CHAPTER 18

THE POCHHAMMER POLYNOMIALS (x) _n

There is little interest in the Pochhammer polynomials in their own right; however, their simple recursion properties enable these functions to play a valuable role in the algebra of other functions, especially the hypergeometric functions discussed in Section 18:14.

18:1 NOTATION

These polynomial functions, in which *x* is the argument and *n* the degree, were studied in 1730 by Stirling and later by Appell, who used the symbol (*x*,*n*). The name "Pochhammer polynomial" recognizes Leo August Pochhammer (German mathematician, 1841–1920) who introduced the now conventional (x) ⁿ notation. Alternative names are *shifted factorial function*, *rising factorial*, and *upper factorial*. The alternative overbarred symbol $x^{\bar{n}}$ is occasionally encountered.

18:2 BEHAVIOR

The Pochhammer polynomial is defined for all real *x* and all nonnegative integer *n* values (though see Section 18:12 for a generalization to negative *n*). In common with other polynomials, it has an unrestricted range when *n* is odd, but a semiinfinite range for $n = 2, 4, 6, ...$.

Figure 18-1 shows graphs of early members of the Pochhammer polynomial family; note that (x) ⁿ has exactly Int $\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)$ maxima, $\text{Int}\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)$ minima and *n* zeros, the latter occurring at $x = 0, -1, -2, \dots, (1-n)$.

18:3 DEFINITIONS

The Pochhammer polynomial is defined by the *n*-fold product

18:3:1
$$
(x)_n = x(x+1)(x+2)\cdots(x+n-1) = \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (x+j)
$$

Empty products are generally interpreted as unity and this is the case for the Pochhammer polynomial of zero degree: 18:3:2 (x) ₀ = 1

An equivalent definition

$$
(x)_n = n! \binom{x+n-1}{n}
$$

expresses (x) ⁿ in terms of a factorial function and a binomial coefficient [Chapters 2 and 6, respectively]. Equation 18:12:1 can also serve as a definition.

A generating function [Section 0:3] for the Pochhammer polynomial is

18:3:4
$$
\frac{1}{(1-t)^{\nu}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\nu)_n \frac{t^n}{n!}
$$

and it is also generated by repeatedly differentiating a power of which $-v$ is the exponent:

18:3:5
$$
x^{\nu} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} x^{-\nu} = (\nu)_n \left(\frac{-1}{x}\right)^n
$$

18:4 SPECIAL CASES

18:5 INTRARELATIONSHIPS

Pochhammer polynomials obey the reflection formula

18:5:1
$$
(-x)_n = (-)^n (x - n + 1)_n
$$

Equivalently

18:5:2
$$
\left(\frac{n-1}{2} - x\right)_n = (-)^n \left(x - \frac{n-1}{2}\right)_n
$$

which explains the even or odd symmetry about $x = (1-n)/2$ evident in Figure 18-1.

The argument-duplication formulas

18:5:3
$$
(2x)_n = \begin{cases} 2^n (x)_{n/2} (x + \frac{1}{2})_{n/2} & n = 0, 2, 4, \cdots \\ 2^n (x)_{(n+1)/2} (x + \frac{1}{2})_{(n-1)/2} & n = 1, 3, 5, \cdots \end{cases}
$$

have analogs in expressions for $(3x)_n$, $(4x)_n$, and generally for $(mx)_n$, where *m* is a positive integer. Equation 18:5:3 may be reformulated into a degree-duplication formula

18:5:4
$$
(x)_{2n} = 4^n \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)_n \left(\frac{1+x}{2}\right)_n
$$

and similarly

18:5:5
$$
(x)_{2n+1} = 4^n x \left(\frac{1+x}{2}\right)_n \left(1+\frac{x}{2}\right)_n = 2^{2n+1} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)_{n+1} \left(\frac{1+x}{2}\right)_n
$$

Similar formulas for $(x)_{3n}$, $(x)_{3n+1}$, $(x)_{3n+2}$, $(x)_{4n}$, etc. may be derived readily.

Simple recursion formulas exist for both the argument

$$
(x+1)_n = \left[1 + \frac{n}{x}\right](x)_n
$$

and the degree

18:5:7
$$
(x)_{n+1} = [n+x](x)_n = x(x+1)_n
$$

of Pochhammer polynomial functions. There are many useful formulas expressing the quotient of two Pochhammer

polynomials:

18:5:8

$$
\frac{(x)_n}{(x)_m} = \begin{cases} (x+m)_{n-m} & n \ge m \\ \frac{1}{(x+n)_{m-n}} & n \le m \end{cases}
$$

18:5:9
$$
\frac{(x+m)_n}{(x)_n} = \frac{(x+n)_m}{(x)_m} \qquad m = 0,1,2,\cdots
$$

18:5:10
$$
\frac{(x-m)_n}{(x)_n} = \frac{(x-m)_m}{(x-m+n)_m} = \frac{(1-x)_m}{(1-n-x)_m} \qquad m = 0,1,2,\cdots
$$

Addition formulas exist for both the argument and the degree of a Pochhammer polynomial. The expression

18:5:11
$$
(x+y)_n = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} (x)_j (y)_{n-j}
$$

which closely resembles the binomial theorem [equation 6:14:1], is known as *Vandermonde's theorem* (Alexandre-Théophile Vandermonde, French violinist and mathematician, $1735 - 1795$). The rule

18:5:12
$$
(x)_{n+m} = (x)_n (x+n)_m
$$

is a simple consequence of definition 18:3:1.

18:6 EXPANSIONS: Stirling numbers of the first kind

Of course, the Pochhammer polynomial is expansible as the product 18:3:1. As a sum, its expansion involves the absolute values of the numbers $S_n^{(m)}$, known as the *Stirling numbers of the first kind*.

18:6:1
$$
(x)_n = (-)^n \sum_{m=1}^n S_n^{(m)} (-x)^m = \sum_{m=0}^n |S_n^{(m)}| x^m
$$

These numbers are negative whenever *n*+*m* is odd and $0 \le m \le n$. Figure 18-2 shows the absolute values of early Stirling numbers of the first kind and more can be calculated via the recursion formula

$$
S_{n+1}^{(m)} = S_n^{(m-1)} - nS_n^{(m)}
$$

18:6:2

$$
n = 0,1,2,\cdots \quad m = 1,2,3,\cdots
$$

This formula is the basis of *Equator*'s Stirling number of the first kind (keyword **Snum**) routine. The numbers satisfy the following summations

18:6:3
$$
\sum_{m=1}^{n} S_n^{(m)} = 0 \qquad n = 2, 3, 4, \cdots
$$

18:6:4
$$
\sum_{m=0}^{n} |S_{n}^{(m)}| = n! \qquad n = 0, 1, 2, \cdots
$$

It is sometimes useful to expand a

reciprocal Pochhammer polynomial as partial fractions [Section 17:13]. The result is

18:6:5
$$
\frac{1}{(x)_n} = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(n-j-1)!} \frac{1}{x+j} = (n-1)! \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} {n-1 \choose j} \frac{(-1)^j}{x+j}
$$

18:7 PARTICULAR VALUES

As the table shows, the Pochhammer polynomial of an integer can be expressed as a factorial function or as the quotient of two factorials

18:7:1
$$
(1)_n = n!
$$
 $(2)_n = (n+1)!$ $(3)_n = \frac{(n+2)!}{2}$ $(m)_n = \frac{(n+m-1)!}{(m-1)!}$

Similarly, the Pochhammer polynomial of half an odd integer is related to double-factorials [Section 2:13]

18:7:2
$$
(\frac{1}{2})_n = \frac{(2n-1)!!}{2^n} \qquad (\frac{3}{2})_n = \frac{(2n+1)!!}{2^n} \qquad (\frac{m}{2})_n = \frac{(2n+m-2)!!}{2^n(m-2)!!} \qquad m=1,3,5,\cdots
$$

18:8 NUMERICAL VALUES

Equator can provide accurate values of (x) ^{*n*} by its Pochhammer polynomial routine (keyword **Poch**).

18:9 LIMITS AND APPROXIMATIONS

As $x \to +\infty$, (x) _n approaches $+\infty$ smoothly and rapidly. As *x* becomes increasingly negative, (x) _n passes through $(n-1)$ extrema before heading rapidly towards $+\infty$, if *n* is even, or $-\infty$ if *n* is odd. By use of equation 18:12:1, the limiting behavior of the Pochhammer polynomial can be deduced from those of the gamma function, as discussed in Section 43:9. Thus, when *n* is large, *x* remaining modest, the asymptotic expansion

18:9:1
$$
(x)_n \sim \frac{n^{x-1} n!}{\Gamma(x)} \left[1 + \frac{x(x-1)}{2n} + \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)(3x-1)}{24n^2} + \cdots \right]
$$
 $n \to \infty$

holds and shows, for example, that

18:9:2
$$
(\frac{1}{2})_n \to \frac{n!}{\sqrt{\pi n}} \qquad n \to \infty
$$

On the other hand, the Stirling approximation [equation 43:6:6], coupled with 18:12:1, leads to

18:9:3
$$
(\frac{1}{2})_n \to \sqrt{2} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \qquad n \to \infty
$$

The coexistence of limits 18:9:2 and 18:9:3 provides an interesting link between what are probably the three most important irrational numbers: π , *e*, and $\sqrt{2}$.

For large *n*, and *x* close to $-n/2$, the Pochhammer polynomial approximates a sine function [Chapter 32].

18:9:4
$$
(x)_n \approx 2\left(\frac{n}{2e}\right)^n \sin(\pi x)
$$
 $x + \frac{n}{2} << \sqrt{n}$ large positive *n*

The development of this sinusoidal behavior is evident in Figure 18-1, even for *n* as small as 4.

18:10 OPERATIONS OF THE CALCULUS

Linear operators such as differentiation and indefinite integration may be applied term by term to all polynomials, including (*x*)*n*. Differentiation and integration of the Pochhammer polynomial give

18:10:1
$$
\frac{d}{dx}(x)_n = (x)_n \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{x+j} = (x)_n [\psi(n+x) - \psi(x)]
$$

18:10:2
$$
\int_{0}^{x} (t)_n dt = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} |S_n^{(j-1)}| \frac{x^j}{j}
$$

The ψ function is the digamma function [Chapter 44] and $S_n^{(j-1)}$ represents a Stirling number from Section 18:6.

18:11 COMPLEX ARGUMENT

If values of the Pochhammer polynomial with complex argument are needed, which they seldom are, they are available by combining equation 18:6:1 and 17:11:1.

18:12 GENERALIZATIONS

Pochhammer polynomials may be expressed as a ratio of two gamma functions [Chapter 43]

18:12:1
$$
(x)_n = \frac{\Gamma(n+x)}{\Gamma(x)}
$$

This representation opens the door to a generalization in which the degree *n* is not necessarily an integer.

A less profound generalization is to maintain *n* as an integer, but allow it to adopt negative values. This is possible by basing the definition of such Pochhammer polynomials on recursion 18:5:7 and leads to the conclusion that

$$
18:12:2 \t\t\t (x)_{-1} = \frac{1}{x-1}
$$

and generally

18:12:3
$$
(x)_{-n} = \frac{1}{(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-n)} = \frac{(-)^n x}{[x-n](-x)_n}
$$

18:13 COGNATE FUNCTIONS

Factorial functions [Chapter 2], binomial coefficients [Chapter 6], the gamma function [Chapter 43] and the (complete) beta function [Section 43:13] are all closely related to the Pochhammer polynomial.

A *factorial polynomial*, as defined by Tuma [Section 1.03] is

18:13:1
$$
x_h^{(n)} = x(x-h)(x-2h)\cdots(x-nh+h)
$$

but another function given the same name is

 $x^{[n]} = x(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-n+1)$

This latter function also goes by the names *falling factorial* and *lower factorial* and may be symbolized $xⁿ$ or, unfortunately, (x) ⁿ. Yet another confusing symbolism, due to Kramp, is

 $x^{n/c} = x(x+c)(x+2c)\cdots(x+nc-c)$

None of the notations in this paragraph is employed in the *Atlas*.

18:14 RELATED TOPIC: hypergeometric functions

Pochhammer polynomials occur in the coefficients of the special kind of power series known as a *hypergeometric function*. The most general representation of such a function is as the sum

18:14:1

$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_j (a_2)_j (a_3)_j \cdots (a_k)_j}{(c_1)_j (c_2)_j (c_3)_j \cdots (c_L)_j} x^j
$$

where *x* is the argument, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k are prescribed *numeratorial parameters*, and c_1, c_2, \dots, c_L are prescribed *denominatorial parameters.* Any real number is permissible as a parameter, except that nonpositive integers are problematic. If such an integer is one of the *a* parameter, series 18:14:1 will generally terminate, thus representing a polynomial. The only circumstance in which a nonpositive integer is legitimate as a denominatorial *c* parameter, is if another nonpositive integer of smaller magnitude (that is, a less negative integer) occurs in the numerator. In such cases the series terminates. Of course, the same Pochhammer term may not be in both the numerator and the denominator: they would cancel.

The argument *x* may have either sign but its permissible range is determined by the *numeratorial order K* and the *denominatorial order L*. These *K* and *L* orders are nonnegative integers, usually small ones. If *L* > *K*, the hypergeometric series necessarily converges for all finite values of *x*. If $L = K$, convergence is generally limited to the argument range $|x| < 1$. If $L < K$ the series diverges (unless it terminates) for all nonzero arguments, but it may nevertheless usefully represent a function asymptotically for small values of |*x*| [37:6:5 provides an example].

The name "hypergeometric function" arises because 18:14:1 can be regarded as an extension of the geometric series (equation 1:6:4 or 6:14:9), to which it reduces when $L = K = 0$. Choosing suitable values of the *a*'s and *c*'s often gives rise to well-known functions when *L* and *K* are small. As well, a number of generic functions, such as the Kummer function [Chapter 47] the Gauss hypergeometric function [Chapter 60], and the Claisen functions [equation 18:14:5] are instances of hypergeometric functions in which the *a*'s and *c*'s are largely unrestricted. The

18:14:2

$$
{}_{p}F_{q}(a_{1}, a_{2}, a_{3}, \cdots, a_{p}; c_{1}, c_{2}, c_{3}, \cdots, c_{q}; x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1})_{j}(a_{2})_{j}(a_{3})_{j} \cdots (a_{p})_{j}}{(c_{1})_{j}(c_{2})_{j}(c_{3})_{j} \cdots (c_{q})_{j}(1)_{j}} x^{j}
$$

so that $p = K$ but q and L differ by unity. Other notations include

18:14:3

$$
{}_{p}F_{q}\left(\begin{array}{c} a_{1}, a_{2}, a_{3}, \cdots, a_{p} \\ c_{1}, c_{2}, c_{3}, \cdots, c_{q} \end{array} | x\right) \text{ and } \left[\begin{array}{c} a_{1} - 1, a_{2} - 1, a_{3} - 1, \cdots, a_{K} - 1 \\ c_{1} - 1, c_{2} - 1, c_{3} - 1, \cdots, c_{L} - 1 \end{array}\right]
$$

Some of these notations imply a phantom denominatorial (1)*^j* . In this *Atlas*, we adopt no special notation for hypergeometric functions, preferring to spell out the series explicitly as in $18:14:1$. If a (1) *j* is present in the denominator, it is shown there.

As the tables in this section attest, a very large fraction of the functions discussed in the *Atlas* may be expressed hypergeometrically. Moreover, in the terminology of Section 43:14, almost all of these functions may be synthesized from a basis function, such as the ones listed in equations $43:14:1-4$. Do not be misled into imagining that the only hypergeometric functions are those in the tables. In fact, subject to possible limitations on the argument *x*, almost any assignment of *a*'s and *c*'s leads to a valid hypergeometric function. It is just that most such assignments do not correspond to functions that have been glorified by special names and symbols.

Hypergeometric functions in which $L = K$ have the common feature of being amenable to synthesis, ultimately from one or other of the $1/(1 \pm x)$ functions. Table 18-1 lists examples of $L = K = 1$ hypergeometric functions, while Table 18-2

similarly lists $L = K = 2$ hypergeometrics. There is a plethora of functions that are expressible as $L = K = 2$ hypergeometric functions; entries in Table 18-2 have been chosen as representative, rather than exhaustive. See Section 60:4 for details of the ways in which an associated Legendre function may be represented as a Gauss hypergeometric function; that is, formulated as an $L = K = 2$ hypergeometric. $L = K = 3$ cases, include the class of *Claisen functions*, important in hydrodynamics and described by

18:14:4
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_j (a_2)_j (a_3)_j}{(c_1)_j (c_2)_j (1)_j} x^j
$$

of which an example is

18:14:5
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2\mu)_j (2\nu - 2\mu - \frac{1}{2})_j (\nu - \frac{1}{2})_j}{(\nu)_j (2\nu - 1)_j (1)_j} x^j = \left[F(\mu, \nu - \mu - \frac{1}{2}, \nu, x \right]^2
$$

Please refer to the Symbol Index for the meaning of any unfamiliar symbol. Equation 18:14:6 provides a non-Claisen example of a $L = K = 3$ hypergeometric function.

18:14:6
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)_j \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_j \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_j}{(2)_j \left(\frac{2}{2}\right)_j \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)_j} x^j = \frac{12}{x} \left[1 + \ln \left(\frac{2}{1 + \sqrt{1 - x}} \right) - \frac{\arcsin(\sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x}} \right] \qquad 0 < x \le 1
$$

The exponential function is the prototype $L = K+1$ hypergeometric function

18:14:7
$$
\exp(\pm x) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1)_j} (\pm x)^j
$$

All other hypergeometric functions that have one more denominatorial than numeratorial parameter may be synthesized from it. Tables 18-3 and 18-4 respectively are listings of some examples of $L = K+1 = 1$ and $L =$ $K+1 = 2$ hypergeometric functions. An example of an $L = K+1 = 3$ hypergeometric is

18:14:8
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_j (2)_j}{(1)_j (3)_j (3)_j} (-x)^j = \frac{4}{x^2} \Big[\text{Ein}(x) + \exp(-x) - 1 \Big]
$$

The starting point for the synthesis of $L = K+2$ hypergeometric functions is the zero-order modified Bessel function $I_0(2\sqrt{x})$ or the corresponding (circular) Bessel function $J_0(2\sqrt{x})$. Examples of $L = K+2 = 3$ hypergeometrics are assembled in Tables 18-5 and 18-6. There are rather few instances of $L = K+2 = 4$ hypergeometrics, but one is

18:14:9
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(v)_j (v+\frac{1}{2})_j}{(1)_j (1+v-\mu)_j (\mu+v)_j (2v)_j} x^j = \frac{\Gamma(\mu+v)\Gamma(1+v-\mu)}{(x/4)^{(2\nu-1)/2}} I_{\mu+v-1}(\sqrt{x}) I_{\nu-\mu}(\sqrt{x})
$$

For some obscure reason, hypergeometric functions in which the denominatorial order exceeds the numeratorial order by 3 seldom correspond to named functions, one a rare exception appearing in equation 53:11:3 and another being

18:14:10
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)_j \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)_j (1)_j} x^j = \frac{1}{3} \exp\left(3x^{\frac{1}{3}}\right) + \frac{2}{3} \exp\left(-3/2x^{\frac{1}{3}}\right) \cos\left(3\sqrt{3}x^{\frac{1}{3}}/2\right)
$$

which is an example of a Mittag-Leffler function [Section 45:14]. In contrast, named cases of $L = K+4 = 4$ hypergeometric functions are quite abundant, an instance being the Kelvin function [Chapter 55]

and the company of the company of

18:14:11
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(\frac{1}{2})_j (\frac{1}{2})_j (1)_j (1)_j} (-x)^j = \text{ber} (4x^{\frac{1}{4}})
$$

Examples of hypergeometric functions of the $L = K - 1 = 0$ and $L = K - 1 = 1$ families are listed in Tables 18-7 and 18-8. Of course, these correspond to asymptotic series. With even worse convergence properties are the $L = K - 2 = 0$ hypergeometrics of which a few are shown in Table 18-9. The series

18:14:12
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(v - \frac{1}{2})_j (\frac{1}{2})_j (v + \frac{1}{2})_j}{(1)_j} x^j = \frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} I_v \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \right) K_v \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \right)
$$

is an example of an $L = K - 2 = 1$ hypergeometric function. Two important $L = K - 2 = 2$ hypergeometric functions occur in Section 53:6.

Let *G_i* denote the following abbreviation

18:14:13
\n
$$
G_j = \frac{(a_1+j)(a_2+j)(a_3+j)\cdots(a_k+j)}{(c_1+j)(c_2+j)(c_3+j)\cdots(c_k+j)}
$$

then any hypergeometric function is given by

18:14:14 $1 \pm G_0 x + G_0 G_1 x^2 \pm G_0 G_1 G_2 x^3 + \cdots (\pm)^J G_0 G_1 G_2 \cdots G_{J-1} x^J + R_J$

where R_j is the remainder if the summation is halted after the *J*th term. Ignoring R_j , a convenient method of calculating the hypergeometric function is via the concatenation

18:14:15
$$
\left(\left(\cdots (G_{J-1}x \pm 1)G_{J-2}x \pm \cdots \pm 1 \right)G_1x \pm 1 \right)G_0x + 1
$$

In discussing the general properties of hypergeometric functions, use will be made of a collapsed notation exemplified by the replacement of $(a_1)(a_2)$; (a_K) by $(a_{1 \to K})$, Likewise $(a_{1 \to K} + 1)$, implies the *K*-fold product

 (a_1+1) _{*j*} (a_2+1) _{*j*} \cdots (a_k+1) _{*j*}.

The recursion relation

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18:14:16
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K}+1)_j}{(c_{1\to L}+1)_j} (\pm x)^j = \frac{\pm c_{1\to L}}{a_{1\to K}x} \left[-1 + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j \right]
$$

is satisfied by any hypergeometric function. Furthermore, any hypergeometric function can be split into two others with an inflated parameter set:

$$
18:14:17\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}\frac{\left(a_{1\rightarrow K}+1\right)_j}{\left(c_{1\rightarrow L}+1\right)_j}(\pm x)^j=\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}a_{1\rightarrow K}\right)_j\left(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}a_{1\rightarrow K}\right)_j}{\left(\frac{1}{2}c_{1\rightarrow L}\right)_j\left(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}c_{1\rightarrow L}\right)_j}\left(\frac{x^2}{4^{L-K}}\right)^j\pm\frac{a_{1\rightarrow K}x}{c_{1\rightarrow L}}\sum_{j=0}^{\infty}\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}a_{1\rightarrow K}\right)_j\left(1+\frac{1}{2}a_{1\rightarrow K}\right)_j}{\left(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}c_{1\rightarrow L}\right)_j\left(1+\frac{1}{2}c_{1\rightarrow L}\right)_j}\left(\frac{x^2}{4^{L-K}}\right)^j
$$

Of course, this result may become invalid if it creates new denominatorial parameters that are nonnegative integers. Replacing *x* in this formula by *ix* shows that a hypergeometric function of imaginary argument has real and imaginary parts that are themselves hypergeometric functions.

Embodying the fractional calculus [Section 12:14], a formula of very wide applicability is

18:14:18
$$
\frac{d^{\nu}}{dx^{\nu}} \left\{ x^{\mu} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j \right\} = \frac{\Gamma(\mu+1) x^{\mu-\nu}}{\Gamma(\mu-\nu+1)} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\mu+1)_j (a_{1\to K})_j}{(\mu-\nu+1)_j (c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j
$$

where *v* and μ are not necessarily integers. This formula is invalid if either μ or μ -*v* is a negative integer; if they are *both* negative integers, it fails if *v* is negative. Examples of the $\mu = 0$ version include semidifferentiation

18:14:19
$$
\frac{d^{1/2}}{dx^{1/2}} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j \right\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi x}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)_j (a_{1\to K})_j}{(\frac{1}{2})_j (c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j
$$

semiintegration

18:14:20
$$
\frac{d^{-1/2}}{dx^{-1/2}} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j \right\} = 2 \sqrt{\frac{x}{\pi}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)_j (a_{1\to K})_j}{(\frac{x}{2})_j (c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j
$$

and integration

18:14:21

$$
\int_{0}^{x} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm t)^j \right\} dt = x \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)_j (a_{1\to K})_j}{(2)_j (c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm x)^j
$$

The formula for ordinary differentiation

18:14:22
$$
\frac{d}{dx} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1 \to K})_j}{(c_{1 \to L})_j} (\pm x)^j \right\} = \frac{a_{1 \to K}}{c_{1 \to L}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_j (a_{1 \to K})_j}{(1)_j (c_{1 \to L})_j} (\pm x)^j
$$

also follows from 18:14:18, but only after a preliminary step based on recursion 18:14:16. Notice that all the formulas $18:14:16-18:14:22$ maintain the $L-K$ difference. Laplace transformation, however, decreases this difference \overline{a}

18:14:23
$$
\int_{0}^{\infty} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm t)^j \right\} \exp(-st) dt = \mathcal{L} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm t)^j \right\} = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)_j (a_{1\to K})_j}{(c_{1\to L})_j} (\pm s)^j
$$

worsening the convergence properties of the hypergeometric function.

Specific to the hypergeometric 1:1 functions, are the reflection formula

18:14:24
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_j}{(c)_j} x^j = \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(a-c+1)}{\Gamma(a)} \frac{(1-x)^{c-a-1}}{x^{c-1}} - \frac{c-1}{a-c+1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_j}{(a-c+2)_j} (1-x)^j
$$

and the following rule

18:14:25
$$
\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_j}{(c)_j} x^j = \frac{(c-a)_n}{(c)_n} \left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right)^n \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_j}{(c+n)_j} x^j + \frac{1}{1-x} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{(1-c)_j}{(a-c+1)_j} \left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right)^j
$$

which permits the denominatorial parameter to be incremented by an integer, at the expense of an additional polynomial function.