma < 1/2$, and $f \in c_{00}(\mathbb{N})$. Then

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f(k) (\mathcal{J}^{(\alpha, \beta)})^{\sigma} f(k) \geq 2^{\sigma} \left(\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha + \sigma + 1}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha - \sigma + 1}{2}\right)} \right)^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (f(k))^2 \omega_{\sigma}^{(\alpha, \beta)}(k).$$

A discrete Hardy inequality in the Jacobi setting: the first ingredient

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- We consider the sequence

$$b_{-\sigma}^{(\alpha, \beta)}(n) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha-\sigma+1}{2}\right) \Gamma(n+\beta+1)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha+\sigma+1}{2}\right) \Gamma(n+1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(n+1+\frac{\alpha+\sigma+1}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(n+\beta+1+\frac{\alpha-\sigma+1}{2}\right)} \times 2^{(\alpha-\sigma+1)/2+\beta} \omega_{\sigma}^{(\alpha, \beta)}(n).$$

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Lemma

Let $\alpha, \beta > -1$ and $0 < \sigma < \min\{1, \alpha + 1\}$. Then

$$(\mathcal{J}^{(\alpha, \beta)})^{\sigma} b_{-\sigma}^{(\alpha, \beta)}(n) = b_{\sigma}^{(\alpha, \beta)}(n).$$

A discrete Hardy inequality in the Jacobi setting: the second ingredient

A discrete Hardy inequality in the Jacobi setting: the second ingredient

Lemma

Let $(\alpha, \beta) \in V$, $0 < \sigma < 1/2$, and $f \in c_{00}(\mathbb{N})$. Then

$$(\mathcal{J}^{(\alpha, \beta)})^\sigma f(n) = \sum_{\substack{k=0 \\ k \neq n}}^{\infty} (f(n) - f(k)) J_\sigma^{(\alpha, \beta)}(k, n) + f(n) E_\sigma^{(\alpha, \beta)}(n),$$

where

$$E_\sigma^{(\alpha, \beta)}(n) = \int_0^\infty (W_t^{(\alpha, \beta)} \mathbf{1}(n) - 1) \frac{dt}{t^{1+\sigma}}$$

and the kernel

$$J_\sigma^{(\alpha, \beta)}(k, n) = - \int_{-1}^1 (1-x)^\sigma p_k^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x) p_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x) d\mu_{\alpha, \beta}(x)$$

is positive and symmetric. Moreover,

$$J_\sigma^{(\alpha, \beta)}(k, n) \leq C |k - n|^{-(1+2\sigma)}, \quad k \neq n.$$

Thank you for your attention!

¡Muchas gracias por vuestra atención!