

BESSEL POLYNOMIALS AND THE PARTIAL SUMS OF THE EXPONENTIAL SERIES*

ÖMER EĞECIOĞLU†

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 γ -operators.

Key words. Bessel polynomials, exponential series, Hankel determinants

AMS subject classifications. 05A10, 05A15, 05A19, 05E35, 11C20

DOI. 10.1137/090760337

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

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

They are given explicitly by

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

*Received by the editors May 28, 2009; accepted for publication (in revised form) November 5, 2010; published electronically December 21, 2010.

<http://www.siam.org/journals/sidma/24-4/76033.html>

†Department of Computer Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106 (omer@cs.ucsb.edu).

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 γ -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 γ -operator. The γ -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 γ -operators behave well with respect to differentiation; the derivative of a γ is a sum of γ 's.

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

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

The reader is referred to [6] for the proofs of various properties of γ -operators. The values of the γ -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 γ -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.

Acknowledgments. I would like to thank the anonymous referee whose insightful comments and suggestions, including the concluding paragraph above, greatly improved the presentation of this paper. I would also like to thank Christian Krattenthaler for [16].

REFERENCES

[1] W. A. AL-SALAM AND L. CARLITZ, *Bessel polynomials and Bernoulli numbers*, Arch. Math. (Basel), IX (1958), pp. 412–415.
 [2] L. CARLITZ, *A note on the Bessel polynomials*, Duke Math. J., 24 (1957), pp. 151–162.
 [3] A. ERDELYI, *Higher Transcendental Functions*, Vol. 2, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1953.
 [4] S. K. CHATTERJEA, *On the Bessel Polynomials*, Rendiconti del Seminario Matematico della Università di Padova., 32 (1962), pp. 295–303.
 [5] Ö. EĞECIOĞLU, T. REDMOND, AND C. RYAVEC, *Almost product evaluation of Hankel determinants*, Electron. J. Combin., 15 (2008), 58 pp.
 [6] Ö. EĞECIOĞLU, T. REDMOND, AND C. RYAVEC, *A multilinear operator for almost product evaluation of Hankel determinants*, J. Combin. Theory Ser. A, 117 (2010), pp. 77–103.
 [7] R. EHRENBORG, *The Hankel determinant of exponential polynomials*, Amer. Math. Monthly, 107 (2000), pp. 557–560.
 [8] J. J. FONCANNON, *Review of Mourad Ismail’s book*, Classical and Quantum Orthogonal Polynomials in One Variable, Math. Intelligencer, 30 (2008), pp. 54–60.
 [9] E. GROSSWALD, *On some algebraic properties of the Bessel polynomials*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc., 71 (1951), pp. 197–210.

- [10] E. GROSSWALD, *Bessel Polynomials*, Lecture Notes in Math. 698, Springer, Berlin, 1978.
- [11] M. ISMAEL, *Classical and Quantum Orthogonal Polynomials in One Variable*, Encyclopedia Math. Appl. 98, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2005.
- [12] A. JUNOD, *Hankel determinants and orthogonal polynomials*, Expo. Math., 21 (2003), pp. 63–74.
- [13] H. L. KRALL AND O. FINK, *A new class of orthogonal polynomials: The bessel polynomials*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc., 65 (1948), pp. 100–115.
- [14] C. KRATTENTHALER, *Advanced determinant calculus*, Semin. Lotharingien Combin., 42 (1999), Article B42q.
- [15] J. L. LAVOIE, *On the evaluation of certain determinants*, Math. Comput., 18 (1964), pp. 653–659.
- [16] T. MUIR, *The Theory of Determinants in the Historical Order of Development*, Vol. 4, Dover, New York, 1960, p. 323.
- [17] C. RADOUX, *Déterminant de Hankel construit sur des polynômes liés aux nombres de dérangements*, European J. Combin., 12 (1991), pp. 327–329.
- [18] H. W. SEGAR, *The deduction of certain determinants from others of indeterminate form*, Messenger Math., XXII (1893), pp. 57–67.
- [19] R. VEIN AND P. DALE, *Determinants and Their Applications in Mathematical Physics*, Springer, New York, 1999.
- [20] J. WANG AND Z. ZHANG, *On the Hankel matrix of derangement polynomials*, Indian J. Pure Appl. Math., 34 (2003), pp. 625–629.
- [21] J. WIMP, *Hankel determinants of some polynomials arising in combinatorial analysis*, Numer. Algorithms, 24 (2000), pp. 179–193.