Free Oscillator Realization of the Laguerre Polynomial

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Abstract

We revisit the radial oscillator from the free oscillator realization point of view. By using a free oscillator, namely the creation/annihilation operators of the harmonic oscillator, we construct an operator that maps the eigenfunctions of the harmonic oscillator to those of the radial oscillator. As a polynomial part of this relation, we obtain an operator that maps the Hermite polynomials to the Laguerre polynomials.

1 Introduction

Free field realization is a useful and powerful tool for physicists to study complicated mathematical objects. For example, infinite dimensional algebras such as the (deformed) Virasoro algebra, correlation functions of solvable lattice models and eigenfunctions of exactly solvable many body quantum mechanical systems etc. are studied by free field realization, see e.g. [1]. Roughly speaking, a free field is an infinite collection of free oscillators, which are the creation/annihilation operators of the harmonic oscillator. To study quantum mechanical systems with one degree of freedom by free field approach, a free field is not necessary and it is sufficient to use a free oscillator, namely, free oscillator realization.

In this letter, we study free oscillator realization of the radial oscillator. Eigenfunctions of the harmonic oscillator are described by the Hermite polynomial, and those of the radial oscillator are described by the Laguerre polynomial. By using a free oscillator, we construct some operator. We show that the eigenfunctions of the radial oscillator are obtained from those of the harmonic oscillator by this operator. As a polynomial part of this relation, the Laguerre polynomial is obtained from the Hermite polynomial. We also show the orthogonality relation of the Laguerre polynomial by using the properties of the Hermite polynomial.

This letter is organized as follows. The harmonic oscillator and the Hermite polynomial are recapitulated in §2 and the radial oscillator and the Laguerre polynomial are recapitulated in §3.1 In §3.2 free oscillator realization of the radial oscillator is considered. The
eigenfunctions of the radial oscillator are obtained from those of the harmonic oscillator. Section 4 is for a summary and comments.

2 Harmonic Oscillator

In this section we recapitulate the harmonic oscillator [2] and the Hermite polynomial [3].

The Hamiltonian of the harmonic oscillator is

\[ H = p^2 + x^2 - 1, \]  

(1)

(the standard normalization is \( H^\text{st} = \frac{1}{2}(H + 1) \)), where \( x \in \mathbb{R} \) is the coordinate and \( p = -i \frac{d}{dx} \) is the momentum. The Schrödinger equation and eigenfunctions are

\[ H \phi_n(x) = \mathcal{E}_n \phi_n(x) \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}), \]  

(2)

\[ \mathcal{E}_n = 2n, \quad \phi_n(x) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} H_n(x), \quad (\phi_m, \phi_n) = 2^n n! \sqrt{\pi} \delta_{mn}, \]  

(3)

where the inner product of functions \( f \) and \( g \) is \( (f, g) \overset{\text{def}}{=} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx f(x)^* g(x) \). Here \( H_n(x) \) is the Hermite polynomial,

\[ H_n(x) = (2x)^n_2 F_0 \left( \begin{array}{c} -n/2, -n/2 \\ -1/2 \end{array} \right) \mid -1/2 \mid = n! \sum_{k=0}^{[n/2]} \frac{(-1)^k (2x)^{n-2k}}{k! (n-2k)!}. \]  

(4)

where \([x]\) denotes the greatest integer not exceeding \( x \) and \( _r F_s \) is the hypergeometric function,

\[ _r F_s \left( \begin{array}{c} a_1, \ldots, a_r \\ b_1, \ldots, b_s \end{array} \mid z \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1, \ldots, a_r)_k z^k}{(b_1, \ldots, b_s)_k k!}. \]  

(5)

More explicitly, (4) is

\[ H_{2n}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c_{n,k} x^{2k}, \quad c_{n,k} = \frac{(-1)^{n-k} 2^{2k} (2n)!}{(2k)! (n-k)!}, \]  

(6)

\[ H_{2n+1}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c''_{n,k} x^{2k+1}, \quad c''_{n,k} = \frac{(-1)^{n-k} 2^{2k+1} (2n+1)!}{(2k+1)! (n-k)!}. \]  

(7)

Note that \( 2^{-n} H_n(x) \) is a monic polynomial in \( x \).

Annihilation and creation operators \( a \) and \( a^\dagger \), and the number operator \( N \) are defined by

\[ a \overset{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (x + ip), \quad a^\dagger \overset{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (x - ip), \quad N \overset{\text{def}}{=} a^\dagger a, \]  

(8)
and they satisfy
\[ [a, a^\dagger] = 1, \quad [N, a] = -a, \quad [N, a^\dagger] = a^\dagger, \quad H = 2N \quad (H^{\text{st}} = N + \frac{1}{2}), \] (9)
and
\[ a\phi_n(x) = \sqrt{2} n\phi_{n-1}(x), \quad a^\dagger\phi_n(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \phi_{n+1}(x), \quad N\phi_n(x) = n\phi_n(x). \] (10)

By the similarity transformation in terms of the ground state wavefunction \( \phi_0(x) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \), we define \( \tilde{X} \) for an operator \( X \) as
\[ \tilde{X} \overset{\text{def}}{=} \phi_0(x)^{-1} \circ X \circ \phi_0(x). \] (11)

For example, \( \tilde{x} = x, \quad \tilde{p} = p + ix, \quad \tilde{a} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{d}{dx}, \quad \tilde{a}^\dagger = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-\frac{d}{dx} + 2x) \) and \( \tilde{N} = \tilde{a}^\dagger\tilde{a} \). The relations (10) become
\[ \tilde{a}H_n(x) = \sqrt{2} nH_{n-1}(x), \quad \tilde{a}^\dagger H_n(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} H_{n+1}(x), \quad \tilde{N}H_n(x) = nH_n(x). \] (12)

The first equation of (12) is
\[ \frac{d}{dx} H_n(x) = 2nH_{n-1}(x). \] (13)

From (6)–(7), we have
\[ \frac{H_{2n+1}(x)}{2^{2n+1}x} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{(-1)^k n!}{(n-k)!} \frac{H_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}}. \] (14)

By (13), we have \( \frac{d}{dx} \phi_{2n}(x) = 4n\phi_{2n-1}(x) - x\phi_{2n}(x) \). Combining this and (14), we obtain
\[ \frac{1}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\phi_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}} = -2 \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{(-1)^k n!}{(n-k)!} \frac{\phi_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}} + \frac{\phi_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}}. \] (15)

For later use, let us define an inner product of functions \( f \) and \( g \) on \( \mathbb{R}_{>0} \),
\[ (f, g)' \overset{\text{def}}{=} \int_{0}^{\infty} dx f(x)^*g(x). \] (16)

We remark that the eigenfunctions \( \phi_{2n}(x) \) and \( \phi_{2n+1}(x) \) are also orthogonal functions with respect to this inner product,
\[ (\phi_{2m}, \phi_{2n})' = 2^{2n-1}(2n)!\sqrt{\pi} \delta_{mn}, \quad (\phi_{2m+1}, \phi_{2n+1})' = 2^{2n}(2n+1)!\sqrt{\pi} \delta_{mn}. \] (17)

## 3 Radial Oscillator and Free Oscillator Realization

In this section, after recapitulating the radial oscillator [2] and the Laguerre polynomial [3], we present its free oscillator realization.
3.1 Radial oscillator

The Hamiltonian of the radial oscillator is

$$H^L = p^2 + x^2 + \frac{g(g-1)}{x^2} - 2g - 1,$$

(18)

where the coordinate $x$ takes a value in $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ and $g$ is a coupling constant ($g > \frac{1}{2}$). The eigenfunctions of the Schrödinger equation (2) (with superscript $L$) are

$$E_n^L = 4n, \quad \phi_n^L(x) = x^g e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2), \quad (\phi_m^L, \phi_n^L)' = \frac{1}{2n!}\Gamma(n + g + \frac{1}{2})\delta_{mn}. \quad (19)$$

Here $L_n^{(\alpha)}(\eta)$ is the Laguerre polynomial,

$$L_n^{(\alpha)}(\eta) = \frac{(\alpha + 1)_n}{n!} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha + 1)} = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{(-n)_k}{k!} (\alpha + k + 1)_{n-k} \eta^k. \quad (20)$$

Note that $(-1)^n n! L_n^{(\alpha)}(\eta)$ is a monic polynomial in $\eta$. By the similarity transformation in terms of the factor $x^g$, $H^L$ becomes

$$(x^g)^{-1} \circ H^L \circ x^g = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} - 2g \frac{d}{dx} x^2 - 2g - 1 = H - 2g - \frac{2g}{x} \frac{d}{dx}. \quad (21)$$

For later use, we present the following identities with a parameter $g$ ($n, m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$):

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{(g)_k}{k!} = \frac{(g + 1)_n}{n!}, \quad (22)$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{m-l} \binom{m}{k} \frac{2(m-k)!}{2^{m-k}(m-k)!} (g)_k = \frac{(2l)!}{2^{2l}} \frac{(m)_l}{l!} \frac{(g + \frac{1}{2})^m}{(g + \frac{1}{2})^l} \quad (0 \leq l \leq m), \quad (23)$$

$$\sum_{l_1=0}^{n} \sum_{l_2=0}^{n} (-1)^{l_1+l_2} \binom{m}{l_1} \binom{n}{l_2} \frac{(g + \frac{1}{2})_{l_1+l_2}}{(g + \frac{1}{2})_{l_1}(g + \frac{1}{2})_{l_2}} = \delta_{mn} \frac{n!}{(g + \frac{1}{2})^n}. \quad (24)$$

3.2 Free oscillator realization

Let us define an operator $b$ as

$$b \overset{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{N+1} a^2. \quad (25)$$

By (10), action of $b$ on $\phi_n(x)$ is

$$b\phi_0(x) = b\phi_1(x) = 0, \quad b\phi_n(x) = 2n\phi_{n-2}(x) \quad (n \geq 2), \quad (26)$$

and we have

$$b^k \phi_{2n}(x) = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \frac{\phi_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}} \quad (0 \leq k \leq n), \quad b^k \phi_{2n}(x) = 0 \quad (k > n). \quad (27)$$
Let us consider the following function:

$$F_n(x) \overset{\text{def}}{=} x^g \, _1F_0\left(\begin{array}{c} g \\ -b \end{array} \right) \frac{\phi_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}} \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}).$$

(28)

Although the hypergeometric function $_1F_0$ is an infinite series, it is truncated to a finite sum by (27),

$$F_n(x) = x^g \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{(g)_k}{k!} (-b)_k \frac{\phi_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}} = x^g \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} (g)_k \frac{\phi_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}},$$

(29)

which is square integrable with respect to $(\cdot, \cdot)$. Action of $\mathcal{H}^L$ on $F_n(x)$ is

$$\mathcal{H}^L F_n(x) = x^g \cdot x^{-g} \mathcal{H}^L x^g \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} (g)_k \frac{\phi_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}} \tag{30}$$

where we have used (i): (21), (ii): (2) and (15). By changing the summation variable $k, l$ to $k, m = k + l$, the second term of (30) in the last line) becomes

$$x^g \sum_{m=0}^{n} \sum_{k=0}^{m} (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} \frac{\phi_{2(n-m)}(x)}{2^{2(n-m)}} 4g m! \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{(g)_k}{k!}$$

$$= x^g \sum_{m=0}^{n} (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} \frac{\phi_{2(n-m)}(x)}{2^{2(n-m)}} 4g m! \sum_{k=0}^{m} \frac{(g)_k}{k!}$$

$$\overset{(i)}{=} x^g \sum_{m=0}^{n} (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} \frac{\phi_{2(n-m)}(x)}{2^{2(n-m)}} 4g (g+1)_m$$

$$= x^g \sum_{m=0}^{n} (-1)^m \binom{n}{m} (g)_m 4(g+m) \frac{\phi_{2(n-m)}(x)}{2^{2(n-m)}},$$

where we have used (22) in (i). Therefore we obtain

$$\mathcal{H}^L F_n(x) = x^g \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} (g)_k 4n \frac{\phi_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}} = 4n F_n(x).$$

(31)

This means that $F_n(x)$ is an eigenfunction of $\mathcal{H}^L$ with energy eigenvalue $4n$, namely, $F_n(x) \propto \phi_{2n}^L(x)$. By comparing the highest term of the polynomial part (the part other than $x^g e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}$),
we obtain
\[ (-1)^n n! \phi^L_n(x) = F_n(x), \] (32)
namely,
\[ (-1)^n n! \phi^L_n(x) = x^g F_0 \left( -b \right) \frac{\phi_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}}. \] (33)
Therefore the eigenfunction of the radial oscillator \( \phi^L_n(x) \) is obtained from that of the harmonic oscillator \( \phi_{2n}(x) \) by the operator \( x^g F_0 \left( -b \right) \). The polynomial part of this relation gives
\[ (-1)^n n! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2) = F_0 \left( -b \right) \frac{H_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}}, \] (34)
where \( b = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{N+1} \bar{a}^2}}{\sqrt{2}} \). This gives the Laguerre polynomial in terms of the Hermite polynomial of even degree,
\[ (-1)^n n! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} (g)_k \frac{H_{2(n-k)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)}}. \] (35)
Next let us consider the orthogonality relation of \( F_n(x) \). For \( k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \), we have
\[ \int_0^\infty dx x^{2g} e^{-x^2} x^{2k} = \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(g + k + \frac{1}{2}) = (g + \frac{1}{2})^k \frac{\Gamma(g + \frac{1}{2})}{2}. \] (36)
The inner product \((F_m, F_n)'\) is calculated as follows:
\[ (F_m, F_n)' \]
\[ \overset{(i)}{=} \sum_{k_1=0}^{m} (-1)^{k_1} \binom{m}{k_1} (g)_{k_1} \sum_{k_2=0}^{n} (-1)^{k_2} \binom{n}{k_2} (g)_{k_2} \left( x^g \frac{\phi_{2(m-k_1)}(x)}{2^{2(m-k_1)}}, x^g \frac{\phi_{2(n-k_2)}(x)}{2^{2(n-k_2)}} \right)' \]
\[ \overset{(ii)}{=} \sum_{k_1=0}^{m} (-1)^{k_1} \binom{m}{k_1} (g)_{k_1} \sum_{k_2=0}^{n} (-1)^{k_2} \binom{n}{k_2} (g)_{k_2} \frac{1}{2^{2(m-k_1)}} \frac{1}{2^{2(n-k_2)}} \sum_{l_1=0}^{m-k_1} \sum_{l_2=0}^{n-k_2} \left( \frac{2(l_1)}{2^{2(l_1)l_1}!} \right) \left( \frac{2(l_2)}{2^{2(l_2)l_2}!} \right) \Gamma(g + \frac{1}{2}) \]
\[ \overset{(iii)}{=} \frac{1}{2^{2(m-k_1)}} \frac{1}{2^{2(n-k_2)}} \sum_{k_1=0}^{m-k_1} \sum_{k_2=0}^{n-k_2} \left( \frac{2(m-k_1)}{(m-k_1)!} \right) \left( \frac{2(n-k_2)}{(n-k_2)!} \right) \frac{1}{2^{2(m-k_1)}} \frac{1}{2^{2(n-k_2)}} \sum_{l_1=0}^{m-k_1} \sum_{l_2=0}^{n-k_2} \left( \frac{1}{2^{2(l_1)l_1}!} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2^{2(l_2)l_2}!} \right) \Gamma(g + \frac{1}{2}) \]
\[ \overset{(iv)}{=} \frac{1}{2^{2(m-k_1)}} \frac{1}{2^{2(n-k_2)}} \sum_{l_1=0}^{m-k_1} \sum_{l_2=0}^{n-k_2} \left( \frac{1}{2^{2(l_1)l_1}!} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2^{2(l_2)l_2}!} \right) \frac{1}{2^{2(m-k_1)}} \frac{1}{2^{2(n-k_2)}} \sum_{l_1=0}^{m-k_1} \sum_{l_2=0}^{n-k_2} \left( \frac{2(l_1)}{2^{2(l_1)l_1}!} \right) \left( \frac{2(l_2)}{2^{2(l_2)l_2}!} \right) \Gamma(g + \frac{1}{2}) \]
\[ \overset{(v)}{=} \delta_{mn} n! \left( g + \frac{1}{2} \right)_n \frac{\Gamma(g + \frac{1}{2})}{2} = \frac{1}{2^n} n! \Gamma(g + n + \frac{1}{2}) \delta_{mn}, \] (37)
where we have used (i): (29), (ii): (30) and (36), (iii): (33) and changing of the order of sums, (iv): (23), (v): (24). On the other hand, (32) gives \((F_m, F_n)' = (-1)^{m+n} n! (\phi^L_m, \phi^L_n)'\). Thus the orthogonality relation \((\phi^L_m, \phi^L_n)' = \frac{1}{2^n} n! \Gamma(g + n + \frac{1}{2}) \delta_{mn} (19)\) is recovered.
4 Summary and Comments

Free oscillator realization of the radial oscillator is studied. We have shown that the operator \( x^g \underline{1} F_0(\frac{g}{g} | b) \) maps the eigenfunction of the harmonic oscillator \( \phi_{2n}(x) \) to that of the radial oscillator \( \phi_{n}^L(x) \), \( \{33\} \). As the polynomial part of this relation, the operator \( 1 F_0(\frac{g}{g} | -\tilde{b}) \) maps the Hermite polynomial \( H_{2n}(x) \) to the Laguerre polynomial \( L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2) \), \( \{34\} \). This gives the Laguerre polynomial in terms of the Hermite polynomial of even degree, \( \{35\} \). The orthogonality relation of the Laguerre polynomial is obtained by using the properties of the Hermite polynomial.

We have presented the operator that maps \( \phi_{2n}(x) \) to \( \phi_{n}^L(x) \). Similarly, we can construct an operator, which maps \( \phi_{2n+1}(x) \) to \( \phi_{n}^L(x) \). The result is as follows:

\[
(-1)^n n! \phi_{n}^L(x) = x^{g-1} 1 F_0(\frac{g-1}{g} | -\tilde{b}) \frac{\phi_{2n+1}(x)}{2^{2n+1}}, \quad \tilde{b} \equiv \frac{1}{N+2} a^2. \tag{38}
\]

The polynomial part of this relation gives

\[
(-1)^n n! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2) = 1 x^{g-1} 1 F_0(\frac{g-1}{g} | -\tilde{b}) \frac{H_{2n+1}(x)}{2^{2n+1}}, \tag{39}
\]

where \( \tilde{b} = \frac{1}{N+2} a^2 \). This gives the Laguerre polynomial in terms of the Hermite polynomial of odd degree,

\[
(-1)^n n! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} (g - 1)_k \frac{H_{2(n-k)+1}(x)}{2^{2(n-k)+1}}. \tag{40}
\]

Inverse transformations of \( \{35\} \) and \( \{40\} \) are

\[
\frac{H_{2n}(x)}{2^{2n}} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} (g + 1 - k)_k (-1)^{n-k} (n-k)! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2), \tag{41}
\]

\[
\frac{H_{2n+1}(x)}{2^{2n+1}} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} (g - k)_k (-1)^{n-k} (n-k)! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2) \tag{42}
\]

\[
= \sum_{k=0}^{(i)} \binom{n}{k} (g + 1 - k)_k (-1)^{n-k} (n-k)! L_n^{(g-\frac{1}{2})}(x^2), \tag{43}
\]

where we have shifted \( g \to g + 1 \) in (i) because \( \{42\} \) does not depend on \( g \). We remark that by setting \( g = 0 \) in \( \{41\} \) and \( \{43\} \), they give the well known formula \( \{3\} \),

\[
H_{2n}(x) = (-1)^n n! 2^{2n} L_n^{(\frac{1}{2})}(x^2), \quad H_{2n+1}(x) = (-1)^n n! 2^{2n+1} x L_n^{(\frac{1}{2})}(x^2). \tag{44}
\]

There are infinitely many exactly solvable deformations of the radial oscillator, which are described by the multi-indexed Laguerre orthogonal polynomials \( \{4\} \). It is an interesting problem to study their free oscillator realizations.
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