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HANKEL TRANSFORM OF NARAYANA POLYNOMIALS AND GENERALIZED CATALAN NUMBERS

Marko D. Petković,
Predrag M. Rajković,

Department of Mathematics
University of Niš
Serbia.

1 Introduction

First we will define Hankel transform of a integer sequence and show some examples.

Definition 1 The **Hankel transform** of a given sequence $A = \{a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ is the sequence of Hankel determinants $\{h_0, h_1, h_2, \dots\}$ where $h_n = |a_{i+j-2}|_{i,j=1}^n$, i.e

$$A = \{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0} \rightarrow h = \{h_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0} : h_n = \begin{vmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & \cdots & a_n \\ a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_{n+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_n & a_{n+1} & \cdots & a_{2n} \end{vmatrix} \quad (1.1)$$

Example 1 The Hankel transform of a **Catalan sequence** given by $c(n) = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n}$ is the sequence of all 1's. Thus each of the determinants has value 1:

$$|1|, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{vmatrix}, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 \\ 2 & 5 & 14 \end{vmatrix}, \quad \dots \quad (1.2)$$

Example 2 Sequence of **central binomial coefficients** defined by $a_n = \binom{2n}{n}$ has Hankel transform $h_n = 2^n$, i.e.

$$|1| = 1, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 6 & 20 \end{vmatrix} = 2, \quad \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 2 & 6 \\ 2 & 6 & 20 \\ 20 & 70 & 252 \end{vmatrix} = 4, \quad \dots \quad (1.3)$$

Example 3 In paper [3], A. Cvetković, P. Rajković and M. Ivković have proven that Hankel transform of sequence **A005087** in On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences [11] defined by:

$$a_n = c(n) + c(n + 1) = \frac{1}{n + 1} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{n + 2} \binom{2n + 2}{n + 1} \quad (1.4)$$

equals to the sequence **A001906**, i.e. bisection of Fibonacci sequence $F(2n + 1)$.

We generalized previous result, i.e. computed the Hankel transform of the generalized sequence $a_n(L) = c(n; L) + c(n + 1; L)$, where $c(n; L)$ is a sequence of **generalized Catalan numbers**.

2 Hankel transform of Narayana Polynomials

In this section we will present the method for computing Hankel transform of the sequence of Narayana polynomials based on **Krattenthaler formula** in [6]. Similar method will be used also for generalized sequence from [3].

- First we will find the real measure whose moments are values of Narayana polynomials
- Then we will construct the sequence of orthogonal polynomials with respect to found measure
- Finally, from the three-terms recurrence relation we will derive Hankel transform in the closed form.

2.1 Narayana numbers and polynomials

We will consider the sequence of the **Narayana** and **shifted Narayana** numbers

$$N(n, k) = \frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{k+1}, \quad \tilde{N}(n, k) = N(n+1, k).$$

To this sequence we can join the **Narayana triangles**

$$\mathbf{N} = [N(n, k)]_{n, k \in \mathbb{N}}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{N}} = [\tilde{N}(n, k)]_{n, k \in \mathbb{N}}.$$

and the **Narayana polynomials**

$$a(n; r) = \sum_{k=0}^n \tilde{N}(n, k) r^k, \quad a_1(n; r) = \sum_{k=0}^n N(n, k) r^k.$$

It is valid

$$a(n; r) = a_1(n+1; r) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}).$$

Definition 2 For a given function $y = f(x)$, $f(0) = 0$, the **series reversion** is the sequence $\{s_k\}$ such that

$$x = f^{-1}(y) = s_0 + s_1y + \cdots + s_ny^n + \cdots ,$$

where $x = f^{-1}(y)$ is the inverse function of $y = f(x)$.

In the paper [1], P. Barry showed the next facts.

Lemma 1 The series reversion of the next functions are Narayana and shifted Narayana numbers

$$y = f(x) = \frac{x}{1 + (r + 1)x + rx^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad f^{-1}(y) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} a(n; r)y^n,$$

$$y = g(x) = \frac{x(1 - rx)}{1 - (r - 1)x} \quad \Rightarrow \quad g^{-1}(y) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} a_1(n; r)y^n.$$

From the previous Lemma, we can easily derive the generating functions of the sequences $a(n; r)$ and $a_1(n; r)$.

Corolary 1 The generating functions of the sequences $a(n; r)$ and $a_1(n; r)$ are given by:

$$A(x, r) = \frac{-1 + (r + 1)x + \sqrt{(1 - (r + 1)x)^2 - 4rx^2}}{2rx^2} \quad (2.5)$$
$$A_1(x, r) = \frac{A(x, r) - 1}{x}$$

2.2 Deriving the weight function of $\{a(n; r)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0}$

Our goal is to find weight function w such that $a(n, r)$, $n = 0, 1, \dots$ are moments corresponding to this function, i.e. that holds $a(n, r) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^n w(x) dx$.

Theorem 1 The weight function whose n -th moment is $a(n, r)$ is:

$$w(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{4r - (x - r - 1)^2}}{2\pi r}, & x \in ((\sqrt{r} - 1)^2, (\sqrt{r} + 1)^2); \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2.6)$$

Proof. We will use Stieltjes inversion formula (see [2]). First define the function:

$$F(z, r) = \frac{1}{z} A\left(\frac{1}{z}, r\right) = -\frac{(r + 1) - z + \sqrt{(z - r - 1)^2 - 4r}}{2rz} \quad (2.7)$$

Then, from the theory of distributions, we have that distribution function $\psi(x)$ and measure (weight) $w(x)$ satisfies following relations:

$$\psi(t) - \psi(0) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \int_0^t \Im F(x + iy; L) dx, \quad w(t) = \frac{d\psi(t)}{dt}. \quad (2.8)$$

It can be shown that an integral of $F(z; r)$ is equal to:

$$\mathcal{F}(z; L) = \int F(z; L) dz = \frac{1}{4r} \left[z^2 + (1+r-z)\rho(z; r) - 2z(r+1) \right] + l_1(z; r), \quad (2.9)$$

Where we denoted:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(z; r) &= \sqrt{(z - r - 1)^2 - 4r} \\ l_1(z; r) &= \ln(-(r+1) + z + \rho(z; r)) \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

We can notice that in the complex plane, function $\rho(z; r)$ has two branch points $z = (\sqrt{r} - 1)^2$ and $z = (\sqrt{r} + 1)^2$, and $l_1(z)$ has one more, $z = r + 1$.

Now by choosing appropriate regular branches of $\rho(z; r)$ and $l_1(z; r)$ we can find the limits:

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \Im \rho(x + iy; r) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{4r - (x - r - 1)^2} & , x \in ((\sqrt{r} - 1)^2, (\sqrt{r} + 1)^2) \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise.} \end{cases},$$

and

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \Im l_1(x + iy; r) = \begin{cases} \pi + \arctan \frac{\sqrt{4r - (x - r - 1)^2}}{x - (r + 1)} & , x \in ((\sqrt{r} - 1)^2, r + 1) \\ \arctan \frac{\sqrt{4r - (x - r - 1)^2}}{x - (r + 1)} & , x \in (r + 1, (\sqrt{r} + 1)^2) \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now to complete the proof we need to substitute these values into the formula for $w(x)$. \square

2.3 Orthogonal polynomials w.r.t. the weight $w(x)$

In the paper [6], C. Krattenthaler proved that Hankel transform h_n of a sequence $a_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^n w(x) dx$ is given with the following relation $h_n = a_0^n \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \beta_i^{n-i}$.

Coefficients β_i are from the three-terms recurrence relation between monic orthogonal polynomials with respect to the weight $\omega(x)$.

$$Q_{n+1}(x) = (x - \alpha_n)Q_n(x) - \beta_n Q_{n-1}(x), \quad (2.11)$$

Lemma 2 Coefficients α_n and β_n , $n = 0, 1, \dots$ in the three-term recurrence relation (2.11) with respect to weight function:

$$w(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{4r - (x-r-1)^2}}{2\pi r}, & x \in ((\sqrt{r} - 1)^2, (\sqrt{r} + 1)^2); \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

are given with:

$$\beta_0 = 1 \quad \beta_n = r, n \geq 1 \quad \alpha_n = r + 1, n \geq 0$$

Proof. Second kind Chebyshev polynomials are orthogonal w.r.t the weight $w^{(1)}(x) = \sqrt{1-x^2}$.

$$Q_n^{(1)}(x) = S_n(x) = \frac{\sin((n+1)\arccos x)}{2^n \cdot \sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

Corresponding coefficients are:

$$\beta_0^{(1)} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \beta_n^{(1)} = \frac{1}{4}, \quad n \geq 1 \quad \alpha_n^{(1)} = 0, \quad n \geq 0$$

Let we introduce new weight function:

$$w^{(2)}(x) = \sqrt{4r - (x - r - 1)^2} = w\left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{r}}x - \frac{r+1}{2\sqrt{r}}\right) = w(ax + b)$$

Using the transformation formulas from [4] we obtain new coefficients:

$$\beta_0^{(2)} = \sqrt{r}\pi, \quad \beta_n^{(2)} = \frac{\beta_n^{(1)}}{a^2} = r, \quad n \geq 1 \quad \alpha_n^{(2)} = \frac{\alpha_n^{(1)} - b}{a^2} = r + 1, \quad n \geq 0$$

Finally by dividing weight function $w^{(2)}(x)$ with constant $\frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{r}}$ we have

$$\beta_n^{(3)} = \beta_n^{(2)} = r, \quad n \geq 1, \quad \beta_0^{(3)} = 1, \quad \alpha_n^{(3)} = \alpha_n^{(2)} = r + 1$$

which completes the proof. \square

2.4 The Hankel transform of $\{a(n; r)\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0}$

Now we are ready to prove the main theorem of this section:

Theorem 2 The Hankel transform of the sequence $a(n; r)$ is

$$h(n; r) = r^{\binom{n}{2}}.$$

Proof. Using Krattenthaler formula we have:

$$h(n; r) = a(0; r)^n \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \beta_i^{n-i} = 1^n \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} r^{n-i} = r^{\binom{n}{2}}.$$

□

3 Hankel Transform of sum of consecutive generalized Catalan numbers

In this section we will consider **the generalized Catalan numbers** and we will find the Hankel transform of a sequence $a_n(L)$, the generalization of the sequence **A005087**.

- First we will define the **generalized binomial coefficients** and **generalized Catalan numbers** and consider its basic properties.
- Then we will derive the generating function of $a_n(L)$.
- Finally we will find the Hankel transform similarly as in the case of Narayana polynomials.

3.1 Definitions and basic properties

Definition 3 For a given sequence $\{b_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ define the **generalized binomial coefficient** with:

$$T(n, k, \{b_m\}) = \sum_j \binom{k}{j} \binom{n-k}{j} b_j.$$

Also define the sequence of **generalized Catalan numbers** with:

$$c(n; \{b_m\}) = T(2n, n; \{b_m\}) - T(2n, n-1; \{b_m\})$$

It can be directly verified that holds $T(n, k, \{b_m\}) = T(n, n-k, \{b_m\})$.

Example 4 For the sequence $b_m = 1$, we have that $T(n, k; \{1\}) = \binom{n}{k}$. This comes from the **Vandermode convolution identity**:

$$\binom{n}{k} = \sum_j \binom{k}{j} \binom{n-k}{j}.$$

In that case also holds $c(n) = c(n; \{1\})$.

Now consider the sequence $b_m = L^m$ where L is positive real number. To simplify notation, we will denote:

$$T(n, k; \{L^m\}) = T(n, k; L), \quad c(n; \{L^m\}) = c(n; L)$$

Definition 4 Denote with $a_n(L)$ generalization of the sequence **A005087** defined by:

$$a_n(L) = c(n + 1; L) + c(n; L)$$

Our goal is to find the Hankel transform $h_n(L)$ of this sequence.

3.2 The generating function

Proposition 1 The generalized binomial coefficient $T(2n + a, n + a; L)$ can be rewritten using **Jacobi polynomial** $P_n^{(a,b)}(x)$ by:

$$T(2n + a, n; L) = (L - 1)^n P_n^{(a,0)}\left(\frac{L + 1}{L - 1}\right)$$

The **generating function** of Jacobi polynomials is given by:

$$G^{(a,b)}(x, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n^{(a,b)}(x) t^n = \frac{2^{a+b}}{\phi \cdot (1 - t + \phi)^a \cdot (1 + t + \phi)^b}, \quad (3.12)$$

where $\phi = \phi(x, t) = \sqrt{1 - 2xt + t^2}$.

Now we can derive the generating functions of $T(2n + a, n; L)$ and also $a_n(L)$:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} T(2n + a, n; L) t^n = G^{(a,0)}\left(\frac{L+1}{L-1}, (L-1)t\right), \quad (3.13)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{G}(t; L) &= \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} a_n(L)t^n \\
&= \frac{t+1}{t} G^{(0,0)}\left(\frac{L+1}{L-1}, (L-1)t\right) - (t+1)G^{(2,0)}\left(\frac{L+1}{L-1}, (L-1)t\right) - \frac{1}{t} \\
&= \frac{t+1}{\rho(t; L)} \left\{ \frac{1}{t} - \frac{4}{(1 - (L-1)t + \rho(t; L))^2} \right\} - \frac{1}{t}
\end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

where

$$\rho(t; L) = \phi\left(\frac{L+1}{L-1}, (L-1)t\right) = \sqrt{1 - 2(L+1)t + (L-1)^2 t^2} \tag{3.15}$$

3.3 The Hankel transform of $a_n(L)$

Theorem 3 Numbers $a_n(L)$ are the moments of the following weight function:

$$\omega(x; L) = \frac{\sqrt{L}}{\pi} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right) \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{x - L - 1}{2\sqrt{L}}\right)^2} \quad (3.16)$$

Now we need to describe the orthogonal polynomials $\{Q_n(x)\}$ corresponding to this weight function.

Example 5 For $L = 4$, we can find the first members

$$\begin{aligned} Q_0(x) &= 1, & \|Q_0\|^2 &= 5, \\ Q_1(x) &= x - \frac{24}{5}, & \|Q_1\|^2 &= \frac{104}{5}, \\ Q_2(x) &= x^2 - \frac{127}{13}x + \frac{256}{13}, & \|Q_2\|^2 &= \frac{1088}{13}, \\ Q_3(x) &= x^3 - \frac{541}{17}x^2 + \frac{1096}{17}x - \frac{1344}{17}, & \|Q_3\|^2 &= \frac{5696}{17}, \end{aligned}$$

We can again start from the **second kind Chebyshev polynomials** orthogonal w.r.t. the weight $p^{(1/2,1/2)}(x) = \sqrt{1-x^2}$. They satisfy the three-term recurrence relation [2]:

$$S_{n+1}(x) = (x - \alpha_n^*) S_n(x) - \beta_n^* S_{n-1}(x) \quad (n = 0, 1, \dots), \quad (3.17)$$

with initial values

$$S_{-1}(x) = 0, \quad S_0(x) = 1,$$

where

$$\alpha_n^* = 0 \quad (n \geq 0) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_0^* = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \beta_n^* = \frac{1}{4} \quad (n \geq 1).$$

Let us introduce new weight function $\hat{w}(x) = (x - c) p^{(1/2, 1/2)}(x)$. Corresponding coefficients $\hat{\alpha}_n$ and $\hat{\beta}_n$ can be evaluated as follows [4]:

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_n &= S_n(c), \\ \hat{\alpha}_n &= c - \frac{\lambda_{n+1}}{\lambda_n} - \beta_{n+1}^* \frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_{n+1}}, \\ \hat{\beta}_n &= \beta_n^* \frac{\lambda_{n-1} \lambda_{n+1}}{\lambda_n^2} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0).\end{aligned}\tag{3.18}$$

If we choose $c = -\frac{L+2}{2\sqrt{L}}$, it can be shown that holds:

$$\lambda_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{2 \cdot 4^n L^{\frac{n}{2}} \sqrt{L^2 + 4}} \psi_{n+1} \quad (n = -1, 0, 1, \dots).$$

where:

$$\psi_n = \left(L + 2 + \sqrt{L^2 + 4}\right)^n - \left(L + 2 - \sqrt{L^2 + 4}\right)^n.$$

The next transformation will be $\tilde{w}(x) = \hat{w}(ax + b)$, where $a = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{L}}$ and $b = -\frac{L+1}{2\sqrt{L}}$. After exchanging we obtain:

$$\tilde{w}(x) = \hat{w}\left(\frac{x - L - 1}{2\sqrt{L}}\right) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{L}}(x + 1)\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{x - L - 1}{2\sqrt{L}}\right)^2}. \quad (3.19)$$

Coefficients of three-term relation are now:

$$\tilde{\alpha}_n = \frac{\hat{\alpha}_n - b}{a}, \quad \tilde{\beta}_n = \frac{\hat{\beta}_n}{a^2} \quad (n \geq 0). \quad (3.20)$$

Multiplying the weight function $\tilde{w}(x)$ with the constant $\frac{2L}{\pi}$ we are only changing $\tilde{\beta}_0$. Finally, we have that coefficients corresponding to the:

$$\check{w}(x) = \frac{2L}{\pi}\tilde{w}(x) = \frac{\sqrt{L}}{\pi}(x + 1)\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{x - L - 1}{2\sqrt{L}}\right)^2} \quad (3.21)$$

are given with:

$$\begin{aligned} \check{\beta}_0 &= L(L + 2), \quad \check{\beta}_n = \tilde{\beta}_n = L \frac{\psi_n \psi_{n+2}}{\psi_{n+1}^2} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}), \\ \check{\alpha}_n &= \tilde{\alpha}_n = -1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\psi_{n+2}}{\psi_{n+1}} + 2L \cdot \frac{\psi_{n+1}}{\psi_{n+2}} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0). \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

Final transformation will be $\omega(x; L) = \frac{w(x)}{x}$. If we know all about the MOPS orthogonal with respect to $\check{w}(x)$ what can we say about the sequence $\{Q_n(x)\}$ orthogonal w.r.t. a weight

$$w_d(x) = \frac{\check{w}(x)}{x-d} \quad (d \notin \text{support}(\check{w})) ?$$

In the book [5], W. Gautschi has proved that, by the auxiliary sequence:

$$r_{-1} = - \int_{\mathbb{R}} w_d(x) dx, \quad r_n = d - \check{\alpha}_n - \frac{\check{\beta}_n}{r_{n-1}} \quad (n = 0, 1, \dots),$$

it can be determined:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{d,0} &= \check{\alpha}_0 + r_0, & \alpha_{d,k} &= \check{\alpha}_k + r_k - r_{k-1}, \\ \beta_{d,0} &= -r_{-1}, & \beta_{d,k} &= \check{\beta}_{k-1} \frac{r_{k-1}}{r_{k-2}} \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}). \end{aligned}$$

We need the case $d = 0$. Next Lemma can be proved by induction:

Lemma 3 The parameters r_n have the explicit form

$$\begin{aligned} r_n &= -\frac{\psi_{n+1}}{\psi_{n+2}} \cdot \frac{L\psi_{n+2} + \xi\varphi_{n+2}}{L\psi_{n+1} + \xi\varphi_{n+1}} \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}_0). \\ \varphi_n &= \left(L + 2 + \sqrt{L^2 + 4}\right)^n + \left(L + 2 - \sqrt{L^2 + 4}\right)^n, \quad \xi = \sqrt{L^2 + 4} \end{aligned} \tag{3.23}$$

Now we have the coefficients $\beta_n = \beta_{0,n}$. By exchanging and using Krattenthaler formula we finally obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_n(L) &= \beta_0 \beta_1 \beta_2 \cdots \beta_{n-2} \beta_{n-1} \cdot h_{n-1}(L) = \beta_0 \frac{r_{n-2}}{r_{-1}} \prod_{k=0}^{n-2} \check{\beta}_k \cdot h_{n-1}(L) \\
 &= \frac{L^{n-1}}{2} \cdot \frac{L\psi_n + \xi\varphi_n}{L\psi_{n-1} + \xi\varphi_{n-1}} \cdot h_{n-1}(L) = \frac{L^{n(n-1)/2}}{2^{n+1}\xi} \cdot (L\psi_n + \xi\varphi_n) \\
 &= \frac{L^{(n^2-n)/2}}{2^{n+1}\sqrt{L^2+4}} \cdot \\
 &\quad \left\{ (\sqrt{L^2+4} + L)(\sqrt{L^2+4} + L + 2)^n + (\sqrt{L^2+4} - L)(L + 2 - \sqrt{L^2+4})^n \right\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.24}$$

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Thanks for your attention!