

## BESSEL POLYNOMIALS AND THE PARTIAL SUMS OF THE EXPONENTIAL SERIES\*

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**Abstract.** Let  $e_k(x)$  denote the  $k$ -th partial sum of the Maclaurin series for the exponential function. Define the  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  Hankel determinant by setting  $\tilde{H}_n(x) = \det[e_{i+j}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$ . We give a closed form evaluation of this determinant in terms of the Bessel polynomials using the method of recently introduced  $\gamma$ -operators.

**Key words.** Bessel polynomials, exponential series, Hankel determinants

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### 1. Introduction. Let

$$(1) \quad e_k(x) = \sum_{m=0}^k \frac{x^m}{m!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{x^k}{k!}$$

denote the  $k$ -th partial sum of the Maclaurin series for the exponential function. Consider the  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  Hankel determinant

$$(2) \quad \tilde{H}_n(x) = \det[e_{i+j}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}.$$

The first few of these are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{H}_0(x) &= 1, \\ \tilde{H}_1(x) &= -\frac{x}{2}(x + 2), \\ \tilde{H}_2(x) &= -\frac{x^4}{144}(x^2 + 6x + 12), \\ \tilde{H}_3(x) &= \frac{x^9}{1036800}(x^3 + 12x^2 + 60x + 120), \\ \tilde{H}_4(x) &= \frac{x^{16}}{1463132160000}(x^4 + 20x^3 + 180x^2 + 840x + 1680). \end{aligned}$$

The *Bessel polynomials*  $y_n(x)$  were introduced by Krall and Fink in 1948 [13] as the polynomial solutions of the second order differential equation

$$x^2 y'' + 2(x + 1)y' - n(n + 1)y = 0.$$

They are given explicitly by

$$(3) \quad y_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{(n + i)!}{i!(n - i)!} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^i.$$

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The Bessel polynomials are known to satisfy two different orthogonality properties. The first one is with respect to an analytic weight function along a simple closed curve encircling the origin in the complex plane [10]. The second is with respect to a signed measure supported on  $[0, \infty)$ . The reader is referred to [8, 11] for this more recent result. The Bessel polynomials satisfy the recursion

$$(4) \quad y_{n+1}(x) = (2n + 1)xy_n(x) + y_{n-1}(x)$$

with  $y_{-1}(x) = y_0(x) = 1$ .

In this paper we prove that the  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  has the following evaluation.

**THEOREM 1.** *Suppose the polynomials  $e_k$  and  $y_k$  and the  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  Hankel determinant  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  are defined as in (1), (3), and (2), respectively. Then*

$$(5) \quad \tilde{H}_n(x) = c_n x^{n(n+1)} y_n\left(\frac{2}{x}\right),$$

where

$$(6) \quad c_n = (-1)^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} 2^n \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{j!^2}{(2j)!^2}.$$

Thus the explicit evaluation of  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  is

$$(7) \quad \tilde{H}_n(x) = (-1)^{\frac{n(n+1)}{2}} x^{n^2} 2^n \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{j!^2}{(2j)!^2} \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{(n+i)!}{i!(n-i)!} x^{n-i}.$$

Bessel polynomials have other known determinantal representations [4]. The first representation below is an  $n \times n$  determinant via the Rodrigues formula

$$2^n y_n(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2(1+nx) & -1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -2x(2+nx) & 2(1+nx) & -2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 2x^2(3+nx) & -2x(2+nx) & 2(1+nx) & -3 & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 1-n \\ 2(-x)^{n-1}(n+nx) & 2(-x)^{n-2}(n-1+nx) & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & 2(1+nx) \end{bmatrix},$$

and the second one is an  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  determinant from the linear recurrence

$$y_n(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} (2n-1)x & -1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & (2n-3)x & -1 & 0 & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 1 & (2n-5)x & -1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & 1 & x & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Instead of working with the  $e_k(x)$  directly, it is somewhat easier to work with the polynomials  $a_k(x)$  defined as

$$(8) \quad a_k(x) = \sum_{m=0}^k \frac{x^m}{(k-m)!}$$

which are related to the  $e_k(x)$  by

$$e_k(x) = x^k a_k(x^{-1}).$$

Let

$$(9) \quad H_n(x) = \det[a_{i+j}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}.$$

Since, for any Hankel matrix  $[h_{i+j}]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$ , we have

$$(10) \quad \det[x^{i+j} h_{i+j}] = x^{n(n+1)} \det[h_{i+j}],$$

the determinants  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  and  $H_n(x)$  are related by

$$(11) \quad \tilde{H}_n(x) = x^{n(n+1)} H_n(x^{-1}).$$

Therefore it suffices to evaluate  $H_n(x)$ . Henceforth we will be working with the polynomials  $a_k(x)$  and the determinants  $H_n(x)$ . We will prove the following evaluation, from which Theorem 1 follows by the relation (11).

**THEOREM 2.** *Suppose the polynomials  $e_k$  and  $y_k$  and the  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  Hankel determinant  $H_n(x)$  are defined as in (1), (3), and (9), respectively. Then*

$$H_n(x) = c_n y_n(2x),$$

where  $c_n$  is as defined in (6).

Theorem 2 itself will be proved by establishing that  $y = H_n(x)$  satisfies the second order differential equation

$$(12) \quad x^2 y'' + (2x + 1)y' - n(n + 1)y = 0.$$

We remark that the polynomials  $a_k(x)$  (and therefore the  $e_k(x)$ ) are closely related to another sequence of polynomials defined by

$$d_k(x) = \sum_{m=0}^k (-1)^m \frac{k!}{m!} x^{k-m}.$$

These are the so-called *derangement polynomials* as  $d_k(1)$  is the number of derangements of  $k$  points. Radoux [17] proved that

$$\det[d_{i+j}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n} = x^{n(n+1)} \prod_{i=1}^n i!^2.$$

An evaluation of shifted Hankel determinants of the derangement polynomials

$$\det[d_{i+j+1}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n} \quad \text{and} \quad \det[d_{i+j+2}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

can be found in [20]. See also [7], [12], [14], and [21]. The polynomials  $e_k(x)$  and  $d_k(x)$  are trivially related by

$$(13) \quad e_k(x) = \frac{(-1)^k}{k!} x^k d_k(-x^{-1});$$

however, there does not seem to be a simple analogue of (10) to evaluate  $\det[\frac{(-1)^{i+j}}{(i+j)!} h_{i+j}]$  from that of the known evaluation of  $\det[h_{i+j}]$ .

**2. Preliminaries.** We defined  $H_n(x)$  in (9) as the determinant of the  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  Hankel matrix

$$A_n = A_n(x) = [a_{i+j}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}.$$

By shifting the column indices of the entries of  $A_n$ , we define three additional  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  determinants  $S_n(x), T_n(x)$ , and  $U_n(x)$  as follows:

1.  $S_n(x)$  is the determinant of the matrix whose first  $n$  columns are the same as the columns of  $A$ , but the subscripts of the  $a_i$  that appear in the last column are each shifted up by 1.
2.  $T_n(x)$  is the determinant of the matrix whose first  $n - 1$  columns are the same as the columns of  $A$ , but the subscripts of the  $a_i$  that appear in the last two columns are shifted up by 1.
3.  $U_n(x)$  is the determinant of the matrix whose first  $n$  columns are the same as the columns of  $A$ , but the subscripts of the  $a_i$  in the last column are shifted up by 2.

For example, when  $n = 3$ , we have

$$H_n(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_4 \\ a_2 & a_3 & a_4 & a_5 \\ a_3 & a_4 & a_5 & a_6 \end{bmatrix}, \quad S_n(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & a_4 \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_5 \\ a_2 & a_3 & a_4 & a_6 \\ a_3 & a_4 & a_5 & a_7 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$T_n(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_3 & a_4 \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_4 & a_5 \\ a_2 & a_3 & a_5 & a_6 \\ a_3 & a_4 & a_6 & a_7 \end{bmatrix}, \quad U_n(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & a_5 \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_6 \\ a_2 & a_3 & a_4 & a_7 \\ a_3 & a_4 & a_5 & a_8 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**2.1. The three identities.** The bulk of the work for the derivation of the differential equation (12) for  $H_n(x)$  relies on three essential identities, which are characteristic of the method of  $\gamma$ -operators. The first is a differential equation. The second is a linear equation involving the  $a_k$  but no derivatives. The third is a relation between shifted columns of the matrix  $A_n = [a_{i+j}]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$ .

LEMMA 1. (*First Identity (FI)*) Suppose  $a_k$  is as defined in (8). Then

$$(14) \quad x^2 \frac{d}{dx} a_n = (n + 1)a_{n+1} - (x + 1)a_n.$$

LEMMA 2. (*Second Identity (SI)*) Suppose  $a_k$  is as defined in (8). Then

$$(15) \quad xa_n - (1 + 2x + nx)a_{n+1} + (n + 2)a_{n+2} = 0.$$

LEMMA 3. (*Third Identity (TI)*) Suppose  $a_k$  is as defined in (8). Then

$$(16) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{n+2} w_{n,j}(x)a_{i+j}(x) = 0$$

for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , where

$$(17) \quad w_{n,j} = (-1)^{n-j} \left[ \frac{2(n + j + 1)!}{(n + 1)(2n)!} \binom{n + 1}{j} x + \frac{2(n + j)!}{(n + 1)(2n)!} \binom{n + 1}{j - 1} \right].$$

*Proofs of Lemmas 1, 2, and 3.* The generating function  $f$  of the sequence  $a_k(x)$  is given by

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(x)y^n = \frac{e^y}{1 - xy}.$$

These identities are easily verified by comparing coefficients.

We will use Lemma 3 in the following form. Let  $v_j = [a_j, a_{j+1}, \dots, a_{j+n}]^T$ . The TI (16) says that the vectors  $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{n+2}$  are linearly dependent with coefficients  $w_{n,j}$ . Consider the determinant of the  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  matrix whose first  $n$  columns are the columns of  $[a_{i+j}]$  and whose last column is the zero vector. Writing the zero vector in the form (16) and expanding the determinant by linearity, we find

$$(18) \quad w_{n,n+2}U_n(x) + w_{n,n+1}S_n(x) + w_{n,n}H_n(x) = 0.$$

From the weights (17), we have that, in particular,

$$(19) \quad \begin{aligned} w_{n,n+2} &= 4(2n + 1), \\ w_{n,n+1} &= -2(2n + 1)(2x + 1), \\ w_{n,n} &= n + 2x + 4nx. \end{aligned}$$

Using (18) and (19), we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 4. *Suppose  $a_k$  is as defined in (8) and  $S_n(x)$ ,  $T_n(x)$ , and  $U_n(x)$  are as defined in the beginning of this section. Then*

$$(20) \quad 4(2n + 1)U_n(x) - 2(2n + 1)(2x + 1)S_n(x) + (n + 2x + 4nx)H_n(x) = 0.$$

**2.2. The  $\gamma$ -operator.** The  $\gamma$ -operator is a multilinear operator defined on  $m$ -tuples of matrices.

DEFINITION 1. *Given  $(n + 1) \times (n + 1)$  matrices  $A$  and  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m$  with  $m \geq 1$ , define  $\gamma_A(\ ) = \det(A)$  and*

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_A(X_1, \dots, X_m) &= \\ \partial_{t_1} \partial_{t_2} \cdots \partial_{t_m} \det(A + t_1 X_1 + t_2 X_2 + \cdots + t_m X_m) \Big|_{t_1 = \cdots = t_m = 0}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m$  are variables that do not appear in  $A$  or  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m$ .

The  $\gamma$ -operators behave well with respect to differentiation; the derivative of a  $\gamma$  is a sum of  $\gamma$ 's.

PROPOSITION 1. *For  $m \leq n$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \gamma_A(X_1, \dots, X_m) &= \gamma_A \left( \frac{d}{dx} A, X_1, \dots, X_m \right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^m \gamma_A \left( X_1, \dots, X_{j-1}, \frac{d}{dx} X_j, X_{j+1}, \dots, X_m \right). \end{aligned}$$

The reader is referred to [6] for the proofs of various properties of  $\gamma$ -operators. The values of the  $\gamma$ -operators need not be calculated from scratch for different Hankel determinant evaluations. Let  $A_n = [a_{i+j}]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$  be a Hankel matrix in the generic symbols  $a_k$ . Extensive tables of values of  $\gamma$ -operators on various kinds of matrices as

well as a computationally feasible combinatorial interpretation of  $\gamma_A(X_1, \dots, X_m)$  for small  $m$  can be found in [6]. As examples,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}]) &= S_n, \\
 \gamma_A([a_{i+j+2}]) &= U_n - T_n, \\
 \gamma_A([(i+j)a_{i+j}]) &= n(n+1)H_n, \\
 \gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}], [a_{i+j}]) &= nS_n, \\
 \gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}], [(i+j)a_{i+j+1}]) &= 2(2n-1)T_n.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{21}$$

**3. The differential equation.** We obtain the differential equation (12) for  $H_n(x)$  from a linear system of differential equations for  $\frac{d}{dx}H_n(x)$  and  $\frac{d}{dx}S_n(x)$  in terms of  $H_n(x)$  and  $S_n(x)$ . To construct this system, we first obtain  $U_n(x)$  and  $T_n(x)$  in terms of  $H_n(x)$  and  $S_n(x)$ , and then we compute the derivatives of  $H_n(x)$  and  $S_n(x)$ .

**3.1. Equation from the SI.** Apply  $\gamma_A(*)$  to the  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  matrix whose  $(i, j)$ -th entry is obtained from the SI (15) evaluated at  $i+j$ , and expand using linearity. Making use of the entries in the  $\gamma_A(*)$  computations from Table 2 of [6], we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= x(n+1)H_n(x) - (2x+1)S_n(x) - x(2nS_n(x)) \\
 &\quad + (2nU_n(x) - 2(n-1)T_n(x)) + 2(U_n(x) - T_n(x)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying gives the linear relation

$$(n+1)xH_n(x) - (2x+2nx+1)S_n(x) + 2(n+1)U_n(x) - 2nT_n(x) = 0.
 \tag{22}$$

**3.2. Equation from the TI.** We use (20). Solving the linear system (22) and (20), we obtain  $U_n(x)$  and  $T_n(x)$  in terms of  $H_n(x)$  and  $S_n(x)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 4(2n+1)U_n(x) &= 2(2n+1)(2x+1)S_n(x) - (n+2x+4nx)H_n(x), \\
 4(2n+1)T_n(x) &= 2(2n+1)S_n(x) - (n+1)H_n(x).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{23}$$

We now proceed with the calculation of the derivatives of  $H_n(x)$  and  $S_n(x)$ .

**3.3. The derivative of  $H_n(x)$ .** From Definition 1,  $H_n(x) = \gamma_A(\cdot)$ . Therefore, by Proposition 1,

$$\frac{d}{dx}H_n(x) = \gamma_A\left(\left[\frac{d}{dx}a_{i+j}\right]\right).$$

Let  $FI(i+j)$  denote the  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  matrix whose  $(i, j)$ -th entry is obtained from the FI (14) evaluated at  $i+j$  and is expanded using linearity. Using  $FI(i+j)$ ,

$$x^2 \frac{d}{dx}H_n(x) = \gamma_A([(i+j)a_{i+j+1}]) + \gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}]) - (x+1)\gamma_A([a_{i+j}]).$$

The values for  $\gamma_A(*)$  from Table 2 of [6] give

$$x^2 \frac{d}{dx}H_n(x) = 2nS_n(x) + S_n(x) - (x+1)(n+1)H_n(x).
 \tag{24}$$

Therefore

$$x^2 \frac{d}{dx}H_n(x) = (2n+1)S_n(x) - (n+1)(x+1)H_n(x).
 \tag{25}$$

**3.4. The derivative of  $S_n(x)$ .** To differentiate  $S_n(x)$ , we use the expression  $S_n(x) = \gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}])$  from Table 2 of [6]. From Proposition 1 we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}S_n(x) = \gamma_A\left([a_{i+j+1}], \left[\frac{d}{dx}a_{i+j}\right]\right) + \gamma_A\left(\left[\frac{d}{dx}a_{i+j+1}\right]\right).$$

Therefore, to compute  $\frac{d}{dx}S_n(x)$ ,

$$\gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}], FI(i+j)) \text{ and } \gamma_A(FI(i+j+1))$$

are needed. Using the entries in Table 3 of [6] for the  $\gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}], *)$  computations for the first one of these, we get

$$(26) \quad x^2\gamma_A([a_{i+j+1}], FI(i+j)) = 2(2n-1)T_n(x) + 2T_n(x) - (x+1)nS_n(x),$$

and for the second one, we get

$$\begin{aligned} x^2\gamma_A(FI(i+j+1)) &= 2nU_n(x) - 2(n-1)T_n(x) \\ &\quad + 2(U_n(x) - T_n(x)) - (x+1)S_n(x) \end{aligned}$$

by using Table 2 of [6]. Adding the two expressions,

$$(27) \quad x^2\frac{d}{dx}S_n(x) = (2n+2)U_n(x) + 2nT_n(x) - (n+1)(x+1)S_n(x).$$

Substituting the expressions for  $U_n(x)$  and  $T_n(x)$  in terms of  $S_n(x)$  and  $H_n(x)$  from (23), we obtain the derivative of  $S_n(x)$  as

$$(28) \quad (2n+1)x^2\frac{d}{dx}S_n(x) = (2n+1)(n+x+nx)S_n(x) - (n+1)(n+x+2nx)H_n(x).$$

Next we eliminate  $S_n(x)$  and  $\frac{d}{dx}S_n(x)$  from the linear system of differential equations (25) and (28) to find that

$$y = H_n(x) = \det[a_{i+j}(x)]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

satisfies the differential equation (12). Next a straightforward application of the Frobenius method gives

$$(29) \quad H_n(x) = H_n(0) \sum_{i=0}^n \frac{(n+i)!}{i!(n-i)!} x^i = H_n(0)y_n(2x).$$

**3.5. Evaluation of  $H_n(0)$ .** The fact that the constant of integration

$$(30) \quad H_n(0) = \det \left[ \frac{1}{(i+j)!} \right]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

evaluates to  $c_n$  as defined in (6) is already known. A proof appears in Lavioe [15], and even earlier, Muir [16] refers to an 1893 paper of Segar [18] which gives the evaluation of

$$\det \left[ \frac{1}{(i+j+1)!} \right]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

whose general techniques can most likely evaluate (30) as well. Similar evaluations can be found in [19]. With the identities we have, we can provide an alternate derivation of the evaluation of (30) as follows. Specialize (20), (22), and (25) at  $x = 0$  to obtain the linear system

$$\begin{aligned} 4(2n+1)U_n(0) - 2(2n+1)S_n(0) + nH_n(0) &= 0, \\ 2(n+1)U_n(0) - 2nT_n(0) - S_n(0) &= 0, \\ (2n+1)S_n(0) - (n+1)H_n(0) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} S_n(0) &= \frac{n+1}{2n+1}H_n(0), \\ U_n(0) &= \frac{n+2}{4(2n+1)}H_n(0), \\ T_n(0) &= \frac{n+1}{4(2n+1)}H_n(0). \end{aligned}$$

By a general result on Hankel determinants (see [5], section 3, Proposition 1), the following identity holds for any  $x$ :

$$(31) \quad H_{n-1}(x)H_{n+1}(x) = H_n(x)U_n(x) + H_n(x)T_n(x) - S_n(x)^2.$$

Substituting the expressions from (31) at  $x = 0$  and simplifying gives

$$H_{n-1}(0)H_{n+1}(0) = -\frac{H_n(0)^2}{4(2n+1)^2}.$$

This is a recurrence relation for the quotient  $H_{n+1}(0)/H_n(0)$  with initial value  $H_1(0)/H_0(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$ . Solving this recurrence we obtain

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

from which the formula  $c_n$  for the determinant (30) follows.

This completes the proof of Theorem 2. In view of (11), Theorem 1 and the expression for  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  in (7) follow.

**Remarks.** The recursion (4) for the Bessel polynomials together with a change of variable in the expression (7) for  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  give a linear recursion involving  $\tilde{H}_{n+1}(x)$ ,  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$ , and  $\tilde{H}_{n-1}(x)$ .

**THEOREM 3.** *Suppose  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  is as defined in (2). Then*

$$r_n(x)^2 \tilde{H}_{n+1}(x) + (-1)^n r_n(x) \tilde{H}_n(x) + \tilde{H}_{n-1}(x) = 0,$$

where

$$r_n(x) = \binom{2n}{n} (2n+1)! x^{-(2n+1)}.$$

There are numerous results involving Bessel polynomials and polynomials related to them [10]. These can be used to obtain additional properties of the  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  such



as its asymptotic behavior. As examples, Carlitz [2] showed that the polynomials  $f_n(x) = x^n y_{n-1}(\frac{1}{x})$  form a Sheffer sequence and that

$$e^z = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} y_{n-1}(x) \frac{(2z - xz^2)^n}{2^n n!}.$$

Interestingly, the right-hand side of this expansion for  $e^z$  is independent of  $x$ . Grosswald [9, 10] gives that, for fixed  $x \neq 0$  and  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$y_n(x) \sim \frac{(2n)!}{2^n n!} x^n e^{1/x},$$

and for fixed  $n$  and  $|x| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $y_n(x) \sim e^{\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)x}$ . By Theorem 1, results on Bessel polynomials translate directly into properties of the determinant  $\tilde{H}_n(x)$  and vice versa.

A variant of the numbers  $c_n$  of (6) appears as the determinant of another Hankel matrix of moments computed by Al-Salam and Carlitz in [1]. Define  $C_n$  by

$$\frac{2}{e^x + 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{C_n x^n}{2^n n!}.$$

Thus  $C_{2n} = 0$  for  $n \geq 1$ , and  $|C_{2n+1}|$  are the tangent numbers. Then

$$\det \left[ \frac{|C_{i+j}|}{(i+j)!} \right]_{0 \leq i, j \leq n} = 2^{(n+1)^2} \frac{(n+1)!}{(2n+2)!} \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{j!^2}{(2j)!^2}.$$

Finally, as the referee points out, the results of the present paper can be used in conjunction with available techniques [3] to find a recurrence for a family of polynomials orthogonal with respect to a measure  $d\mu(x, t)$  supported on  $t \in [0, \infty)$  whose moments are the partial sums of the exponential series. The coefficients of this recurrence are rational functions of Bessel polynomials.

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