

Fundamental Solutions for the Laplace–Beltrami Operator Defined by the Conformal Hyperbolic Metric and Jacobi Polynomials

Sirkka-Liisa Eriksson¹ · Heikki Orelma²

Received: 27 February 2023 / Accepted: 13 April 2023 © The Author(s) 2023

Abstract

In this paper we study fundamental solutions for the Laplace-Beltrami operator

$$\Delta_{\alpha} f = x_n^{\frac{\alpha}{n-2}} \Big(\Delta f - \frac{\alpha}{x_n} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \Big),$$

defined on smooth enough functions in $\mathbb{R}^n_+ = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_n > 0\}$. We represent explicit formulas for the fundamental solutions. Moreover, we establish fundamental solutions using Jacobi polynomials when $n = 3, 5, 7, \dots$

1 Introduction

In this paper, fundamental solutions of the Laplace–Beltrami operator of the hyperbolic upper half-space are considered. This is a continuation of the previous research by the authors in [6, 8–11], where we have looked at different special cases. In [12] the first author and Vuojamo found the fundamental solution in terms of associate Legendre functions of the second kind, but explicit representations in terms of elementary functions of kernels were not presented.

Dedicated to Prof. John Ryan, best wishes and new goals for retirement.

Communicated by Daniele Struppa.

This article is part of Topical Collection in Honor of Prof. John Ryan's Retirement.

 Sirkka-Liisa Eriksson sirkka-liisa.eriksson@helsinki.fi

 Heikki Orelma

heikki.orelma@tuni.fi

University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

² Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

10 Page 2 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

The theory is closely connected to to the axially symmetric potential theory created by Weinstein [20]. Heinz Leutwiler [14] initiated the research of Laplace–Beltrami equations connected to the differential equation of Weinstein. The general theory was also researched by Ryan et al. [4] and it has also connections to research of iterated Dirac operators of Ryan [19] (see [7]). It has interesting connections to hyperbolic Brownian motion, see e.g. [5].

The Laplace–Beltrami operator is a geometric operator, i.e. its form depends on the metric of the space. In this paper we consider the conformal metric of the hyperbolic upper half-space. It is generally interesting because the operator is with non-constant coefficients and thus considerably more difficult to handle than the constant coefficient cases. In this paper, we point out that the parity of the treated space has a fundamental effect on the shape of the fundamental solutions. We also state that in odd dimensions the basic solution can be presented using Jacobian polynomials. There is no corresponding construction in the even case. We will return to this case in the future.

The structure of the article is as follows:

- In Sect. 2, the necessary preliminaries and definitions are given.
- In Sect. 3, we consider fundamental solutions. Some examples are given.
- In Sect. 4, we simplify fundamental solutions in odd spaces using Jacobi polynomials and compute examples.

2 Conformal Hyperbolic Upper-Half Space and Laplace-Beltrami Operators

Consider the hyperbolic upper half-space

$$\mathbb{R}^n_+ = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n : x_n > 0\},\$$

equipped with the metric

$$g_H = \frac{dx_1^2 + \dots + dx_n^2}{x_n^2}.$$

The geometry of the hyperbolic space (\mathbb{R}^n_+, g_H) is well known and studied. The geodesics are circular arcs perpendicular to the hyperplane $x_n = 0$, that is half-circles whose origin is on $x_n = 0$, and straight vertical lines parallel to the x_n -axis.

The distance between two points $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$ with respect to the metric g_H is (see e.g. Theorem 4.6.1 in [18])

$$d_H(x, y) = \operatorname{arcosh} \lambda(x, y)$$

where

$$\lambda(x, y) = 1 + \frac{|x - y|^2}{2x_n y_n} \tag{1}$$

is a symmetric invariant, where $|x|^2 = x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2$ is the usual Euclidean quadratic form.

For n > 2 we define the conformal metric on the upper-half space by

$$g_{\alpha} := \frac{dx_1^2 + \dots + dx_n^2}{x_n^{\frac{2\alpha}{n-2}}},$$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. One reason to consider the preceding conformal metric is the simple form of the associated Laplace–Beltrami operator

$$\Delta_{\alpha} f = x_n^{\frac{2\alpha}{n-2}} \Big(\Delta f - \frac{\alpha}{x_n} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \Big), \tag{2}$$

where $\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + \dots + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_n^2}$ is the Euclidean Laplacian. When $\alpha = n - 2$, we obtain the hyperbolic Laplace operator

$$\Delta_{hyp} f = x_n^2 \Delta f - (n-2) x_n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}.$$

If $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n_+$ is open, a twice continuously differentiable function $f:\Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ is called α -hyperbolic harmonic if

$$x_n^2 \Delta f - \alpha x_n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} = 0.$$

If $\alpha = n - 2$, we call an α -hyperbolic harmonic function just hyperbolic harmonic. Heinz Leutwiler initiated the research of hyperbolic harmonic functions and their function theory in [15, 16]. It has been continued intensively by the first author, Leutwiler and the second author and there is a book in preparation [8].

3 Fundamental Solution for Δ_{α}

In this paper, we consider fundamental solutions of the operator Δ_{α} . A fundamental solution is a function $H_{\alpha,n}(x, y)$ that satisfies the equation

$$\Delta_{\alpha} H_{\alpha,n}(\cdot, y) = \omega_{n-1} \delta(y),$$

in the distribution sense, where δ is the usual Dirac delta distribution at $y \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$. In above the ω_{n-1} is the surface area of the unit ball $S^{n-1} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. The necessary condition is, that $H_{\alpha,n}$ is singular at the diagonal x = y.

The fundamental solutions are presented in terms of associated Legendre functions of the second kind. Associated Legendre functions are defined by (see e.g. 8.703 in [13])

10 Page 4 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

$$\begin{split} \hat{Q}_{\nu}^{\mu}(z) &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma \left(\nu + \mu + 1\right) \left(z^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{\mu}{2}}}{2^{\nu + 1} z^{\nu + \mu + 1} \Gamma \left(\rho + \frac{3}{2}\right)} \, _2F_1 \\ &\qquad \left(\frac{1}{2} \nu + \frac{1}{2} \mu + 1, \frac{1}{2} \nu + \frac{1}{2} \mu + \frac{1}{2}; \nu + \frac{3}{2}; \frac{1}{z^2}\right), \end{split}$$

where Γ is the usual gamma function and ${}_2F_1$ is the hypergeometric function defined with power series representation (see e.g. [1, 2, 13])

$${}_{2}F_{1}(a,b;c;z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{m}(b)_{m}}{(c)_{m}m!} z^{m}.$$
 (3)

for |z| < 1, and $a, b, c \in \mathbb{C}$ with $c \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots$ In the hypergeometric function the Pochammer symbol is defined by

$$(q)_m = \frac{\Gamma(q+m)}{\Gamma(q)} = q(q+1)\cdots(q+(m-1)).$$
 (4)

Hence the hypergometric function terminates if a or b is a negative integer.

A reader should observe that the preceding definition for a associated Legendre function is up to the constant $e^{i\pi\nu}$ the usual one, see e.g. in [13].

In [5] the following theorem is verified.

Theorem 3.1 Let x and y be distinct elements in \mathbb{R}^n_+ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. Denote $r_h = d_H(x, y)$. Define

$$\rho_{\alpha} = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha}{2}, & \text{if } \alpha \ge 0, \\ -\frac{\alpha+2}{2}, & \text{if } \alpha < 0. \end{cases}$$

(a) If $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \geq 3$, the fundamental solution is

$$H_{\alpha,n}(x,y) = \frac{x_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}}}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} \left(\lambda^2(x,y) - 1\right)^{\frac{2-n}{4}} \hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} (\lambda(x,y))$$
$$= x_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} \sinh^{2-n} r_h g_{\rho_{\alpha},n}(r_h),$$

where

$$g_{\rho_{\alpha},n}(r_{h}) = C(\alpha,n) \lambda^{\frac{n-4-2\rho_{\alpha}}{2}} {}_{2}F_{1}$$

$$\left(\frac{2\rho_{\alpha}-n+4}{4}, \frac{2\rho_{\alpha}-n+6}{4}; \frac{2\rho_{\alpha}+3}{2}; \frac{1}{\cosh^{2}r_{h}}\right)$$

and

$$C\left(\alpha,n\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\left(\frac{2\rho_{\alpha}+n}{2}\right)}{2^{\frac{2\rho_{\alpha}+n}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{2\rho_{\alpha}+3}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}.$$

(b) If n = 2, the fundamental solution is

$$H_{\alpha,2}(x, y) = x_n^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda(x, y))$$

= $x_n^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \operatorname{arcoth}(\lambda(x, y)) g_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda(x, y)),$

where

$$g_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda) = \frac{\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda)}{\operatorname{arcoth}(\lambda)} = \frac{2\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda)}{\ln\left(\frac{\lambda+1}{\lambda-1}\right)}.$$

We can compute the first explicit example.

Example 3.2 Consider the case $\alpha = 0$. Using the integral representation 8.712 in [13], we have

$$\hat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho}(\lambda) = \frac{\Gamma(\rho + \mu + 1)(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{\mu}{2}}}{2^{\rho + 1}\Gamma(\rho + 1)} \int_{-1}^{1} (\lambda - t)^{-\mu - \rho - 1} \left(1 - t^2\right)^{\rho} dt,$$

that is,

$$\begin{split} \hat{Q}_0^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda) &= \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{n-2}{4}}}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \left((\lambda - t)^{-\frac{n-2}{2} - 1} dt \right) \\ &= \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{n-2}{4}}}{n-2} \left((\lambda - 1)^{-\frac{n-2}{2}} - (\lambda + 1)^{-\frac{n-2}{2}}\right). \end{split}$$

Applying (1), we conclude

$$H_{0,n}(x,y) = \frac{2^{\frac{2-n}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} x_n^{\frac{2-n}{2}} y_n^{\frac{2-n}{2}} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{2-n}{4}} \widehat{Q}_0^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda(x,y))$$

$$= \frac{1}{(n-2) 2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} x_n^{\frac{n-2}{2}} y_n^{\frac{n-2}{2}} (\lambda - 1)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

$$- \frac{1}{(n-2) 2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} x_n^{\frac{n-2}{2}} y_n^{\frac{n-2}{2}} (\lambda + 1)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n-2} \left(\frac{1}{|x-y|^{n-2}} - \frac{1}{|x-\hat{y}|^{n-2}}\right),$$

where
$$\hat{y} = (y_1, ..., y_{n-1}, -y_n)$$
.

The previous example tells us that fundamental solutions should always be thought of as unique in the sense that some function of the operator's kernel can be added to them. This feature can be utilized when searching for Green's functions, in which case the added function takes care of the needed boundary values.

10 Page 6 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

The second example shows that the fundamental solution may be also product of known harmonic fundamental solutions.

Example 3.3 If $\alpha = 2 - n$ and $n \ge 3$ we use the formula (see e.g. [13, 3.666])

$$\hat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho}(\lambda) = \frac{\Gamma(\rho + \mu + 1)(z^2 - 1)^{-\frac{\mu}{2}}}{2^{\rho + 1}\Gamma(\rho + 1)} \int_{0}^{\pi} (\lambda + \cos t)^{\mu - \rho - 1} (\sin t)^{2\rho + 1} dt$$
 (5)

and the Legendre dublication formula, and obtain

$$\begin{split} H_{2-n,n}\left(x,y\right) &= \frac{2^{\frac{2-n}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} x_n^{2-n} y_n^{2-n} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{2-n}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \left(\lambda\left(x,y\right)\right) \\ &= \frac{\Gamma\left(n-2\right) x_n^{2-n} y_n^{2-n} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{2-n}{2}} \int_0^\pi \sin^{n-3} t dt}{2^{n-2} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma\left(n-2\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{2^{n-2} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) |x-y|^{n-2} |x-\hat{y}|^{n-2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{(n-2) |x-y|^{n-2} |x-\hat{y}|^{n-2}}. \end{split}$$

Example 3.4 If n = 2 and $y \in \mathbb{R}^2_+$, then

$$H_{0,2}(x, y) = \ln|x - \widehat{y}| - \ln|x - y|$$
.

Indeed, if n = 2 and $\alpha = 0$, we compute by virtue of 8.821 (3) in [13]

$$H_{0,2}(x, y) = \widehat{Q}_0^0(\lambda(x, y)) = \frac{\ln(\lambda + 1) - \ln(\lambda - 1)}{2}.$$

3.1 Fundamental α -Hyperbolic Harmonic Functions Inductively

In the theory of harmonic functions, if you know the fundamental harmonic functions in \mathbb{R}^2 and \mathbb{R}^3 , you may obtain the formula for fundamental harmonic functions in all dimensions simply by differentiating with respect to the r which is the distance from the origin. We are aiming to give a similar result for α -hyperbolic harmonic functions, but the formula depends on the parity of the space.

We recall an important tool.

Lemma 3.5 [6] Let Ω be an open set contained in \mathbb{R}^n_+ . A function $f: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ is α -hyperbolic harmonic if and only if the function $g(x) = x_n^{\frac{n-\alpha-2}{2}} f(x)$ is the eigenfunction of the hyperbolic Laplace operator corresponding to the eigenvalue $\gamma_{n,\alpha} = \frac{1}{4} \left((\alpha+1)^2 - (n-1)^2 \right)$, that is

$$x_n^2 \Delta g - (n-2) x_n \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_n} = \frac{1}{4} \left((\alpha + 1)^2 - (n-1)^2 \right) g.$$
 (6)

We are looking for eigenfunctions of the hyperbolic Laplace operator depending only on λ . Then the hyperbolic Laplace operator has the following representation.

Proposition 3.6 [9] Let $a \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$. If $f : \mathbb{R}^n_+ \to \mathbb{R}$ is twice continuously differentiable and depending only on $\lambda = \lambda(x, a)$ then

$$\Delta_{hyp} f(x) = \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right) f''(\lambda) + n\lambda f'(\lambda).$$

We need to reformulate the properties of associated Legendre functions for our used notations

Lemma 3.7 *If* $\rho > -\frac{3}{2}$, $\mu \ge 0$, $z \in \mathbb{C}$ *and* |z| > 1, *then*

Proof Since

$$\begin{split} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu}\left(z\right) &= e^{-\mu i\pi}\,Q_{\rho}^{\mu}\left(z\right),\\ \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu+1}\left(z\right) &= e^{-(\mu+1)i\pi}\,Q_{\rho}^{\mu+1}\left(z\right) = -e^{-\mu i\pi}\,Q_{\rho}^{\mu+1}\left(z\right), \end{split}$$

we obtain the result from the corresponding formulas for the associated Legendre functions 8.732 and 8.734 given in [13].

Applying the previous lemma and the induction principle, we deduce the following property.

Theorem 3.8 Let $\rho > -\frac{3}{2}$ and $\mu \geq 0$. If $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then

$$\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\mu + m - 1}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{m - 1 + \mu} \left(\lambda\right) = (-1)^{m - 1} \frac{\partial^{m - 1} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\mu}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu} \left(\lambda\right)}{\partial \lambda^{m - 1}},$$

where $\lambda > 1$.

Proof We first prove the assertion for m=1 and for any real $\tau \geq 0$. Comparing the left side of identities of the previous corollary, we obtain

$$\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)\frac{\partial\widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau}\left(\lambda\right)}{\partial\lambda}=-(\lambda^{2}-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}\widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau+1}\left(\lambda\right)+\tau\lambda\widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau}\left(\lambda\right).$$

Dividing by $(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ both sides of the equality, we compute further

$$-\widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau+1}(\lambda) = (\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\partial \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau}(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} - \frac{\tau \lambda \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau}(\lambda)}{(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

10 Page 8 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

Using the preceding formula, we compute

$$\frac{\partial \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\tau}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau}(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = -\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\tau+1}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\tau+1}(\lambda), \tag{7}$$

which implies that the result hold for m=1 and for all $\tau \geq 0$. The induction hypothesis is that

$$\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\mu + s}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu + s} (\lambda) = (-1)^s \frac{\partial^s \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\mu}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu} (\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^s}$$

holds for some $s \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $\mu \geq 0$. Applying (7) for $\tau = \mu + s$, we obtain

$$\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)^{-\frac{\mu+s+1}{2}}\widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu+s+1}\left(\lambda\right)=-\frac{\partial\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)^{-\frac{\mu+s}{2}}\widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu+s}\left(\lambda\right)}{\partial\lambda}$$

Applying the induction hypothesis, we conclude

$$\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\mu + s + 1}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu + s + 1} \left(\lambda\right) = (-1)^{s + 1} \frac{\partial^{s + 1} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{\mu}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho}^{\mu} \left(\lambda\right)}{\partial \lambda^{s + 1}}.$$

Consequetly, by the general induction principle the result holds for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

The key tool is the results connecting different eigenvalues.

Proposition 3.9 *Let* β *and* γ *be real numbers. If* $f:]1, \infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ *is four times differentiable solution of the equation*

$$(\lambda^{2} - 1) f''(\lambda) + \beta \lambda f'(\lambda) = \gamma f(\lambda)$$

then $g(\lambda) = f'(\lambda)$ satisfies the equation

$$(\lambda^{2} - 1) g''(\lambda) + (\beta + 2) \lambda g'(\lambda) = (\gamma - \beta) g$$

Proof We just compute

$$\gamma g = \gamma f'(\lambda) = (\lambda^2 - 1) f^{(3)}(\lambda) + 2\lambda f''(\lambda) + \beta f'(\lambda) + \beta \lambda f''(\lambda)$$
$$= (\lambda^2 - 1) g''(\lambda) + (\beta + 2) \lambda g'(\lambda) + \beta g$$

completing the proof.

Applying the previous proposition, it is relatively simple to verify the result.

Theorem 3.10 Assume that $\beta \in \{0, 1\}$ and $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$. If $s \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f :]1, \infty[\to \mathbb{R}$ is (s+2) times differentiable solution of the equation

$$(\lambda^{2} - 1) f''(\lambda) + \beta \lambda f'(\lambda) = \gamma f$$

then the function $g(\lambda) = f^{(s)}(\lambda)$ satisfies the equation

$$\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)g''\left(\lambda\right)+\left(2s+\beta\right)\lambda g'\left(\lambda\right)=\left\{ \begin{aligned} \left(\gamma-\left(s-1\right)s\right)g & & \text{if }\beta=0\\ \left(\gamma-s^{2}\right)g & & \text{if }\beta=1 \end{aligned} \right..$$

Proof The previous lemma implies that the result holds for s = 1. Assume that the result holds for some $s \in \mathbb{N}$. Then the function $h(\lambda) = f^{(s)}(\lambda)$ satisfies the equation

$$\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)h''(\lambda)+\left(2s+\beta\right)\lambda h'(\lambda)=\begin{cases} \left(\gamma-\left(s-1\right)s\right)g & \text{if }\beta=0\\ \left(\gamma-s^{2}\right)g & \text{if }\beta=1 \end{cases}$$

Using the previous lemma we obtain that the function $g(\lambda) = h'(\lambda) = f^{(s+1)}(\lambda)$ satisfies the equation

$$\left(\lambda^{2} - 1\right) g''(\lambda) + (2(s+1) + \beta) \lambda g'(\lambda) = \begin{cases} (\gamma - (s-1) s - 2s) g & \text{if } \beta = 0 \\ (\gamma - s^{2} - 2s - 1) g & \text{if } \beta = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} (\gamma - (s+1) s) g & \text{if } \beta = 0 \\ (\gamma - (s+1)^{2}) g & \text{if } \beta = 1 \end{cases} .$$

Hence the result holds for s + 1, completing the proof.

Applying the previous result and Proposition 3.6, we obtain easily the general formulas.

Theorem 3.11 Let
$$\gamma_{n,\alpha} = \frac{1}{4} \left((\alpha + 1)^2 - (n-1)^2 \right)$$
 and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $f \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty} \left(\left[1, \infty \right] \right)$.

(a) If f satisfies the differential equation

$$\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)f''(\lambda)+\lambda f'(\lambda)=\gamma_{1,\alpha}f(\lambda),$$

then the $\frac{n-1}{2}$:th derivative $g(\lambda)=f^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)}(\lambda)$ satisfies the differential equation

$$(\lambda^{2} - 1) g''(\lambda) + n\lambda g'(\lambda) = \gamma_{n,\alpha} g(\lambda)$$

for all odd $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

(b) If f satisfies the differential equation

$$(\lambda^2 - 1) f''(\lambda) = \gamma_{2,\alpha} f(\lambda)$$

10 Page 10 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

then the $\frac{n}{2}$:th derivative $g(\lambda) = f^{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}(\lambda)$ satisfies the equation

$$(\lambda^{2} - 1) g''(\lambda) + 2n\lambda g'(\lambda) = \gamma_{2n,\alpha} g(\lambda)$$

for all even $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Applying the previous theorem, we immediately deduce the fundamental solutions depending on the parity of the space. We will denote $\widehat{Q}_{\mu} := \widehat{Q}_{\mu}^{0}$ and observe, that they are usual Legendre functions.

Theorem 3.12 *Let* $n \in \mathbb{N}$ *and* n > 2.

(a) If n is even, then the fundamental α -hyperbolic harmonic function is given by

$$H_{\alpha,n}\left(x,a\right) = \frac{\left(-1\right)^{\frac{n-2}{2}} x_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}}}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}\left(\lambda\right)}{\partial \lambda^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

and

$$H_{\alpha,2}(x, y) = x_n^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} Q_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda).$$

(b) If n = 2m + 1 is odd, then the fundamental solution has the representation

$$H_{\alpha,n}\left(x,y\right) = \frac{\left(-1\right)^{m-1} x_{n}^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} y_{n}^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}}}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial^{m-1} \left(\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(\lambda\right)\right)}{\partial \lambda^{m-1}}$$

and

$$H_{\alpha,3}(x, y) = \frac{x_n^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} e^{-\frac{2\rho_{\alpha}+1}{2}r_h}}{\sinh r_h}.$$

Proof The first assertion follows from [13, 8.752 (4)].

$$\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda) = \frac{\partial^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}.$$

Let n = 3. Applying [13, 8.754 (4)], we obtain

$$H_{\alpha,2}(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{2}x_n^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}}y_n^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\lambda)}{\sqrt{\pi}} = \frac{x_n^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}}y_n^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} e^{-\left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}\right)r_h}}{\sinh r_h}.$$

Assume next that n=2m+1. Applying Theorem 3.8 for $\mu=\frac{1}{2}$ and

$$\frac{\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)^{\frac{2-n}{4}}\widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} = \frac{\left(\lambda^{2}-1\right)^{\frac{1-2m}{4}}\widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{m-\frac{1}{2}}(\lambda)}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}$$

$$=\frac{(-1)^{m-1}}{2^{\frac{n-1}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}\frac{\partial^{m-1}\left(\lambda^2-1\right)^{-\frac{1}{4}}\widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{1}{2}}\left(\lambda\right)}{\partial\lambda^{m-1}}$$

where

$$\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\lambda) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}e^{-\left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}\right)r_h}}{\sqrt{2}\sinh r_h}.$$

For $\alpha = n - 2$ the fundamental solution h_n was computed by Ahlfors [3, p.57]

$$h_n(x, y) = \frac{1}{2^{n-2}} \int_{\frac{|a-x|}{|x-a|}}^{1} \frac{(1-s^2)^{n-2}}{s^{n-1}} ds$$

and in [9] it was proved by the authors that

$$h_n(x, y) = \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(t^2 - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt.$$
 (8)

In order to verify that the equality of the fundamental solutions $H_{n-2,n}$ and h_n we need a simple observation.

Lemma 3.13 If $\rho > -\frac{1}{2}$, $\mu \ge 0$ and $\lambda > 1$, then

$$(2\rho + 1)\lambda \widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho}(\lambda) - (\rho + \mu)\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho-1}(\lambda) = (\rho - \mu + 1)\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho+1}(\lambda)$$

and therefore

$$\widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n}{2}}(\lambda) = \lambda \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n}{2}}(\lambda)$$

for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \geq 2$.

Proof Applying [13, 8.732 (2)], we deduce

$$(2\rho+1)\lambda Q^{\mu}_{\rho}(\lambda) = (\rho-\mu+1) Q^{\mu}_{\rho+1}(\lambda) - (\rho+\mu) Q^{\mu}_{\rho-1}(\lambda)$$

Since

$$\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\nu}(z) = e^{-\mu i \pi} Q^{\mu}_{\nu}(z) ,$$

for all $v > -\frac{1}{2}$ we obtain the assertion

$$(2\rho+1)\,\lambda\,\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho}\left(\lambda\right)-(\rho+\mu)\,\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho-1}\left(\lambda\right)=(\rho-\mu+1)\,\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\rho+1}\left(\lambda\right).$$

10 Page 12 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

Since $\rho = \frac{n-2}{2} \ge 0$, substituting $\mu = \frac{n}{2}$ and $\rho = \frac{n-2}{2}$, we obtain the final statement

$$(n-1)\lambda\widehat{Q}^{\mu}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)-(n-1)\widehat{Q}^{\frac{n}{2}}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}(\lambda)=0.$$

Theorem 3.14 *If* $n \in \mathbb{N}$ *and* $n \ge 2$, *then*

$$H_{n-2,n}\left(\lambda\left(x,y\right)\right) = h_{n}\left(x,y\right).$$

Proof We first prove the assertion for even n. Assume first that n=2 and denote $\lambda = \lambda(x, a)$. Then

$$H_{0,2}(x, y) = \hat{Q}_0(\lambda) = \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{t^2 - 1} dt = \frac{1}{2} \ln(\lambda + 1) - \frac{1}{2} \ln(\lambda - 1).$$

If *n* is even and n > 2, applying [13, 8.752 (4), 8.824], we obtain

$$H_{n-2,n}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{2-n}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial^{\frac{n-2}{2}} Q_{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}$$

$$= \frac{(-1)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}{\partial \lambda^{\frac{n-2}{2}}} \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{(t-\lambda)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}}{(t^2-1)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt$$

$$= \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(t^2-1)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt$$

completing the proof using (8) in even case.

In odd case we first we note that

$$H_{1,3}(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{2} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\lambda)}{\sqrt{\pi}} = \frac{e^{-r_h}}{\sinh r_h} = \coth r_h - 1.$$

The assertion holds for n = 3, since

$$\int_{\lambda(x,y)}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(t^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{|x-y|}{|x-y|}}^{1} \frac{1 - s^2}{s^2} ds$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(-2 + \sqrt{\frac{\lambda + 1}{\lambda - 1}} + \sqrt{\frac{\lambda - 1}{\lambda + 1}} \right)$$

$$= -1 + \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{\lambda^2 - 1}} = \coth r_h - 1.$$

Assume that the result holds for odd $n \geq 3$, that is

$$H_{n-2,n}(\lambda(x,a)) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda(x,a))$$
$$= \int_{\lambda(x,a)}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(t^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt.$$

Applying the differential formula (3.8) for $m=1, \mu=\frac{n-2}{2}$ and $\rho=\frac{n}{2}$, we obtain, we obtain

$$-H_{n,n+2}(\lambda) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{n}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n+2}{2}\right)} \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n}{2}}^{\frac{n}{2}}(\lambda)$$
$$= \frac{1}{n2^{\frac{n}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda}.$$

By virtue of Lemma 3.13, we infer the identity

$$\widehat{Q}_{\frac{n}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda) = (n-1)\lambda \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z) - (n-2)\widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z).$$

Applying the induction hypothesis, we obtain further

$$\frac{1}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \left(\lambda^{2} - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)$$

$$= (n-2)\lambda \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(t^{2} - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt - \frac{(n-2)\left(\lambda^{2} - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z)}{2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}.$$

Hence we have

$$-H_{n,n+2}(\lambda) = \frac{n-1}{n} \left(\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(t^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt \right)$$
$$-\frac{(n-1)\lambda}{n} \frac{1}{\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}} - \frac{(n-2)}{n2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z)}{\partial \lambda}.$$

Applying the partial integration, we deduce

$$\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(t^2 - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt = -\frac{\lambda}{(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}} + n \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{t^2}{(t^2 - 1)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} dt$$

10 Page 14 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

$$= n \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(t^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt$$
$$+ n \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{\left(t^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} - \frac{\lambda}{\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}},$$

which by solving the formula for $\frac{n-1}{n} \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(t^2-1)^{\frac{n+1}{2}}} dt$ implies that

$$\frac{n-1}{n} \int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(t^2-1)^{\frac{n}{2}}} dt = -\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{(t^2-1)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} + \frac{\lambda}{n} \frac{1}{(\lambda^2-1)^{\frac{n}{2}}}.$$

Hence

$$-H_{n,n+2}(\lambda) = -\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{\left(t^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} + \frac{(2-n)\lambda}{n} \frac{1}{\left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}} - \frac{(n-2)}{n2^{\frac{n-1}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} \frac{\partial \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z)}{\partial \lambda}.$$

Again applying the differential formula Theorem 3.8 and Lemma 3.13, we obtain

$$-\frac{\partial \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z)}{\partial \lambda} = \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-4}{2}}^{\frac{n}{2}}(z)$$

$$= \lambda \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n}{2}}(z)$$

$$= -\lambda \frac{\partial \left(\lambda^2 - 1\right)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}} \widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda}.$$

Finally, using the induction hypothesis, we conclude

$$-H_{n,n+2}(\lambda) = -\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{(t^2 - 1)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} + \frac{(2 - n)\lambda}{n} \frac{1}{(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}}$$

$$-\frac{(n - 2)\lambda}{n2^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} \frac{\partial(\lambda^2 - 1)^{-\frac{n-2}{4}}\widehat{Q}_{\frac{n-2}{2}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}(z)}{\partial\lambda}$$

$$= -\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{(t^2 - 1)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} + \frac{(2 - n)\lambda}{n} \frac{1}{(\lambda^2 - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}}$$

$$-\frac{(n - 2)\lambda}{n} \frac{\partial\int_{\lambda}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{(t^2 - 1)^{\frac{n}{2}}}}{\partial\lambda}$$

$$=-\int_{\lambda}^{\infty}\frac{dt}{\left(t^2-1\right)^{\frac{n+2}{2}}},$$

completing the proof.

4 Connections to Jacobi Polynomials

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-\mathbb{N})$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$, and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The Jacobi polynomials of degree n is defined in terms of hypergeometric functions by

$$P_n^{(\alpha,\beta)}(z) = \frac{(\alpha+1)_n}{n!} \, {}_2F_1\left(-n, n+\alpha+\beta+1; \alpha+1; \frac{1-z}{2}\right) \tag{9}$$

for $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Jacobi polynomilas satisfy the following useful formula.

Proposition 4.1 (Rodrigues formula). *Let z be real and n a non negative integer. The Jacobi polynomials have the property*

$$P_n^{(\alpha,\beta)}(z) = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n n!} (1-z)^{-\alpha} (1+z)^{-\beta} \frac{d^n}{dz^n} \left((1-z)^{\alpha+n} (1+z)^{\beta+n} \right).$$

The second associated Legendre function is defined by

$$P_{\nu}^{\mu}(z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\mu)} \left(\frac{z+1}{z-1}\right)^{\frac{\mu}{2}} {}_{2}F_{1}\left(-\nu, \nu+1; 1-\mu; \frac{1-z}{2}\right)$$
(10)

converging |1-z| < 2, where $\mu \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{N}$. Let us first prove the following connection between the second Legendre function and Jacobi polynomials.

Proposition 4.2 *If* $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-\mathbb{N})$ *and* $m \in \mathbb{N}$ *, then*

$$P_m^{-\alpha}(z) = \frac{m!}{\Gamma(1+\alpha+m)} \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z).$$

Proof We write

$$P_{\nu}^{-\mu}(z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1+\mu)} \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^{\frac{\mu}{2}} {}_{2}F_{1}\left(-\nu, \nu+1; 1+\mu; \frac{1-z}{2}\right)$$

and

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z) = \frac{(\alpha+1)_m}{m!} \, {}_2F_1\left(-m,m+1;\alpha+1;\frac{1-z}{2}\right).$$

10 Page 16 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

Hence, we obtain

$$\begin{split} P_m^{-\alpha}(z) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} {}_2F_1\left(-m,m+1;1+\alpha;\frac{1-z}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{m!}{(\alpha+1)_m} \frac{1}{\Gamma(1+\alpha)} \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}\left(z\right). \end{split}$$

Using (4), we have

$$P_m^{-\alpha}(z) = \frac{m!}{\Gamma(1+\alpha+m)} \left(\frac{z-1}{z+1}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z).$$

Hence, we can represent the fundamental solution using a Jacobi polynomial (see also [17])

Theorem 4.3 Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n_+$ and denote $r_h = d_h(x, y)$. If $n \geq 3$ is an odd integer then

$$\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\left(\cosh(r_h)\right) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{n-3}{2}\right)! \frac{e^{-(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{\sqrt{\sinh(r_h)}} P_{\frac{n-3}{2}}^{\left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}, -(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})\right)}\left(\coth(r_h)\right).$$

and

$$H_{\alpha,n}(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \left(\frac{n-3}{2}\right)!}{2^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{x_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} e^{-(\rho_{\alpha}+\frac{1}{2})r_h}}{\sinh^{\frac{n-1}{2}}(r_h)} P_{\frac{n-3}{2}}^{\left(\rho_{\alpha}+\frac{1}{2},-(\rho_{\alpha}+\frac{1}{2})\right)} \left(\coth(r_h)\right).$$

Proof Assume $n \ge 3$ is odd. The formula 8.739 in [13] is in our case

$$\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\left(\cosh(r_h)\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma\left(\rho_a + \frac{n}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2}\sinh(r_h)} P_{-\frac{n-1}{2}}^{-\rho_{\alpha} - \frac{1}{2}}\left(\coth(r_h)\right)$$

and using the formula 8.2.1 from [1], we have

$$\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\left(\cosh(r_h)\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma\left(\rho_a + \frac{n}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2}\sinh(r_h)}P_{\frac{n-3}{2}}^{-\rho_{\alpha} - \frac{1}{2}}\left(\coth(r_h)\right).$$

The using Proposition (4.2), we obtain

$$\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\left(\cosh(r_h)\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\,\Gamma\left(\rho_a + \frac{n}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2}\sinh(r_h)} \frac{\left(\frac{n-3}{2}\right)!}{\Gamma(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{n}{2})}$$
$$\left(\frac{\coth(r_h) - 1}{\coth(r_h) + 1}\right)^{\frac{\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}}{2}} P_{\frac{n-3}{2}}^{\left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}, -(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})\right)}\left(\coth(r_h)\right).$$

We compute

$$\frac{\coth(r_h) - 1}{\coth(r_h) + 1} = \frac{\cosh r_h - \sinh r_h}{\cosh r_h + \sinh r_h} = e^{-2r_h},$$

that is

$$\hat{Q}_{\rho_{\alpha}}^{\frac{n-2}{2}}\left(\cosh(r_h)\right) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{n-3}{2}\right)! \frac{e^{-(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{\sqrt{\sinh(r_h)}} P_{\frac{n-3}{2}}^{\left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}, -(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})\right)}\left(\coth(r_h)\right).$$

Hence

$$H_{\alpha,n}(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \left(\frac{n-3}{2}\right)!}{2^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} \frac{x_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} y_n^{\frac{\alpha+2-n}{2}} e^{-(\rho_{\alpha}+\frac{1}{2})r_h}}{\sinh^{\frac{n-1}{2}}(r_h)} P_{\frac{n-3}{2}}^{\left(\rho_{\alpha}+\frac{1}{2},-(\rho_{\alpha}+\frac{1}{2})\right)} \left(\coth(r_h)\right).$$

We can write the Jacobi polynomials as follows.

Proposition 4.4 *If* $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-\mathbb{N})$ *and* $m \in \mathbb{N}$ *, then*

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z) = \Gamma(\alpha+m+1) \sum_{i=0}^m \frac{\binom{m+j}{m}}{(m-j)!} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha+j+1)} \left(\frac{z-1}{2}\right)^j$$

and

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}\left(\coth(r_h)\right) = \Gamma(\alpha+m+1) \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{\binom{m+j}{m}}{(m-j)!} \frac{1}{2^j \Gamma(\alpha+j+1)} \frac{e^{-jr_h}}{\sinh^j(r_h)}.$$

Proof Using (9) we have

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z) = \frac{(\alpha+1)_n}{n!} \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{(-m)_j (m+1)_j}{(\alpha+1)_j j!} \left(\frac{1-z}{2}\right)^j$$

and using $(-m)_j = (-1)^j (m - j + 1)_j$, we have

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z) = \frac{(\alpha+1)_m}{m!} \sum_{i=0}^m \frac{(m-j+1)_j (m+1)_j}{(\alpha+1)_j j!} \left(\frac{z-1}{2}\right)^j.$$

Then applying (4) and $\Gamma(m+1) = m!$, we obtain

$$\frac{(m-j+1)_{j}(m+1)_{j}}{m!j!} = \frac{\Gamma(m+1)\Gamma(m+1+j)}{\Gamma(m-j+1)\Gamma(m+1)m!j!}$$

10 Page 18 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

$$= \frac{(m+j)!}{(m-j)!m!j!} = \frac{\binom{m+j}{m}}{(m-j)!}$$

and using again (4), we conclude

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}(z) = \Gamma(\alpha+m+1) \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{\binom{m+j}{m}}{(m-j)!} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha+j+1)} \left(\frac{z-1}{2}\right)^j.$$

We compute

$$\coth(r_h) - 1 = \frac{e^{-r_h}}{\sinh(r_h)},$$

and obtain

$$P_m^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}\left(\coth(r_h)\right) = \Gamma(\alpha+m+1) \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{\binom{m+j}{m}}{(m-j)!} \frac{1}{2^j \Gamma(\alpha+j+1)} \frac{e^{-jr_h}}{\sinh^j(r_h)}.$$

Let us complete the paper by computing the following examples.

Example 4.5 If n = 3, we have $P_0^{(\alpha, -\alpha)}(\coth(r_h)) = 1$ and

$$H_{\alpha,3}(x, y) = \frac{x_3^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} y_3^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}} e^{-(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{\sinh(r_h)}.$$

Example 4.6 If n = 5, we have

$$\begin{split} P_{1}^{(\alpha,-\alpha)}\left(\coth(r_{h})\right) &= \Gamma(\alpha+2) \sum_{j=0}^{1} \frac{\binom{1+j}{1}}{(1-j)!} \frac{1}{2^{j} \Gamma(\alpha+j+1)} \frac{e^{-jr_{h}}}{\sinh^{j}(r_{h})} \\ &= \Gamma(\alpha+2) \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} + \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha+2)} \frac{e^{-r_{h}}}{\sinh(r_{h})}\right) \\ &= \alpha+1 + \frac{e^{-r_{h}}}{\sinh(r_{h})}. \end{split}$$

and

$$H_{\alpha,5}(x,y) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{4\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)} \frac{x_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} y_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} e^{-(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{\sinh^2(r_h)} P_1^{\left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2}, -(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})\right)} \left(\coth(r_h)\right)$$

$$= \frac{x_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} y_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} e^{-(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{3\sinh^2(r_h)} \left(\rho_{\alpha} + \frac{3}{2} + \frac{e^{-r_h}}{\sinh(r_h)}\right)$$

$$= \frac{x_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} y_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} e^{-(\rho_\alpha + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{3 \sinh^3(r_h)} \left(\left(\rho_\alpha + \frac{3}{2} \right) \sinh(r_h) + e^{-r_h} \right)$$

$$= \frac{x_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} y_5^{\frac{\alpha-3}{2}} e^{-(\rho_\alpha + \frac{1}{2})r_h}}{3 \sinh^3(r_h)} \left(\left(\rho_\alpha + \frac{1}{2} \right) \sinh(r_h) + \cosh(r_h) \right).$$

Funding Open Access funding provided by University of Helsinki (including Helsinki University Central Hospital).

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

References

- Abramowitz, M., Stegun, I.A., Romer, R.H.: Handbook of mathematical functions with formulas, graphs, and mathematical tables, Edited by Milton Abramowitz and Irene A. Stegun. Reprint of the 1972 edition. A Wiley-Interscience Publication. Selected Government Publications. Wiley, New York (1984)
- Andrews, G.E., Askey, R., Roy, R.: Special functions. In: Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Its Applications, vol. 71. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (1999)
- 3. Ahlfors, L.V.: Möbius Transformations in Several Dimensions. Ordway Lectures in Mathematics. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (1981)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Bernstein, S., Ryan, J., Qiao, Y.: Function theory for Laplace and Dirac-Hodge operators in hyperbolic spaces. J. d'Anal. Math. 98, 43–64 (2006)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Kaarakka, T.: Hyperbolic harmonic functions and hyperbolic Brownian motion. Adv. Appl. Clifford Algebras (2020). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00006-020-01099-z
- Eriksson, S.-L.: A hyperbolic Dirac operator and its kernels, complex variables and elliptic equations. Complex Var. Elliptic Equ. Int. J. 58(6), 767–781 (2013)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Leutwiler, H.: Contributions to the theory of hypermonogenic functions. Complex Var. Elliptic Equ. 51(5–6), 547–561 (2006)
- 8. Eriksson, S.-L., Orelma H.: Hyperbolic Function Theory (in preparation)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Orelma, H.: On hypermonogenic functions. Complex Var. Elliptic Equ. Int. J. 58(7), 975–990 (2013)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Orelma, H.: Hyperbolic Laplace operator and the Weinstein equation in R³. Adv. Appl. Clifford Algebras 24, 109–124 (2014)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Orelma, H.: Fundamental solution of k-hyperbolic harmonic functions in odd spaces, 30th International Colloquium on Group Theoretical Methods in Physics (Group 30). J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 597, 012034 (2015)
- Eriksson, S.-L., Vuojamo, V.: Integral kernels for k-hypermonogenic functions. Complex Var. Elliptic Equ. 62(9), 1254–1265 (2017)
- 13. Gradshteyn, I.S., Ryzhik, I.M.: Table of Integrals, Series, and Products, 7th edn. Elsevier, Amsterdam (2007)
- Leutwiler, H.: Best constants in the Harnack inequality for the Weinstein equation. Aequ. Math. 34, 304–315 (1987)
- 15. Leutwiler, H.: Modified Clifford analysis. Complex Var. 17, 153–171 (1992)
- 16. Leutwiler, H.: Modified quaternionic analysis in \mathbb{R}^3 . Complex Var. 20, 19–51 (1992)

10 Page 20 of 20 S.-L. Eriksson, H. Orelma

 Maier, R.: Associated Legendre functions and spherical harmonics of fractional degree and order. Constr. Approx. 48, 235–281 (2018)

- Ratcliffe, J.G.: Foundations of Hyperbolic Manifolds. Graduate Texts in Mathematics, vol. 149, 2nd edn. Springer, New York (2006)
- 19. Ryan, J.: Iterated Dirac operators in C_n . Z. Anal. Anwend. **9**(5), 385–401 (1990)
- 20. Weinstein, A.: Generalized axially symmetriec potential theory. Bull. Am. Math. Soc. 59, 20-38 (1953)

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.