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COMPLETE SYSTEMS OF HERMITE ASSOCIATED FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. It is proved that if the increasing sequence $\{k_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ of non-negative integers has density greater than $1/2$ and D is an arbitrary simply connected subregion of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ then the system of Hermite associated functions $\{G_{k_n}(z)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is complete in the space $H(D)$ of complex functions holomorphic in D .

1. Completeness in spaces of holomorphic functions.

1.1. A subset X of a topological vector space V is called *complete* in V if its linear span is everywhere dense in the space V .

Suppose that X is at most denumerable, i.e $X = \{x_n\}_{n=0}^{\omega}, 0 \leq \omega \leq \infty$. Then X is complete in V iff for every $v \in V$ and every neighbourhood U of the origin of V there exists a linear combination $x = \sum_{n=0}^N a_n x_n$ ($0 \leq N \leq \omega$ if $\omega < \infty$ and $0 \leq N < \infty$ if $\omega = \infty$; $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_N$ are scalars) such that $v - x \in U$.

Remark. If $\{\lambda_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ are nonzero scalars then the systems $\{x_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ and $\{\lambda_n x_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ are simultaneously complete or incomplete.

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1.2. Let B be a nonempty open subset of the complex plane \mathbb{C} and $H(B)$ be the \mathbb{C} -vector space of complex functions holomorphic in B . As usual, we consider $H(B)$ with the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of B .

A sequence $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty \subset H(B)$ is complete in $H(B)$ iff for every $f \in H(B)$, every compact set $K \subset B$ and every $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a “polynomial” $p(z) = \sum_{n=0}^N a_n f_n(z)$ ($0 \leq N < \infty; a_n \in \mathbb{C}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$) such that $|f(z) - p(z)| < \varepsilon$ whenever $z \in K$.

Let $\gamma \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a Jordan curve and H_γ be the \mathbb{C} -vector space of complex functions holomorphic on the closed set $C_\gamma = \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \text{int}\gamma$ and vanishing at the infinite point. That is, H_γ consists of functions F every one of which is holomorphic in an open set containing C_γ and, in addition, $F(\infty) = 0$.

The following statement is a criterion for completeness in spaces of the kind $H(B)$ [4, p. 211, Theorem 17]:

(CC) *Let $D \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a simply connected region. A sequence $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty \subset H(D)$ is complete in the space $H(D)$ iff for every rectifiable Jordan curve $\gamma \subset D$ the only function $F \in H_\gamma$, which is orthogonal on γ to each of the functions $\{f_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty$, is identically zero, i.e. the equalities $\int_\gamma f_n(z)F(z) dz = 0, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ imply $F \equiv 0$.*

2. Series in Hermite polynomials.

2.1. It is known that the region of convergence of a series of the kind

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n H_n(z), \quad a_n \in \mathbb{C}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

where $\{H_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty$ are the Hermite polynomials, is either the whole complex plane or a horizontal strip symmetrically situated with respect to the real axis. More precisely, if

$$(2.2) \quad \tau_0 := -\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2n + 1)^{-1/2} \log |(2n/e)^{n/2} a_n| > 0,$$

then the series (2.1) is absolutely uniformly convergent on every compact subset of the region $S(\tau_0) := \{z : |\Im z| < \tau_0\}$ and diverges at every point of the open set $\mathbb{C} \setminus S(\tau_0)$ [8, 9.2, (5)]. This statement is a corollary of a particular case of G. Szegő’s asymptotic formula for the Hermite polynomials [8, Theorem 8.22.7], namely,

$$(2.3) \quad H_n(z) = \sqrt{2} \exp(z^2/2) (2n/e)^{n/2} \{ \cos((2n + 1)^{1/2} z - n\pi/2) + h_n(z) \}.$$

In the above representation, $\{h_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ are entire functions and, moreover, the sequence $\{n^{1/2} \exp(-|\Im z| \sqrt{2n+1}) h_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ is uniformly bounded on every compact subset of the complex plane.

2.2. Let the complex function f have a representation by a series in Hermite polynomials in the region $S(\tau_0)$ ($0 < \tau_0 \leq \infty$), i.e. $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n H_n(z)$ for every $z \in S(\tau_0)$. Then it is holomorphic in $S(\tau_0)$ and, moreover,

$$(2.4) \quad a_n = (\sqrt{\pi} n! 2^n)^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \exp(-t^2) H_n(t) f(t) dt, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

This statement is a corollary of (2.2) as well as of the following inequality for the Hermite polynomials

$$(2.5) \quad |H_n(x)| \leq (\sqrt{\pi} n! 2^n)^{1/2} \exp(x^2/2), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Remark. The above inequality is due to O. Szász [7].

2.3. Let $E(\tau_0)$ ($0 < \tau_0 \leq \infty$) be the \mathbb{C} -vector space of complex functions f holomorphic in the region $S(\tau_0)$ and having the property that for every $\tau \in [0, \tau_0)$ there exists a constant $B = B(f, \tau) \geq 0$ such that if $z = x + iy \in \overline{S}(\tau) := \{z : |\Im z| \leq \tau\}$, then $|f(z)| = |f(x + iy)| \leq B \exp\{x^2/2 - |x|(\tau^2 - y^2)^{1/2}\}$.

A remarkable result due to E. Hille [3] is that a function $f \in H(S(\tau_0))$ can be represented in $S(\tau_0)$ by a series in Hermite polynomials iff $f \in E(\tau_0)$.

3. Hermite associated functions.

3.1. A well-known fact is that the system of Hermite polynomials $\{H_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty$ is a solution of the difference equation $y_{n+1} - 2zy_n + 2ny_{n-1} = 0$ ($n \geq 1$).

The system of complex functions $\{G_n(z)\}_{n=0}^\infty$, defined for $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ by the equalities

$$(3.1) \quad G_n(z) = - \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{\exp(-t^2) H_n(t)}{t - z} dt, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

is another solution of the same equation. Indeed, for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} & G_{n+1}(z) - 2zG_n(z) + 2nG_{n-1}(z) \\ &= - \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{\exp(-t^2)}{t - z} \{H_{n+1}(t) - 2zH_n(t) + 2nH_{n-1}(t)\} dt \\ &= - \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{\exp(-t^2)}{t - z} \{H_{n+1}(t) - 2tH_n(t) + 2nH_{n-1}(t)\} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$-2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) H_n(t) dt = 0.$$

We call the functions (3.1) *Hermite associated functions*. Since they are defined by means of Cauchy-type integrals it is clear that all they are holomorphic in the open set $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$.

3.2. Let us define the system of complex functions

$$(3.2) \quad \tilde{G}_n(z, \zeta) := (\sqrt{\pi n! 2^n})^{-1} H_n(\zeta) G_n(z), \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots,$$

where ζ is an arbitrary complex number. Then Mehler's generating function [1, II, 10.13,(22)] implies that if $|w| < 1$ then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{G}_n(z, \zeta) w^n &= - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\{ (\sqrt{\pi n! 2^n})^{-1} H_n(\zeta) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\exp(-t^2) H_n(t)}{t-z} dt \right\} w^n \\ &= -\pi^{-1/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\exp(-t^2)}{t-z} \left\{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n! 2^n)^{-1} H_n(\zeta) H_n(t) w^n \right\} dt \\ (3.3) \quad &= -\frac{\pi^{-1/2} \exp\left\{-\frac{\zeta^2 w^2}{1-w^2}\right\}}{\sqrt{1-w^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (t-z)^{-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{t^2}{1-t^2} + \frac{2wt\zeta}{1-w^2}\right\} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Let us note that if $|w| < 1$ then $\Re\{(1-w^2)^{-1}\} > 0$ and, therefore, the last integral in (3.3) is (absolutely) convergent. Moreover, the change of summation and integration we have just performed is allowed. Indeed, as a corollary of the asymptotic formula (2.3), Szász's inequality (2.5) as well as Stirling's formula, we can conclude that there exists a positive constant M independent of n, t, ζ and w and such that the inequality

$$(n! 2^n)^{-1} |H_n(\zeta) H_n(t) w^n| \leq M \exp(t^2/2 + |\Im \zeta| \sqrt{2n+1}) |w|^n$$

holds for each $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and each $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Further, we define

$$(3.4) \quad \varphi(t, \zeta, w) = \exp\{-(1-w^2)^{-1} t^2 + 2\zeta w t (1-w^2)^{-1}\}$$

provided that $t \in \mathbb{R}$, $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ and $w \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$.

Let W be a region in \mathbb{C} determined by the inequality $\Re\{(1-w^2)^{-1}\} > 0$. It is easy to see that W is a subregion of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, \infty)\}$. Indeed, the inequality $\Re\{(1-w^2)^{-1}\} > 0$ is equivalent to $\Re \bar{w}^2 < 1$, i.e. W is nothing but the exterior of the hyperbola with Cartesian equation $u^2 - v^2 = 1$ ($w = u + iv$).

Let us define

$$(3.5) \quad \Phi(z, \zeta, w) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi(t, \zeta, w)}{t - z} dt$$

and

$$(3.6) \quad \tilde{G}(z, \zeta, w) = \pi^{-1/2}(1 - w^2)^{-1/2} \exp\{-\zeta^2 w^2(1 - w^2)^{-1}\} \Phi(z, \zeta, w)$$

where $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$, $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ and $w \in W$.

It is clear that $\tilde{G}(z, \zeta, w)$, as a function of w , is holomorphic in the region W . Moreover, as a corollary of (3.2), (3.3), (3.4), (3.5) and (3.6) we obtain that its Taylor expansion centered at the origin is

$$(3.7) \quad \tilde{G}(z, \zeta, w) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{G}_n(z, \zeta) w^n.$$

Since the unit disk is contained in the region W , the radius of convergence of the above power series is at least equal to one.

4. The main result. The main result in this paper is the following statement:

Let $k = \{k_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be an increasing sequence of positive integers with density greater than $1/2$, i.e. there exists

$$(4.1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{k_n} = \delta(k) > 1/2.$$

Then the system $\{G_{k_n}(z)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is complete in the space $H(D)$ provided that D is any simply connected subregion of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. Suppose the statement we wish to prove is not true. Then, in view of the completeness criterion (CC), there exists a simply connected region $\tilde{D} \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ such that the system $\{G_{k_n}(z)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is not complete in the space $H(\tilde{D})$. Let $\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ be fixed. Since $H_n(\zeta) \neq 0$ for every $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, the system $\{\tilde{G}_{k_n}(z, \zeta)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is also not complete in the space $H(\tilde{D})$. That means (because of (CC)) that there exists a rectifiable Jordan curve $\tilde{\gamma} \subset \tilde{D}$ and a function $\tilde{F} \in H_{\tilde{\gamma}}$ which is not identically zero but $\int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \tilde{G}_{k_n}(z, \zeta) \tilde{F}(z) dz = 0$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. We can assume that the curve $\tilde{\gamma}$ is negatively oriented.

We define the function $A(\tilde{F}; \zeta, w)$ in the region W by the equality

$$(4.2) \quad A(\tilde{F}; \zeta, w) = \int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \tilde{G}(z, \zeta, w) \tilde{F}(z) dz$$

and, as a corollary of (3.7), we obtain that if $|w| < 1$ then

$$(4.3) \quad A(\tilde{F}; \zeta, w) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta) w^n,$$

where $A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta) = \int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \tilde{G}_n(z, \zeta) \tilde{F}(z) dz$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Then (3.1) and (3.2) imply that ($n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$)

$$(4.4) \quad A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta) = -(\sqrt{\pi n! 2^n})^{-1} H_n(\zeta) \int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\exp(-t^2) H_n(t)}{t - z} dt \right\} \tilde{F}(z) dz.$$

Since $\tilde{\gamma}$ is a compact subset of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$, $\mu := \min_{z \in \tilde{\gamma}} |\Im z|$ is positive. Moreover the inequality $|t - z| \geq \mu$ holds for every $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and every $z \in \tilde{\gamma}$. Then from (2.5) it follows that $|(t - z)^{-1} \exp(-t^2) H_n(t)| \leq \mu^{-1} (\sqrt{\pi n! 2^n})^{1/2} \exp(-t^2/2)$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots; t \in \mathbf{R}, z \in \tilde{\gamma}$.

Therefore, the improper integral in (4.4) is absolutely uniformly convergent with respect to z on the curve $\tilde{\gamma}$. After changing the order of integration in (4.4) we obtain that ($n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$)

$$A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta) = (\sqrt{\pi n! 2^n})^{-1} H_n(\zeta) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) H_n(t) dt \int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \frac{\tilde{F}(z)}{(z - t)} dz.$$

As a connected set D is contained either in the upper or in the lower half-plane. Since $F(\infty) = 0$ in both cases the Cauchy integral formula gives that for every $t \in \mathbf{R}$ we have

$$\int_{\tilde{\gamma}} \frac{\tilde{F}(z)}{z - t} dz = 2\pi i \tilde{F}(t).$$

In this way we obtain that $A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta) = 2\pi i H_n(\zeta) a_n(\tilde{F})$ ($n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$), where

$$(4.5) \quad a_n(\tilde{F}) = (\sqrt{\pi n! 2^n})^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) H_n(t) \tilde{F}(t) dt, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Let T be the set of all positive τ such that the function \tilde{F} is holomorphic in the strip $S(\tau)$. Since $\tilde{F} \in H(S(\mu))$, T is not empty. It is clear that $\tau_0(\tilde{F}) := \sup T < \infty$. Otherwise \tilde{F} would be holomorphic in the extended complex plane $\overline{\mathbf{C}}$ and, since $\tilde{F}(\infty) = 0$, it would be identically zero.

For every $0 < \tau < \tau_0(\tilde{F})$ the function \tilde{F} is continuous on the closed stripe $\overline{S(\tau)}$ and since $\tilde{F}(\infty) = 0$, it is bounded on $\tilde{S}(\tau)$. Therefore, \tilde{F} is in the space $E(\tau_0(\tilde{F}))$, i.e. it has an expansion in Hermite polynomials in the strip $S(\tau_0(\tilde{F}))$. In view of (2.4) the coefficients of this expansion are given by the equalities (4.5).

Now we claim that the radius of convergence $R(\tilde{F}; \zeta)$ of the power series

in (4.3) is exactly equal to one. At first we note that, since $0 < \tau_0(\tilde{F}) < \infty$, (4.5) and (2.2) yield

$$(4.6) \quad -\infty < \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2n + 1)^{-1/2} \log |(2n/e)^{n/2} a_n(\tilde{F})| < 0$$

Further, the asymptotic formula (2.3) implies that

$$(4.7) \quad \log |H_n(\zeta) a_n(\tilde{F})| = \log |(2n/e)^{n/2} a_n(\tilde{F})| + \eta_n(\zeta),$$

where $\eta_n(\zeta) = O(n^{1/2})$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then, as a corollary of (4.5), (4.6) and (4.7) we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} \log |A_n(\tilde{F})| \\ &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} (2n + 1)^{1/2} (2n + 1)^{-1/2} \log |(2n/e)^{n/2} a_n(\tilde{F})| = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and, therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \{R(\tilde{F}; \zeta)\}^{-1} \\ &= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \exp\{n^{-1} \log |A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta)\} = \exp\{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{-1} \log |A_n(\tilde{F}; \zeta)|\} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that the function (4.2) is holomorphic in the region W . Since W contains the closed unit disk except the points 1 and -1 , at least one of these points is a singular point for the function (4.2).

Since the power series in (4.3) cannot be reduced to a polynomial, the complementary sequence \tilde{k} of the sequence k with respect to the set of nonnegative integers is not finite. Moreover, as it is easy to prove, \tilde{k} also has density and $\delta(\tilde{k}) = 1 - \delta(k)$.

The sequence k^* of the indices of the nonzero coefficients of the power series in (4.3) is also infinite. If $\Delta(k^*)$ is its maximal density, then $\Delta(k^*) \leq \delta(\tilde{k})$ [4, Note I, 2] and, in view of (4.1), we have that $\Delta(k^*) < 1/2$.

By a Theorem of G. Pólya [5, p. 625, Satz IV, a] every closed arc of the unit circle with angular measure $2\pi\Delta(k^*) < \pi$ contains at least one singular point of the function $A(\tilde{F}; \zeta, w)$. But that is a contradiction since each point $\exp i\theta$ is a regular point for the power series in (4.3) provided that $0 < |\theta| < \pi$.

It is easy to see that the statement just proved is not true when $\delta(k) = 1/2$. Indeed, let a be a nonzero real number, $D \subset \mathbf{C} \setminus \{(-\infty, \infty) \cup \{-ia, ia\}\}$ be a simply connected region and $\gamma \subset D$ be an arbitrary rectifiable negatively oriented Jordan curve. Then, as a corollary of the equalities (3.1) as well as of the Cauchy

integral formula, we obtain that

$$(2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{\gamma} G_{2n+1}(z)(z^2 + a^2)^{-1} dz$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) H_{2n+1}(t)(t^2 + a^2)^{-1} dt = 0, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

and, therefore, the system $\{G_{2n+1}(z)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is not complete in the space $H(D)$.

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