

The Power of Holonomic Computation

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Austrian Academy of Sciences

March 15, 2023

Zu Chongzhi Mathematics Research Seminar



Special Functions

- ▶ arise in mathematical analysis and in real-world phenomena

Special Functions

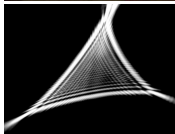
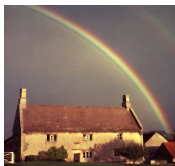
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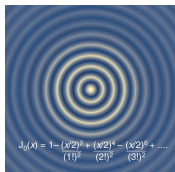
Airy function

Special Functions

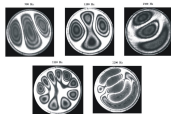
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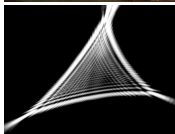
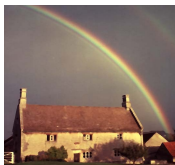
$$J_0(x) = 1 - \frac{(x^2)^2}{(1!)^2} + \frac{(x^2)^4}{(2!)^2} - \frac{(x^2)^6}{(3!)^2} + \dots$$



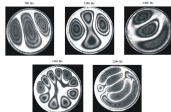
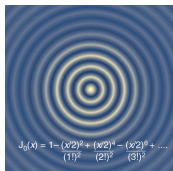
Bessel function

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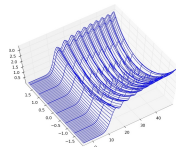
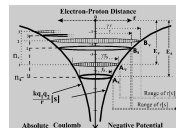
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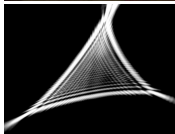
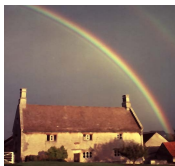
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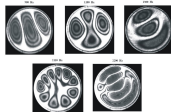
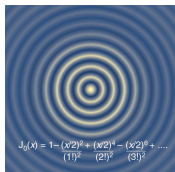
Coulomb function

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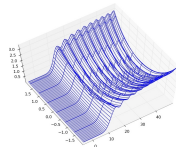
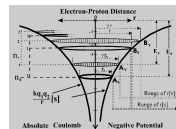
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- ▶ are solutions to certain differential equations



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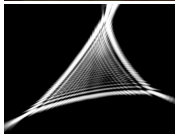
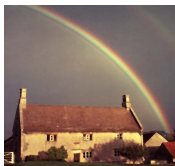
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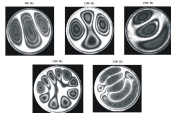
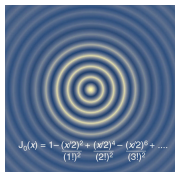
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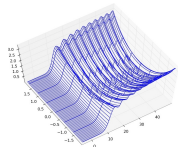
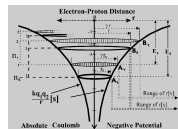
- ▶ arise in mathematical analysis and in real-world phenomena
- ▶ are solutions to certain differential equations
- ▶ cannot be expressed in terms of the usual elementary functions ($\sqrt{\quad}$, exp, log, sin, cos, ...)



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Holonomic Functions

Definition: A function $f(x)$ is called **holonomic** if it satisfies a linear ordinary differential equation with polynomial coefficients:

$$p_r(x)f^{(r)}(x) + \cdots + p_1(x)f'(x) + p_0(x)f(x) = 0,$$

$p_0, \dots, p_r \in \mathbb{K}[x]$ (not all zero).

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$$p_r(n)f(n+r) + \cdots + p_1(n)f(n+1) + p_0(n)f(n) = 0,$$

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→ In both cases, one needs only **finitely many** initial conditions.

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Example: The **Bessel function** $J_\nu(x)$ describes the vibrations of a circular membrane and other phenomena with cylindrical symmetry.

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$$x^2 \frac{d^2}{dx^2} J_\nu(x) + x \frac{d}{dx} J_\nu(x) + (x^2 - \nu^2) J_\nu(x) = 0$$

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Many special functions can be characterized as solutions to systems of linear differential equations and recurrences, and in fact are holonomic.

Finiteness Property

Example: The **Legendre polynomials** are orthogonal polynomials w.r.t. the L^2 inner product $\int_{-1}^1 f(x)g(x) dx$, and satisfy the ODE

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

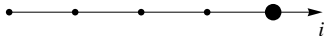
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$$P_n^{(4)}(x) =$$



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$$(x^2 - 1)P_n^{(4)}(x) + 6xP_n^{(3)}(x) - (n - 2)(n + 3)P_n''(x) = 0$$

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$$\begin{aligned} P_n^{(4)}(x) = & \\ & \frac{n^2x^2 - n^2 + nx^2 - n + 18x^2 + 6}{(x^2 - 1)^2} P_n''(x) \\ & - \frac{6(n-1)(n+2)x}{(x^2 - 1)^2} P_n'(x) \end{aligned}$$



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→ $P_n(x)$ is **holonomic** w.r.t. x .

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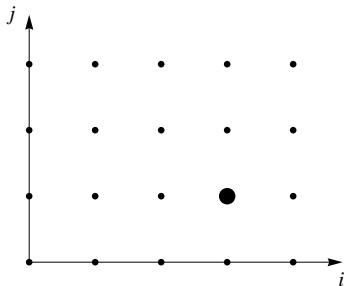


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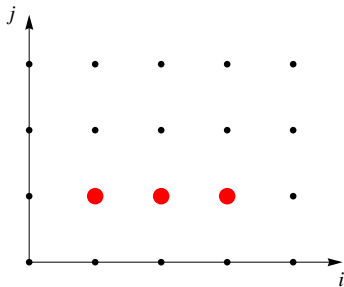
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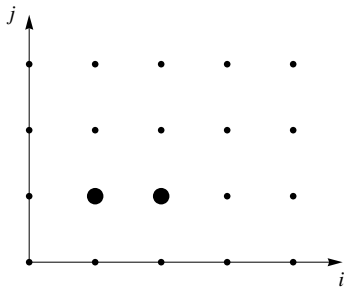
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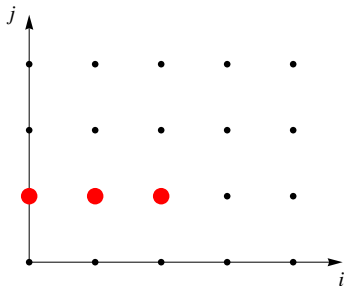
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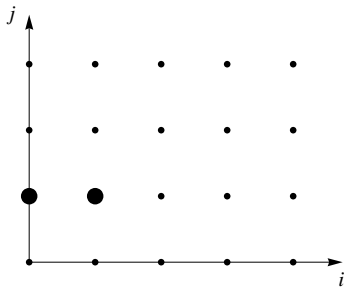
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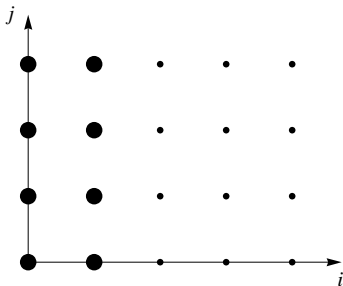
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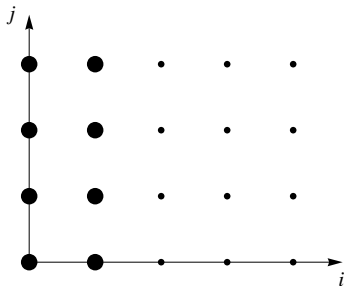
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Example: The **Legendre polynomials** can be defined recursively:

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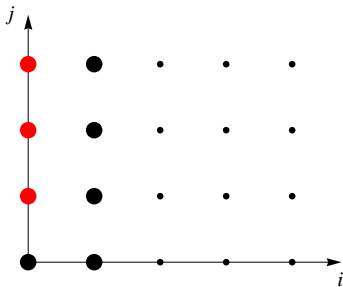
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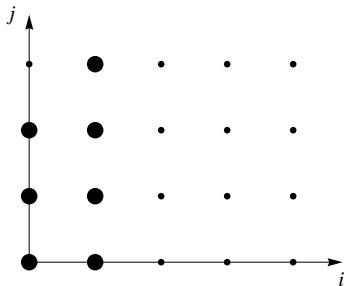
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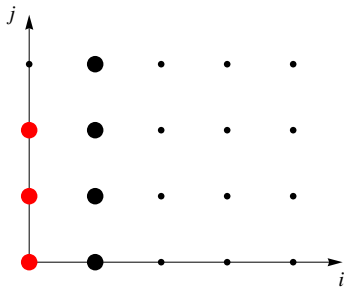
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$$P_{n+3}(x) = \frac{4n^2x^2 - n^2 + 16nx^2 - 4n + 15x^2 - 4}{(n+2)(n+3)} P_{n+1}(x) - \frac{2n^2x + 7nx + 5x}{(n+2)(n+3)} P_n(x)$$

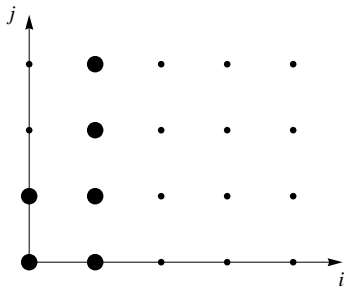
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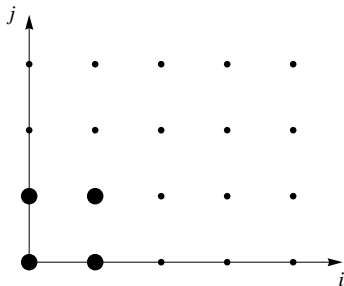
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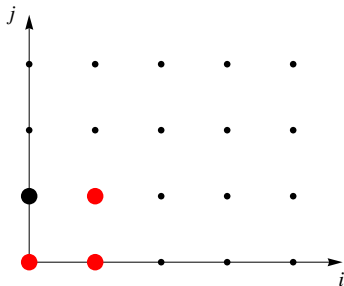
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Consider the set $\{P_{n+j}^{(i)}(x) : i, j \geq 0\}$.



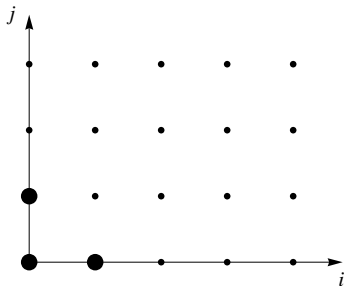
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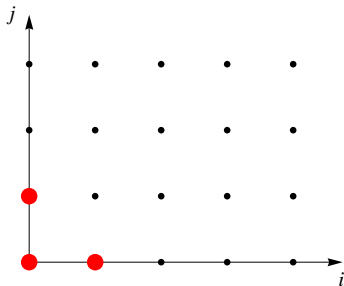
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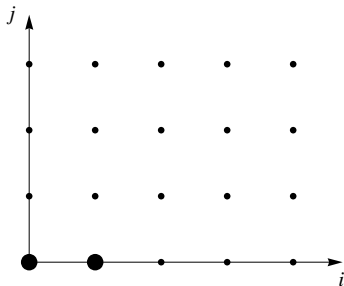
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→ $P_n(x)$ is **holonomic** w.r.t. n and x (of rank 2).

Consider the set $\{P_{n+j}^{(i)}(x) : i, j \geq 0\}$.



Holonomic Functions

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- ▶ $f_n(h(x))$, where $h(x)$ is an algebraic function.

Many Functions are Holonomic

ArcCsc, KelvinBei, HypergeometricPFQ, ExpIntegralE, ArcTanh, HankelH2, AngerJ, JacobiP, ChebyshevT, AiryBi, AiryAi, Sinc, Multinomial, CatalanNumber, QBinomial, CosIntegral, ArcSech, SphericalHankelH2, HermiteH, ExpIntegralEi, Beta, AiryBiPrime, SphericalBesselJ, Binomial, ParabolicCylinderD, Erfc, EllipticK, Fibonacci, QFactorial, Cos, Hypergeometric2F1, Erf, KelvinKer, HypergeometricPFQRegularized, Log, Factorial, BesselY, Cosh, CoshIntegral, ArcTan, ArcCoth, LegendreP, LaguerreL, EllipticE, SinhIntegral, Sinh, BetaRegularized, SphericalHankelH1, ArcSin, EllipticThetaPrime, Root, LucasL, AppellF1, FresnelC, LegendreQ, ChebyshevU, GammaRegularized, Erfi, HarmonicNumber, BesselI, KelvinKei, ArithmeticGeometricMean, Exp, ArcCot, EllipticTheta, Hypergeometric0F1, EllipticPi, GegenbauerC, ArcCos, WeberE, FresnelS, EllipticF, ArcCosh, Subfactorial, QPochhammer, Gamma, StruveH, WhittakerM, ArcCsch, Hypergeometric1F1, SinIntegral, BesselJ, StruveL, ArcSec, Factorial2, KelvinBer, BesselK, ArcSinh, HankelH1, Sqrt, PolyGamma, HypergeometricU, AiryAiPrime, Sin,

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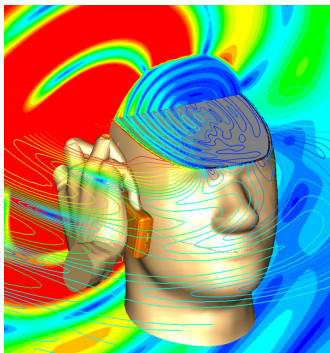
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- ▶ number theory (e.g., irrationality proofs)
- ▶ evaluate symbolic determinants (e.g., in combinatorics)

Application

Finite Elements



(joint work with Joachim Schöberl and Peter Paule)

Problem Setting

Simulate the propagation of electromagnetic waves according to

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = \text{curl } E, \quad \frac{dE}{dt} = -\text{curl } H \quad (\text{Maxwell})$$

where H and E are the magnetic and the electric field respectively.

Define basis functions (2D case):

$$\varphi_{i,j}(x, y) := (1 - x)^i P_j^{(2i+1,0)}(2x - 1) P_i\left(\frac{2y}{1-x} - 1\right)$$

using Legendre and Jacobi polynomials.

Problem: Represent the partial derivatives of $\varphi_{i,j}(x, y)$ in the basis (i.e., as linear combinations of shifts of the $\varphi_{i,j}(x, y)$ itself).

Solution

Ansatz: One needs a relation of the form

$$\sum_{(k,l) \in A} a_{k,l}(i,j) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i+k,j+l}(x,y) = \sum_{(m,n) \in B} b_{m,n}(i,j) \varphi_{i+m,j+n}(x,y),$$

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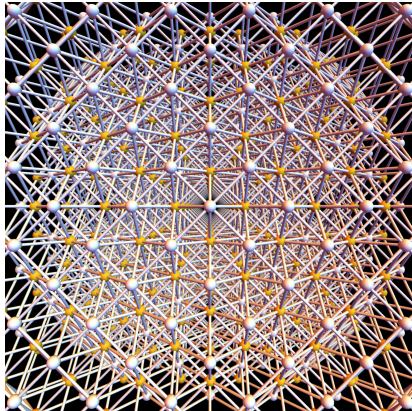
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that is free of x and y (and similarly for $\frac{d}{dy}$).

Result: With our holonomic methods, we find the relation

$$\begin{aligned} & (2i + j + 3)(2i + 2j + 7) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i,j+1}(x,y) + \\ & 2(2i + 1)(i + j + 3) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i,j+2}(x,y) - \\ & (j + 3)(2i + 2j + 5) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i,j+3}(x,y) + \\ & (j + 1)(2i + 2j + 7) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i+1,j}(x,y) - \\ & 2(2i + 3)(i + j + 3) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i+1,j+1}(x,y) - \\ & (2i + j + 5)(2i + 2j + 5) \frac{d}{dx} \varphi_{i+1,j+2}(x,y) + \\ & 2(i + j + 3)(2i + 2j + 5)(2i + 2j + 7) \varphi_{i,j+2}(x,y) + \\ & 2(i + j + 3)(2i + 2j + 5)(2i + 2j + 7) \varphi_{i+1,j+1}(x,y) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Creative Telescoping



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Creative telescoping is a method

- ▶ to deal with parametrized symbolic sums and integrals

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Method for doing integrals and sums
(aka Feynman's differentiating under the integral sign)

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Summing from a to b yields a recurrence for $F(n)$:

$$c_r(n)F(n + r) + \cdots + c_0(n)F(n) = g(n, b + 1) - g(n, a).$$

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Consider the following integration problem: $F(x) := \int_a^b f(x, y) \, dy$

Telescoping: write $f(x, y) = \frac{d}{dy}g(x, y)$.

Then $F(x) = \int_a^b \left(\frac{d}{dy}g(x, y) \right) \, dy = g(x, b) - g(x, a)$.

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$$c_r(x) \frac{d^r}{dx^r} f(x, y) + \cdots + c_0(x) f(x, y) = \frac{d}{dy}g(x, y).$$

Integrating from a to b yields a differential equation for $F(x)$:

$$c_r(x) \frac{d^r}{dx^r} F(x) + \cdots + c_0(x) F(x) = g(x, b) - g(x, a)$$

Table of Integrals by Gradshteyn and Ryzhik

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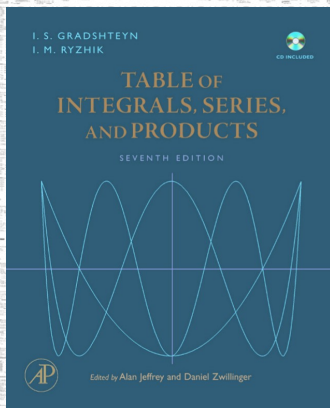


Table of Integrals by Gradshteyn and Ryzhik

This image displays a comprehensive table of integrals, organized into columns and rows. Each entry typically includes a mathematical expression, often involving variables like x , a , b , and n , and a corresponding integral result. The table is densely packed with formulas, covering a wide range of mathematical functions and operations. The layout is structured, with headings and sub-headings indicating different categories of integrals. The text is small and dense, typical of a reference table. The overall appearance is that of a technical manual or a reference book page.

Table of Integrals by Gradshteyn and Ryzhik

7.20	7.21	7.22	7.23	7.24	7.25	7.26	7.27	7.28	7.29	7.30	7.31	7.32	7.33	7.34	7.35	7.36	7.37	7.38	7.39	7.40	7.41	7.42	7.43	7.44	7.45	7.46	7.47	7.48	7.49	7.50	7.51	7.52	7.53	7.54	7.55	7.56	7.57	7.58	7.59	7.60	7.61	7.62	7.63	7.64	7.65	7.66	7.67	7.68	7.69	7.70	7.71	7.72	7.73	7.74	7.75	7.76	7.77	7.78	7.79	7.80	7.81	7.82	7.83	7.84	7.85	7.86	7.87	7.88	7.89	7.90	7.91	7.92	7.93	7.94	7.95	7.96	7.97	7.98	7.99	8.00
7.20	7.21	7.22	7.23	7.24	7.25	7.26	7.27	7.28	7.29	7.30	7.31	7.32	7.33	7.34	7.35	7.36	7.37	7.38	7.39	7.40	7.41	7.42	7.43	7.44	7.45	7.46	7.47	7.48	7.49	7.50	7.51	7.52	7.53	7.54	7.55	7.56	7.57	7.58	7.59	7.60	7.61	7.62	7.63	7.64	7.65	7.66	7.67	7.68	7.69	7.70	7.71	7.72	7.73	7.74	7.75	7.76	7.77	7.78	7.79	7.80	7.81	7.82	7.83	7.84	7.85	7.86	7.87	7.88	7.89	7.90	7.91	7.92	7.93	7.94	7.95	7.96	7.97	7.98	7.99	8.00

Table of Integrals by Gradshteyn and Ryzhik

7.319

$$1. \int_0^1 (1-x)^{\mu-1} x^{\nu-1} C_{2n}^\lambda(\gamma x^{1/2}) dx = (-1)^n \frac{\Gamma(\lambda+n)\Gamma(\mu)\Gamma(\nu)}{n!\Gamma(\lambda)\Gamma(\mu+\nu)} {}_3F_2\left(-n, n+\lambda, \nu; \frac{1}{2}, \mu+\nu; \gamma^2\right) \\ [\operatorname{Re} \mu > 0, \operatorname{Re} \nu > 0] \quad \text{ET II 191(41)a}$$

$$2. \int_0^1 (1-x)^{\mu-1} x^{\nu-1} C_{2n+1}^\lambda(\gamma x^{1/2}) dx = \frac{(-1)^n 2\gamma \Gamma(\mu)\Gamma(\lambda+n+1)\Gamma(\nu+\frac{1}{2})}{n!\Gamma(\lambda)\Gamma(\mu+\nu+\frac{1}{2})} \\ \times {}_3F_2\left(-n, n+\lambda+1, \nu+\frac{1}{2}; \frac{3}{2}, \mu+\nu+\frac{1}{2}; \gamma^2\right) \\ [\operatorname{Re} \mu > 0, \operatorname{Re} \nu > -\frac{1}{2}] \quad \text{ET II 191(42)}$$

7.32 Combinations of Gegenbauer polynomials $C_n^\nu(x)$ and elementary functions

$$7.321 \int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} e^{iax} C_n^\nu(x) dx = \frac{\pi 2^{1-\nu} i^n \Gamma(2\nu+n)}{n!\Gamma(\nu)} a^{-\nu} J_{\nu+n}(a) \\ [\operatorname{Re} \nu > -\frac{1}{2}] \quad \text{ET II 281(7), MO 99a}$$

$$7.322 \int_0^{2a} [x(2a-x)]^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} C_n^\nu\left(\frac{x}{a}-1\right) e^{-bx} dx = (-1)^n \frac{\pi \Gamma(2\nu+n)}{n!\Gamma(\nu)} \left(\frac{a}{2b}\right)^\nu e^{-ab} I_{\nu+n}(ab) \\ [\operatorname{Re} \nu > -\frac{1}{2}] \quad \text{ET I 171(9)}$$

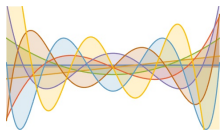
7.323

$$1. \int_0^\pi C_n^\nu(\cos \varphi) (\sin \varphi)^{2\nu} d\varphi = 0 \quad [n = 1, 2, 3, \dots]$$

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Gegenbauer
polynomials $C_n^{(\alpha)}(x)$


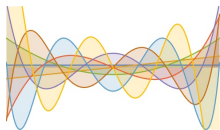
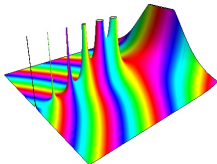

$$\int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} e^{iax} C_n^\nu(x) dx = \frac{\pi 2^{1-\nu} i^n \Gamma(2\nu+n)}{n! \Gamma(\nu)} a^{-\nu} J_{\nu+n}(a)$$

Table of Integrals by Gradshteyn and Ryzhik



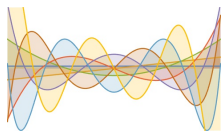
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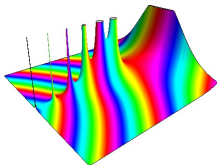
Gamma
function $\Gamma(x)$

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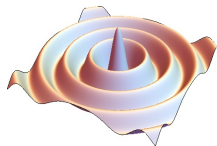
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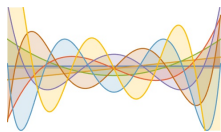
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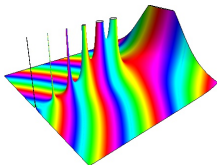
Bessel
function $J_\nu(x)$

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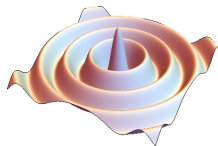
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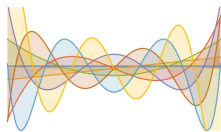


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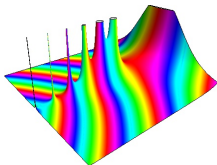
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- ▶ A large portion of such identities can be proven via the holonomic systems approach.

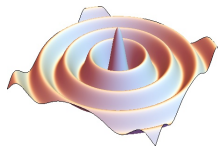
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- ▶ A large portion of such identities can be proven via the holonomic systems approach.
- ▶ Algorithms are implemented in the HolonomicFunctions package.

The HolonomicFunctions Package

Example: Holonomic system, satisfied by both sides of the identity:

$$\begin{aligned}ia(n + 2\nu)f'_n(a) + a(n + 1)f_{n+1}(a) - in(n + 2\nu)f_n(a) &= 0, \\a(n + 1)(n + 2)f_{n+2}(a) - 2i(n + 1)(n + \nu + 1)(n + 2\nu + 1)f_{n+1}(a) \\- a(n + 2\nu)(n + 2\nu + 1)f_n(a) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

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```
In[42]:= Annihilator[Pi * 2 ^ (1 - nu) * I ^ n * Gamma[2 nu + n] / n! / Gamma[nu] * a ^ (-nu) *  
BesselJ[nu + n, a], {Der[a], S[n]}] // Factor
```

```
Out[42]=
```

```
{i a (n + 2 nu) D_a + a (1 + n) S_n - i n (n + 2 nu),  
a (1 + n) (2 + n) S_n^2 - 2 i (1 + n) (1 + n + nu) (1 + n + 2 nu) S_n - a (n + 2 nu) (1 + n + 2 nu)}
```

```
In[43]:= CreativeTelescoping[(1 - x ^ 2) ^ (nu - 1 / 2) * Exp[I * a * x] * GegenbauerC[n, nu, x],  
Der[x], {Der[a], S[n]}] // Factor
```

```
Out[43]=
```

```
{{a (n + 2 nu) D_a - i a (1 + n) S_n - n (n + 2 nu),  
a (1 + n) (2 + n) S_n^2 - 2 i (1 + n) (1 + n + nu) (1 + n + 2 nu) S_n - a (n + 2 nu) (1 + n + 2 nu)},  
{(1 + n) S_n - x (n + 2 nu), 2 i (1 + n) x (1 + n + nu) S_n - 2 i (1 + n + nu) (n + 2 nu)}}
```

Holonomic Special Function Identities

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2 \binom{k+n}{k}^2 = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \binom{k+n}{k} \sum_{j=0}^k \binom{k}{j}^3 \quad (1)$$

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$$\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{(x^4 + 2ax^2 + 1)^{m+1}} dx = \frac{\pi P_m^{(m+\frac{1}{2}, -m-\frac{1}{2})}(a)}{2^{m+\frac{3}{2}}(a+1)^{m+\frac{1}{2}}} \quad (2)$$

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$$e^{-x} x^{a/2} n! L_n^a(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{\frac{a}{2}+n} J_a(2\sqrt{tx}) dt \quad (3)$$

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$$\int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^{\nu-\frac{1}{2}} e^{iax} C_n^{(\nu)}(x) dx = \frac{\pi i^n \Gamma(n+2\nu) J_{n+\nu}(a)}{2^{\nu-1} a^{\nu} n! \Gamma(\nu)} \quad (5)$$

Symbolic Determinants via Holonomic Ansatz

$$\det_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \frac{1}{i + j - 1} = \frac{1}{(2n - 1)!} \prod_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{(k!)^2}{(k + 1)_{n-1}}$$

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$$\det_{0 \leq i, j \leq n-1} \begin{pmatrix} 2i + 2a \\ j + b \end{pmatrix} = 2^{n(n-1)/2} \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{(2k + 2a)!k!}{(k + b)!(2k + 2a - b)!}$$

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$$\det_{0 \leq i, j \leq n-1} \sum_k \binom{i}{k} \binom{j}{k} 2^k = 2^{n(n-1)/2}$$

Symbolic Determinants via Holonomic Ansatz

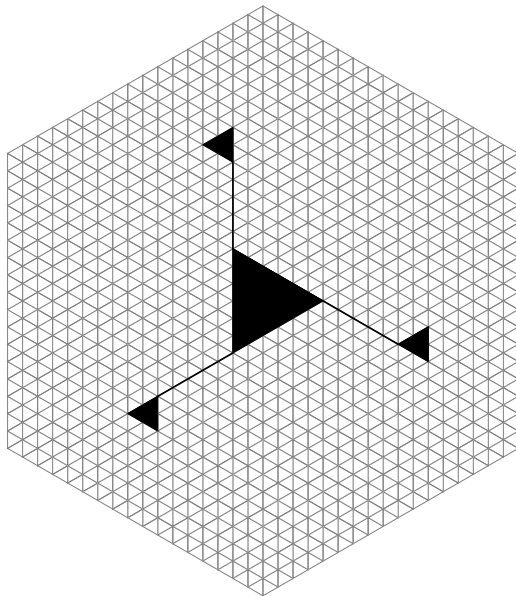
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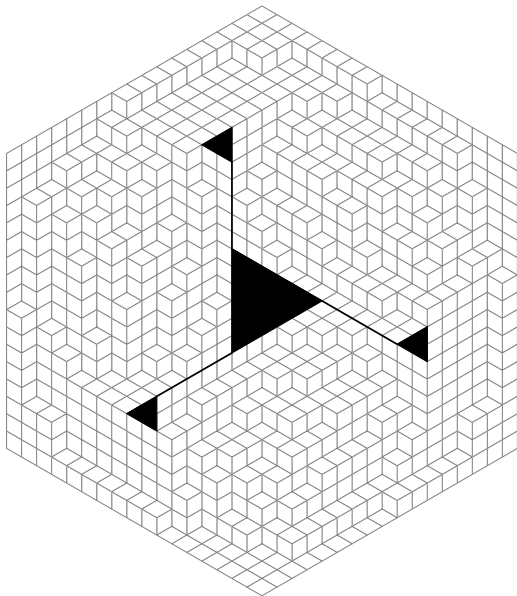
$$\det_{0 \leq i, j \leq n-1} \sum_k \binom{i}{k} \binom{j}{k} 2^k = 2^{n(n-1)/2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \det_{1 \leq i, j \leq 2m+1} \left[\binom{\mu+i+j+2r}{j+2r-2} - \delta_{i,j+2r} \right] \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{m-r+1} (\mu+3) (m+r+1)_{m-r}}{2^{2m-2r+1} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + r + \frac{3}{2}\right)_{m-r+1}} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{2m} \frac{(\mu+i+3)_{2r}}{(i)_{2r}} \\ & \times \prod_{i=1}^{m-r} \frac{(\mu+2i+6r+3)_i^2 \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + 2i + 3r + 2\right)_{i-1}^2}{(i)_i^2 \left(\frac{\mu}{2} + i + 3r + 2\right)_{i-1}^2}. \end{aligned}$$

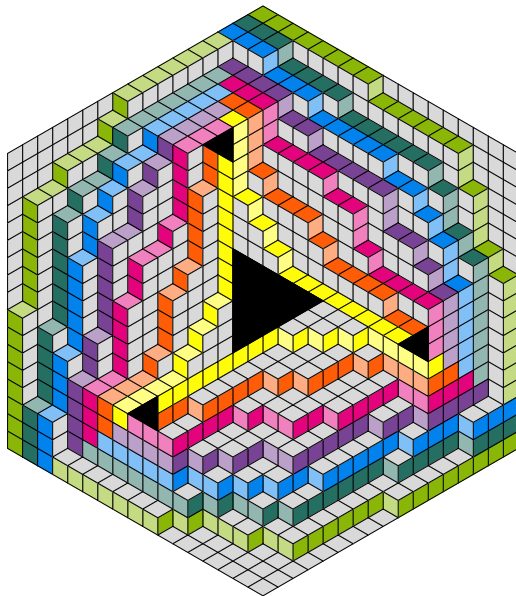
Combinatorial Interpretation



Combinatorial Interpretation



Combinatorial Interpretation



Further Reading

- ▶ **Survey article:** *Creative telescoping for holonomic functions*. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-7091-1616-6_7, arXiv:1307.4554.
- ▶ **PhD thesis:** *Advanced applications of the holonomic systems approach* (RISC, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria, 2009).
- ▶ **Software package:** *HolonomicFunctions (user's guide)*. <https://risc.jku.at/sw/holonomicfunctions/>
- ▶ **Electromagnetic waves application:** *Method, device and computer program product for determining an electromagnetic near field of a field excitation source for an electrical system* (with J. Schöberl and P. Paule), Patents EP2378444 and US8868382.
- ▶ **Combinatorial determinants:** *Binomial determinants for tiling problems yield to the holonomic ansatz* (with H. Du, T. Thanatipanonda, E. Wong). DOI: 10.1016/j.ejc.2021.103437, arXiv:2105.08539.