

# Hermite Polynomial

## Problem sheet

### Problem 1.

Show that  $H_n(x) = 2^{n+1} e^{x^2} \int_x^\infty e^{-t^2} t^{n+1} P_n\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) dt$

### Problem 2.

If  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $m$ , show that  $f(x)$  may be expressed

in the form  $f(x) = \sum_{r=0}^m c_r H_r(x)$ , where,  $C_r = \frac{1}{2^r r! \sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-x^2} f(x) H_r(x) dx$ .

Deduce that  $\int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-x^2} f(x) H_n(x) dx = 0$  if  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree less than  $n$ .

### Problem 3.

Using the Generating function for Hermite polynomials, evaluate the values of

(i)  $H_0(x)$       (ii)  $H_1(x)$       (iii)  $H_2(x)$       (iv)  $H_3(x)$ .

### Problem 4.

Show that  $H_n(x)$  defined by  $e^{2tx-t^2} = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{H_n(x)}{n!} t^n$  satisfies the differential equation  $H_n''(x) - 2xH_n'(x) + 2nH_n(x) = 0$ .

### Problem 5.

The Hermite polynomial is defined for integral values of  $x$  by the identity  $e^{2tx-t^2} = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{H_n(x)}{n!} t^n$ .

Show that  $H_n(x)$  satisfies the differential equation  $H_n''(x) - 2xH_n'(x) + 2nH_n(x) = 0$  and

$H_n(x)$  is given by  $H_n(x) = (-1)^n e^{x^2} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} e^{-x^2}$ .

Further show that  $\int_{-\infty}^\infty H_n(x)^2 e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi} 2^n n!$ .

**Problem 6.**

Show that  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} H_n(x)^2 e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi} 2^n n! = 2^n n! \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2}$

**problem 7.**

Show that

$$(a) H_5(x) = 32x^5 - 160x^3 + 120x.$$

$$(b) H_6(x) = 64x^6 - 480x^4 + 720x^2 - 120.$$

**Problem 8.**

show that for  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$(i) H_{2n}(x) = \frac{2^{n+1}(-1)^n e^{x^2}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t^2} t^{2n} \cos 2xt dt.$$

$$(ii) H_{2n+1}(x) = \frac{2^{n+2}(-1)^n e^{x^2}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t^2} t^{2n+1} \sin 2xt dt.$$

**Problem 9.**

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

**Problem 10.**

Prove that  $x^n = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{n! H_{n-2k}(x)}{2^k k! (n-2k)!}$  and express  $x^6$  in terms of hermite polynomials.

**Problem 11.**

Use the fact that  $\exp 2xt - t^2 = \exp 2xt - x^2 t^2 \exp[t^2(x^2 + 1)]$  to obtain the expansion

$$H_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{n}{2}} \frac{n! H_{n-2k}(1) x^{(n-2k)} (x^2 + 1)^k}{k! (n-2k)!}$$

**Problem 12.**

Use the expansion of  $x^n$  in a series of hermite polynomials to show that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) x^n H_{n-2k}(x) dx = 2^{-2k} n! \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{k!}$$

Note in particular the special case  $k=0$ .

**Problem 13.**

Obtain the result

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) H_{2k}(x) H_{2s+1}(x) dx = \frac{(-1)^{k+s} 2^{2k+2s} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_k \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_s}{2s+1-2k}$$

**Problem 14.**

Show that

$$P_n(x) = \frac{2}{n! \sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-t^2) t^n H_n(xt) dt,$$

**Problem 15.**

Use the Rodrigues formula  $\exp(-x^2) H_n(x) = (-1)^n D^n \exp(-x^2)$  and iterated integration by parts to show that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2) H_n(x) H_m(x) dx &= 0, & m \neq n \\ &= 2^n n! \sqrt{\pi}, & m = n \end{aligned}$$