LOGARITHMIC INTEGRALS, SOBOLEV SPACES AND RADON TRANSFORM IN THE PLANE

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ABSTRACT. We prove that the set $\{\varphi_0, \varphi_1, \varphi_4, \ldots, \varphi_{3k+1}, \ldots\}$ of Hermite functions is an orthogonal system in the Sobolev space $H^1(\mathbf{R}) = H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$. Furthermore, the logarithmic integral of a function f from the real Hardy space $\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbf{R})$ is exactly the primitive function of $-\tilde{f}$ (the Hilbert transform of f). And more interesting formulas are found for Radon transform of Hermite-like functions.

1. Hermite functions and logarithmic integrals

Consider the following power series

(1)
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp(2tx - t^2),$$

where H_n are the Hermite polynomials. Replace x by -x we have

$$H_n(-x) = (-1)^n H_n(x).$$

The Hermite function φ_n is defined by setting

$$\varphi_n(x) = H_n(x) \exp(-x^2/2).$$

We have

$$\varphi_n(-x) = (-1)^n \varphi_n(x)$$

and

(2)
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left(2tx - t^2 - \frac{x^2}{2}\right).$$

It is very well-known that the system $\{\varphi_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is orthogonal in $L^2(\mathbf{R})$. Next we give a new method to prove this and get more results for Hermite functions. To

Received July 15, 2002; in revised form February 17, 2003.

¹⁹⁹¹ Mathematics Subject Classification. 42A20-38.

Key words and phrases. Hermite functions, logarithmic integrals, Hardy spaces, Hilbert transform.

this end we use the following formula from [4]:

(3)
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-(Ax^2 + Bx + C)\right) dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2A}} \exp\left(\frac{B^2 - 4AC}{4A}\right) \quad (\Re(A) > 0).$$

Therefore, taking the Fourier transforms of both sides of (2) we have

(4)
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \hat{\varphi}_n(\xi) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left(-2it\xi + t^2 - \frac{\xi^2}{2}\right).$$

Here the Fourier transform $\hat{\phi}$ of a function ϕ is defined by

$$\hat{\phi}(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(x) e^{-ix\xi} dx.$$

On the other hand, note that if in (2) we replace x by ξ and t by -it then

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-i)^n \varphi_n(\xi) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left(-2it\xi + t^2 - \frac{\xi^2}{2}\right)$$

Compare this series with (4) we get

$$\hat{\varphi}_n = (-i)^n \varphi_n.$$

If in (2) we replace t by s and take the product of these power series, then we get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(x) \varphi_m(x) \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} = \exp(2tx + 2sx - t^2 - s^2 - x^2).$$

Integrate term by term according to x and apply (3) we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi_n(x) \varphi_m(x) dx \right) \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(2tx + 2sx - t^2 - s^2 - x^2\right) dx$$
$$= \sqrt{\pi} \exp(2st)$$
$$= \sqrt{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^n s^n t^n}{n!} \cdot$$

Therefore

(5)
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi_n(x)\varphi_m(x)dx = \sqrt{\pi}2^n n!\delta(n-m)$$

here δ denotes the Kronecker-delta. This proves that the Hermite functions are orthogonal in $L^2(\mathbf{R})$. Next, we prove that the system of Hermite functions can

be separated into 3 parts which are orthogonal in the Sobolev space $H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$. To this end we define the Sobolev norm $|| \cdot ||_{(1)}$ by letting

$$||u||_{(1)}^{2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\hat{u}(x)|^{2} (1+x^{2}) dx = ||u||^{2} + ||u'||^{2}.$$

Here, u' denotes the distributional derivative of u. The Sobolev space $H^1(\mathbf{R}) = H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$ is the set of all $u \in L^2(\mathbf{R})$ such that $||u||_{(1)} < \infty$. This is a Hilbert space with the scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{(1)}$ defined by setting

$$\langle u, v \rangle_{(1)} = \langle u, v \rangle + \langle u', v' \rangle.$$

Here $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the scalar product in $L^2(\mathbf{R})$. We deduce from (5) that $\langle \varphi_n, \varphi_m \rangle = \sqrt{\pi} 2^n n! \delta(n-m)$. Now derivate (2) according to x we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi'_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = (2t - x) \exp\left(2tx - t^2 - \frac{x^2}{2}\right)$$

Multiple this equation with itself after replacing t by s we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \varphi'_n(x) \varphi'_m(x) \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} = (2t-x)(2s-x) \exp\left(2tx + 2sx - t^2 - s^2 - x^2\right).$$

Integrating term by term according to x we have

$$\begin{split} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \langle \varphi_n', \varphi_m' \rangle \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (2t-x)(2s-x) \exp\left(2tx + 2sx - t^2 - s^2 - x^2\right) dx \\ &= e^{2ts} [\Gamma(3/2) - (t-s)^2 \Gamma(1/2)] \\ &= \sqrt{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^n t^n s^n}{n!} \left(\frac{1}{2} - t^2 - s^2 + 2ts\right). \end{split}$$

This implies that

$$\begin{split} ||\varphi_0'||^2 &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \\ ||\varphi_n'||^2 &= 2^{n-1}(n+2)n!\sqrt{\pi} \quad \text{for } n > 0, \\ \langle \varphi_n', \varphi_{n+2}' \rangle &= \langle \varphi_{n+2}', \varphi_n' \rangle = -2^n(n+2)!\sqrt{\pi} \\ \langle \varphi_n', \varphi_m' \rangle &= 0 \quad \text{if } |n-m| = 1 \quad \text{or } |n-m| > 2, \end{split}$$

and we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 1. The following systems of Hermite functions are orthogonal in the Sobolev space $H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$:

- (i) $\{\varphi_0, \varphi_1, \varphi_4, \ldots, \varphi_{3k+1}, \ldots\};$
- (ii) $\{\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_5, \ldots, \varphi_{3k+2}, \ldots\};$
- (iii) $\{\varphi_0, \varphi_3, \varphi_6, \dots, \varphi_{3k}, \dots\}.$

Next we define the Hilbert transform and the real Hardy space $\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbf{R})$. The Hilbert transform $Hf := \tilde{f}$ of a function $f \in L^p(\mathbf{R})$ $(p \in [1, \infty))$ is defined by the formula

$$Hf(x) = \tilde{f}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} (\text{p.v.}) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{f(t)}{x - t} dt.$$

It is well-known that

$$\widehat{Hf}(\xi) = -i \operatorname{sign}(\xi)\widehat{f}(\xi), \qquad H(Hf) = -f,$$

and

$$\langle f, \tilde{g} \rangle = -\langle \tilde{f}, g \rangle$$
 for $f \in L^p(\mathbf{R})$ and $g \in L^q(\mathbf{R})$, $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1, \ 1 .$

Therefore, the Hilbert transform is a *unitary operator* in both Hilbert spaces $L^2(\mathbf{R})$ and $H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$. The Hilbert transform of the characteristic function $\chi_{(a,b)}$ of the interval (a, b) is

$$\tilde{\chi}_{(a,b)}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \ln \left| \frac{x-a}{x-b} \right|,$$

so we have

(6)
$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \ln \left| \frac{x-a}{x-b} \right| dx = -\int_{a}^{b} \tilde{f}(x) dx.$$

The real Hardy space $\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbf{R})$ is the set of all functions $f \in L^1(\mathbf{R})$ such that $\tilde{f} \in L^1(\mathbf{R})$. Functions in the real Hardy space are called *Hardy functions*. From [1] we have $\varphi_n \in \mathcal{H}^1(\mathbf{R})$ for every odd n. It is a well-known fact that the dual space of $\mathcal{H}^1(\mathbf{R})$ is $BMO(\mathbf{R})$ and the logarithmic function $\ln x$ is in BMO. So we can define the *logarithmic integral*

$$F(b) := \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \ln \frac{1}{|x-b|} dx$$

for all function $f \in \mathcal{H}^1(\mathbf{R})$. But by (6) we have

$$F(b) - F(a) = -\int_{a}^{b} \tilde{f}(x)dx;$$

so the function F is absolutely continuous on the real line and $F'(b) = -\tilde{f}(b)$ for almost all $b \in \mathbf{R}$. Take the Fourier transform of F' in the distributional sense we have $it\hat{F}(t) = i \operatorname{sign}(t)\hat{f}(t)$. This implies

$$\hat{F}(t) = \frac{f(t)}{|t|} \in L^1(\mathbf{R})$$
 (by Hardy inequality).

Hence

$$F(b) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(t) \frac{e^{ibt}}{|t|} dt$$

and

$$\tilde{F}(b) = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{f}(t) \frac{e^{ibt}}{t} dt.$$

Consequently,

$$\lim_{|a|\to\infty} F(a) = \lim_{|a|\to\infty} \tilde{F}(a) = 0.$$

Thus we have the following result.

Theorem 2. The logarithmic integral F of a Hardy function f is absolutely continuous and it can be rewritten in the form

$$F(b) = -\int_{-\infty}^{b} \tilde{f}(x)dx.$$

In [3] it is proved (in a complicated manner) that the logarithmic integral F is of bounded variation if the Hardy function f is of compact support. Our result is much stronger. Note that if φ is a function in $L^2(\mathbf{R})$ then

$$H(\varphi^2 - \tilde{\varphi}^2) = 2\varphi\tilde{\varphi};$$

so the function $f := \varphi^2 - \tilde{\varphi}^2$ is a Hardy function. This is the most important example for Hardy functions. For example, if

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1}$$

then, according to [1],

$$\tilde{\varphi}(x) = \frac{x}{x^2 + 1} \cdot$$

Thus

$$f(x) = \frac{1 - x^2}{(x^2 + 1)^2}$$

is a Hardy function and we have

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \frac{2x}{(x^2+1)^2} = -\varphi'(x).$$

Apply Theorem 2 we obtain the following interesting formula

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1-x^2}{(x^2+1)^2} \ln \frac{1}{|x-b|} dx = \varphi(b) = \frac{1}{b^2+1} \cdot$$

Next we compute the Hilbert transforms of the Hermite functions φ_n . To this end, note that (2) implies

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left(2tx - t^2 - \frac{x^2}{2}\right) = e^{t^2} \varphi_0(x - 2t).$$

Take the Hilbert transform of both sides according to the variable x we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\varphi}_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = e^{t^2} \tilde{\varphi}_0(x-2t).$$

Therefore

$$\tilde{\varphi}_n(x) = \frac{d^n}{dt^n} \Big\{ e^{t^2} \tilde{\varphi}_0(x-2t) \Big\}_{t=0}.$$

So we should compute the Hilbert transform of φ_0 first. Using the Inversion Theorem we have

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\varphi}_0(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \widehat{H\varphi_0}(t) e^{ixt} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (-i) \operatorname{sign}(t) e^{-t^2/2} (\cos xt + i \sin xt) dt \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-t^2/2} \sin xt dt \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-t^2/2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} t^{2k+1} dt \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-t^2/2} t^{2k+1} dt \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \int l; imits_0^{\infty} e^{-\tau} (2\tau)^k d\tau \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} 2^k \Gamma(k+1) \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} \cdot \end{split}$$

Next we construct the recurrence relationship for Hermite functions and their Hilbert transforms. To this end, we derivate (2) according to t to obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_{n+1}(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = (2x - 2t) \exp\left(2tx - t^2 - \frac{x^2}{2}\right)$$
$$= (2x - 2t) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(2x\varphi_n(x) - 2n\varphi_{n-1}(x)\right) \frac{t^n}{n!}$$

or, equivalently,

$$\varphi_{n+1}(x) = 2x\varphi_n(x) - 2n\varphi_{n-1}(x).$$

Let Φ_n denote the logarithmic integral of the Hermite function φ_n . For even n we have

$$\hat{\Phi}_{n+1}(t) = \frac{\hat{\varphi}_{n+1}(t)}{|t|} = \frac{(-i)^{n+1}\varphi_{n+1}(t)}{|t|} \cdot$$

This implies that

$$\hat{\Phi}_{n+1}(t) - 2n\hat{\Phi}_{n-1}(t) = 2(-i)^{n+1}\varphi_n(t) \operatorname{sign}(t) = 2\widehat{H\varphi_n}(t),$$

and consequently,

$$\Phi_{n+1} - 2n\Phi_{n-1} = 2\tilde{\varphi}_n.$$

Derivate both sides term by term we have

$$\tilde{\varphi}_{n+1} - 2n\tilde{\varphi}_{n-1} = -2\tilde{\varphi}'_n$$
 for even n .

On the other hand, for odd n,

$$||\Phi_n||^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left|\frac{\varphi_n(x)}{x}\right|^2 dx < \infty,$$

so we have

Theorem 3. For odd n the logarithmic integral Φ_n of the Hermite function φ_n belongs to the Sobolev space $H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$ and

$$||\Phi_n||_{(1)}^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left|\frac{\varphi_n(x)}{x}\right|^2 dx + ||\varphi_n||^2.$$

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2. RADON TRANSFORM IN THE PLANE

For a Schwart function f(x,y) we define the Radon transform $\mathcal{R}f(r,\theta)=\mathcal{R}(f,r,\theta)$ of f as follows

$$\mathcal{R}f(r,\theta) = \int_{x\cos\theta+y\sin\theta=r} f(x,y)d\ell,$$

here $d\ell$ is the Lebesgue measure in the line $x\cos\theta + y\sin\theta = r$. If $u(x,y) = \phi(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})$ is a radial function, the Radon transform of f is the same, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{R}u(r,\theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(r,y)dy = 2\int_{0}^{\infty} u(r,y)dy = 2\int_{|r|}^{\infty} \phi(t)\frac{tdt}{\sqrt{t^2 - r^2}} \cdot$$

For example, if $u(x,y) = \exp\left(-(x^2 + y^2)\right)$ then we have

$$\mathcal{R}u(r,\theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(r^2 + y^2)} dy = \sqrt{\pi} e^{-r^2}.$$

Now let $f(x,y)=u(x-t,y-s)=\exp\bigl\{-[(x-t)^2+(y-s)^2]\bigr\},$ where s and t are fixed. Then

$$\mathcal{R}f(r,\theta) = \int_{x\cos\theta+y\sin\theta=r} u(x-t,y-s)d\ell$$
$$= \int_{x\cos\theta+y\sin\theta=r-t\cos\theta-s\sin\theta} u(x,y)d\ell$$
$$= \sqrt{\pi}\exp\Big(-(r-t\cos\theta-s\sin\theta)^2\Big).$$

Put

$$\psi_n(x) = H_n(x)e^{-x^2}.$$

Then from (1) we have

(7)
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left[-(x-t)^2\right].$$

Replace t by t + s we have

(8)

$$\exp\left[-(x-t-s)^{2}\right] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi_{n}(x) \frac{(t+s)^{n}}{n!}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \psi_{n+m}(x) \frac{t^{n}s^{m}}{n!m!} \cdot$$

Replace x by y and t by s in (7) then multiple it with itself we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \psi_n(x)\psi_m(y)\frac{t^n s^m}{n!m!} = \exp\left\{-\left[(x-t)^2 + (y-s)^2\right]\right\} =: f(x,y).$$

Now take the Radon transform in variables x and y in both sides term by term, we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{R}(\psi_n \otimes \psi_m, r, \theta) \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} = \sqrt{\pi} \exp\left\{-(r - t\cos\theta - s\sin\theta)^2\right\}$$
$$= \sqrt{\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \psi_{n+m}(r)\cos^n\theta \sin^m\theta \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} \quad (by (8)).$$

Therefore

$$\mathcal{R}(\psi_n \otimes \psi_m, r, \theta) = \sqrt{\pi} \psi_{n+m}(r) \cos^n \theta \sin^m \theta.$$

The inversion formula (for a Schwart function f) from [2] reads as follows

$$f(x,y) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\theta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \mathcal{R}f(r,\theta) \frac{dr}{x\cos\theta + y\sin\theta - r} \cdot$$

Apply this formula for functions $\psi_n\otimes\psi_m$ we have

$$\psi_n(x)\psi_m(y) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{4\pi^2} \int_0^{2\pi} \tilde{\psi}'_{n+m}(x\cos\theta + y\sin\theta)\cos^n\theta\sin^m\theta d\theta.$$

To compute the norm of ψ_n note that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \psi_n(x)\psi_m(x)\frac{t^n s^m}{n!m!} = \exp\left[-(x-t)^2 - (x-s)^2\right].$$

Integrating side by side we have

$$\begin{split} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_n(x) \psi_m(x) dx \frac{t^n s^m}{n! m!} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left[-(x-t)^2 - (x-s)^2\right] dx \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \varphi_0(t-s). \end{split}$$

Therefore

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_n(x)\psi_m(x)dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\partial^{n+m}}{\partial t^n \partial s^m} \varphi_0(t-s)\big|_{t=s=0}$$
$$= \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} (-1)^n \varphi_0^{(n+m)}(0)$$
$$= 0 \quad \text{if } n+m \text{ is odd,}$$
$$= \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} (-1)^{|n-m|/2} (n+m-1)!! \quad \text{if } n+m \text{ is even.}$$

Thus

$$||\psi_n||^2 = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}(2n-1)!!$$

To compute the Hilbert transform of ψ_n we observe that (7) implies

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi_n(x) \frac{t^n}{n!} = \exp\left[-(x-t)^2\right] = \psi_0(x-t).$$

Therefore

$$\psi_n(x) = (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \psi_0(x)$$

and

$$\tilde{\psi}_n(x) = (-1)^n \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \tilde{\psi}_0(x).$$

Consequently,

$$\psi_{n+1}(x) = -\psi'_n(x), \quad \tilde{\psi}_{n+1}(x) = -\tilde{\psi}'_n(x),$$

and

$$||\psi_n||_{(1)}^2 = ||\psi_n||^2 + ||\psi_{n+1}||^2 = \sqrt{2\pi}(2n-1)!!(n+1).$$

On the other hand, we have $\psi_0(x) = \varphi_0(\sqrt{2}x)$, so

$$\tilde{\psi}_0(x) = \tilde{\varphi}_0(x\sqrt{2}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k 2^{k+1} x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!!} \cdot$$

Let Ψ_n be the logarithmic integral of ψ_n (this function is a Hardy function for odd n). Then

$$\Psi_n(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_n(t) \ln \frac{1}{|x-t|} dt$$
$$= -\int_0^x \tilde{\psi}_n(t) dt = \int_0^x \tilde{\psi}'_{n-1}(t) dt$$
$$= \tilde{\psi}_{n-1}(x)$$
$$= \frac{1}{\pi} (\text{p.v.}) \int_{-\infty}^\infty \psi_{n-1}(t) \frac{dt}{x-t} \cdot$$

Therefore we have

Theorem 4. For odd n the logarithmic integral Ψ_n of the function $\psi_n(x) = H_n(x) \exp(-x^2)$

$$\psi_n(x) = \Pi_n(x) \exp(-x)$$

belongs to the Sobolev space $H_{(1)}(\mathbf{R})$ with the norm

$$||\Psi_n||_{(1)}^2 = ||\psi_{n-1}||_{(1)}^2 = ||\psi_{n-1}||^2 + ||\psi_n||^2 = \sqrt{2\pi}n(2n-3)!!.$$

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