L_p Norms and the Sinc Function

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Abstract. It's everywhere! It's everywhere! ...

In this note we give elementary proofs of some of the striking asymptotic properties of the p-norm of the ubiquitous sinc function. Based on experimental evidence we conjecture some enticing further properties of the p-norm as a function of p. See, for example, `http://www.carma.newcastle.edu.au/~jb616/oscillatory.pdf`.

1. INTRODUCTION. The *sinc function* is a real-valued function defined on the real line $\mathbb{R}$ by the following expression:

$$\operatorname{sinc}(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\sin x}{x} & \text{if} \quad x \neq 0, \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This function is important in many areas of computing science, approximation theory, and numerical analysis. For example, it is used in interpolation and approximation of functions and approximate evaluation of transforms (e.g., Hilbert, Fourier, Laplace, Hankel, and Mellon transforms as well as the fast Fourier transform). It is used in finding approximate solutions of differential and integral equations, in image processing (it is the Fourier transform of the box filter and central to the understanding of the Gibbs phenomenon [**12**]), and in signal processing and information theory. Much of this is nicely described in [**7**].

The first explicit appearance of the sinc function in approximation theory was probably in the use of the *Whittaker cardinal functions* $C(f, h)$ to approximate functions analytic on an interval or on a contour. Given a function f which is defined on the real line $\mathbb{R}$, the function $C(f, h)$ is defined by

$$C(f, h) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} f(kh)S(k, h)$$

whenever the series converges, where the step size h is positive and where

$$S(k, h)(x) = \frac{\sin\left(\pi(x - kh)/h\right)}{\pi(x - kh)/h},$$

that is, $S(k, h)(x) = \operatorname{sinc}\left(\pi(x - kh)/h\right)$. See, for example, [**11**].

The object of this note is to study the behavior and properties of the function

$$I(p) = \sqrt{p} \int_0^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx$$

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for $1 < p < \infty$. Note that this function is only defined for $p > 1$, since $\int_0^\infty (\sin x)/x\,dx$ is conditionally convergent. Indeed

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{\sin x}{x}\,dx = \frac{\pi}{2} \qquad \text{while} \qquad \int_0^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right| dx = +\infty;$$

see [**12**].

This integral arises, for example, in the L_p-approximation of real-valued functions by Whittaker cardinal functions, and is important in estimating the error made in the approximation. It also arises in many other computational problems, and it is surprising that so little is known about it.

Various properties of the function $I(p)$ are known. For example, the behavior of $I(p)$ for large p is known:

$$\lim_{p\to\infty} I(p) = \lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{p}\int_0^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}.$$

This result, obtained independently by A. Meir and I. E. Leonard, is in principle not new (see equation (3)). We provide a self-contained proof below as part of our more general result in Theorem 1.

Also, for integer p, the integral

$$\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{\sin x}{x}\right)^p dx$$

can be calculated explicitly. In fact, for $n \geq 1$ we have

$$\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{\sin x}{x}\right)^n dx = \frac{1}{(n-1)!}\cdot\frac{\pi}{2^n}\cdot\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor n/2\rfloor}(-1)^k\binom{n}{k}(n-2k)^{n-1}.$$

This result is most definitely not new; it can be found in Bromwich [**4**, Exercise 22, p. 518], where it is attributed to Wolstenholme, and in many other places—including two relatively recent articles on integrals of more general products of sinc functions [**2, 3**].

Thus, if p is an even integer, then we have a closed-form expression for $I(p)$, and in this case the values of $I(p)$ can be calculated exactly:

$$I(p) = \sqrt{p}\int_0^\infty \left(\frac{\sin x}{x}\right)^p dx = \sqrt{p}\cdot\frac{1}{(p-1)!}\cdot\frac{\pi}{2^p}\cdot\sum_{k=0}^{p/2}(-1)^k\binom{p}{k}(p-2k)^{p-1}. \tag{1}$$

In particular $I(2) = \pi/\sqrt{2}$, $I(4) = 2\pi/3$, and $I(6) = 11\sqrt{6}\pi/40$. That said, this sum is very difficult to use numerically for large p. Not only are the rational factors growing rapidly, but it contains extremely large terms of alternating sign and consequently dramatic cancelations. For example

$$I(36) = \frac{7315094018605332049258211886588717 13}{106308106650063219441014931456000000}\pi,$$

and $I(10) = Q_{100}\,\pi$, where Q_{100} is a rational number whose numerator and denominator both have roughly 150 digits. Similarly $I(12) = Q_{144}\,\pi$, where Q_{144} is comprised of 240-digit integers. We also note that numerical integration of $I(p)$ even to single precision is not easy and so (1) provides a very good confirmation of numerical integration results. We challenge the reader to numerically confirm the limit at infinity to 8 places.

The behavior of $I(p)$ for intermediate values of p is not fully established. It had been conjectured that $I(p)$ has a global minimum at $p = 4$. However, (very) recent computations using both *Maple* and *Mathematica* suggest that the global minimum, and unique critical point, is at approximately $p = 3.36\ldots$, as illustrated in Figure 1.

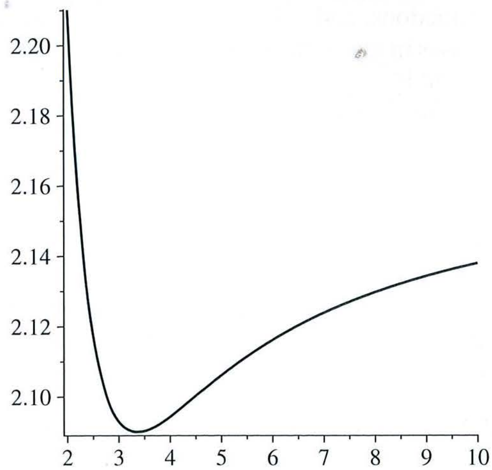

Figure 1. The function I on [2, 10].

Although it is known that $\lim_{p\to 1^+} I(p) = +\infty$, and that $\lim_{p\to\infty} I(p) = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}$, it is not known precisely how the asymptote $y = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}$ is approached, although both numerical and graphical evidence strongly suggest the following conjecture:

Conjecture. *I is increasing for p above the conjectured global minimum near* 3.36 *and concave for p above an inflection point near* 4.469.

This is shown in Figure 2, in which the dashed line has height $\sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}$. Moreover, in Theorem 2 we shall prove

$$I(p) > \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}\frac{2p}{2p+1} > \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}\left(1 - \frac{1}{2p}\right), \tag{2}$$

for all $p > 1$.

We conclude this introduction by observing that one can derive the existence of an asymptotic expansion for $I(p)$ from a general result of Olver [**10**] on asymptotics of integrals using critical point theory and contour integration. Specialized to our case, [**10**, Theorem 7.1, p. 127] (with $q = 1$ and $p = \log(\sin(x)/x)$ on $[-\pi, \pi]$) establishes the existence of real constants c_s such that

$$\begin{aligned} I(p) &\sim \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{p}\int_{-\pi}^{\pi}\left|\frac{\sin(x)}{x}\right|^p dx \\ &\sim \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}} - \frac{3}{20}\sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}\frac{1}{p} + \sum_{s=2}^{\infty} c_s\frac{1}{p^s} + \cdots \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

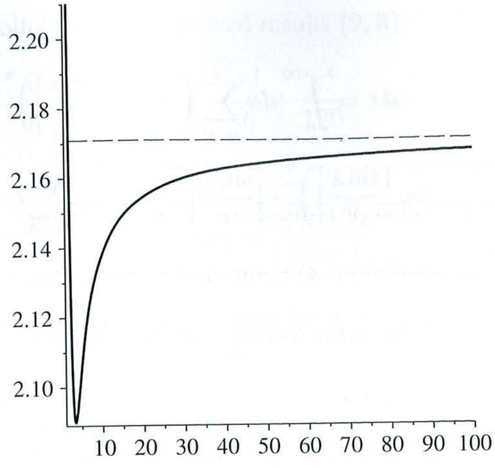

Figure 2. The function I and its limiting value on $[2, 100]$.

as $p \to \infty$. From this one may deduce that $I(p)$ is concave and increasing for sufficiently large values of p—consistent with our stronger conjecture—as (3) may be differentiated termwise.

2. OUR MAIN RESULTS.

In order to study the properties of the function $I(p)$, we consider first the functions

$$\varphi_n(p) = \int_0^\infty \left(\log\left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|\right)^n \cdot \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p \, dx$$

for $p > 1$ and n a nonnegative integer. We write

$$\varphi(p) = \varphi_0(p) = \int_0^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p \, dx.$$

In Lemma 1 below we confirm that $\varphi(p)$ is analytic in a region containing $(1, \infty)$ and that its nth derivative for $p > 1$ is given by $\varphi^{(n)}(p) = \varphi_n(p)$.

Then in Theorem 1 we shall use induction to prove the following result for n a nonnegative integer:

$$\lim_{p\to\infty} p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \varphi^{(n)}(p) = (-1)^n \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\,\Gamma\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right).$$

The base case, $n = 0$, for our induction is established in Lemma 2 below. It uses Laplace's method for determining asymptotic behavior of an integral for large values of a parameter p; see, e.g., [**6**, p. 60].

Lemma 1. *For $p - 1 > z > 1 - p$,*

$$\varphi(p - z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \varphi_n(p) \frac{z^n}{n!}.$$

In particular, $\varphi(p)$ is analytic in a region containing $(1, \infty)$ and its nth derivative for $p > 1$ is given by

$$\varphi^{(n)}(p) = \varphi_n(p).$$

Proof. We have

$$\varphi(p-z) = \int_0^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^{p-z} dx = \int_0^\infty dx \sum_{n=0}^\infty \left(-\log\left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|\right)^n \cdot \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p \frac{z^n}{n!} \tag{4}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^\infty \int_0^\infty \left(-\log\left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|\right)^n \cdot \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p \frac{z^n}{n!} dx = \sum_{n=0}^\infty (-1)^n \varphi_n(p) \frac{z^n}{n!}, \tag{5}$$

the inversion of sum and integral in (4) being justified as follows:

Case i. $p-1 > z \geq 0$. All the terms involved are nonnegative.

Case ii. $0 > z > 1-p$. By *Case i*

$$\varphi(p-|z|) = \int_0^\infty dx \sum_{n=0}^\infty \left(-\log\left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|\right)^n \cdot \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p \frac{|z|^n}{n!} < \infty.$$

Thus (5) yields the Taylor series for $\varphi(p-z)$ at $z=0$, and the final conclusion follows. ∎

Lemma 2.

$$\lim_{p\to\infty} I(p) = \lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{p}\,\varphi(p) = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}. \tag{6}$$

Proof. Let $a>0$. Then for $p>1$ we have

$$I(p) = \sqrt{p}\int_0^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx = \sqrt{p}\int_0^a \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx + \sqrt{p}\int_a^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx.$$

We show first that

$$\lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{p}\int_a^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx = 0. \tag{7}$$

It suffices to consider the case $0<a<1$, since for $a \geq 1$ we have

$$\sqrt{p}\int_a^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx \leq \lim_{b\to\infty} \sqrt{p}\int_a^b \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \frac{\sqrt{p}}{p-1}\cdot\frac{1}{a^{p-1}} \longrightarrow 0$$

as $p \to \infty$.

Now, for $a < x < 1$, we have

$$0 < \frac{\sin x}{x} < \frac{\sin a}{a} < 1,$$

and it follows that

$$0 < \sqrt{p}\int_a^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx \leq \sqrt{p}\int_a^1 \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx + \sqrt{p}\int_1^\infty \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx$$

$$\leq (1-a)\sqrt{p}\left|\frac{\sin a}{a}\right|^p + \frac{\sqrt{p}}{p-1} \longrightarrow 0$$

as $p\to\infty$. This establishes (7).

We next use the following easily proved results [9, 8]:

$$1 - \frac{x^2}{6} \le \frac{\sin x}{x} \le 1 - \frac{x^2}{6} + \frac{x^4}{120} \quad \text{for all real } x, \tag{8}$$

and

$$\int_0^1 (1-u^2)^p \, du = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}, \tag{9}$$

where the equality is a special case of a beta-function evaluation (see also [12, Theorem 7.69]). It follows from (8) and (9) that

$$\int_0^{\sqrt{6}} \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx \ge \sqrt{6} \int_0^1 (1-u^2)^p \, du = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}} \frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}, \tag{10}$$

and hence that

$$\liminf_{p\to\infty} I(p) \ge \lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{p}\,\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}. \tag{11}$$

Now, in order to get an appropriate inequality for the limsup, we note that for any $w > 1$, if we let

$$W = 2\sqrt{5}\sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{1}{w}\right)},$$

then we have

$$\frac{\sin x}{x} \le 1 - \frac{x^2}{6} + \frac{x^4}{120} \le 1 - \frac{x^2}{6w} \quad \text{for} \quad 0 < x < W. \tag{12}$$

If, in addition, $w \le 10/7$, then $W \le \sqrt{6}$, whence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^W \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p dx &\le \sqrt{6w} \int_0^{\frac{W}{\sqrt{6w}}} (1-u^2)^p \, du \\ &\le \sqrt{6w} \int_0^1 (1-u^2)^p \, du = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi w}{2}} \frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

It follows from (7) and (13) that

$$\limsup_{p\to\infty} I(p) \le \lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{3\pi w}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{p}\,\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}, \tag{14}$$

and therefore from (11) and (14), for $w \in (1, 10/7]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{p}\,\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)} &\le \liminf_{p\to\infty} I(p) \le \limsup_{p\to\infty} I(p) \\ &\le \lim_{p\to\infty} \sqrt{\frac{3\pi w}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{p}\,\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Since we have

$$\lim_{a\to\infty} \frac{\sqrt{a}\,\Gamma\left(a+\frac{1}{2}\right)}{\Gamma(a+1)} = 1$$

from [**8**, Problem 2, p. 45] or (23), letting $p \to \infty$ in (15), we obtain

$$\sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}} \le \liminf_{p\to\infty} I(p) \le \limsup_{p\to\infty} I(p) \le \sqrt{\frac{3\pi w}{2}}, \tag{16}$$

for all $w \in (1, 10/7]$. Finally, letting $w \to 1^+$, we get the desired equation (6). ∎

We are now ready for our more general result.

Theorem 1. *For all natural numbers n we have*

$$\lim_{p\to\infty} p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \varphi^{(n)}(p) = \lim_{p\to\infty} p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \int_0^\infty \left(\log\left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|\right)^n \cdot \left|\frac{\sin x}{x}\right|^p \, dx$$
$$= (-1)^n \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\,\Gamma\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right). \tag{17}$$

Proof. The first equality was noted above. We proceed to establish equation (17) by induction. The proof of the base case was given in Lemma 2.

For the inductive step of the proof, we assume that for a given nonnegative integer n, we have

$$\lim_{p\to\infty} p^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \varphi^{(n)}(p) = (-1)^n \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\,\Gamma\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right).$$

It is easily verified that $x < -\log(1-x) < \frac{x}{1-x}$ for $0 < x < 1$, and setting $x = 1 - \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^p$, that

$$1 - \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^p < -\log\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^p < \frac{1 - \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^p}{\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^p}$$

for all but countably many values of t.

For $q > p+1$, multiplying these inequalities by the nonnegative term

$$(-1)^n \left(\log\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|\right)^n \cdot \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^q,$$

we have

$$0 \le (-1)^n \left(\log\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|\right)^n \left(\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^q - \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^{p+q}\right)$$
$$< -(-1)^n p \left(\log\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|\right)^{n+1} \cdot \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^q$$
$$< (-1)^n \left(\log\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|\right)^n \left(\left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^{q-p} - \left|\frac{\sin t}{t}\right|^q\right)$$

for the same values of t, and integrating over $(0, \infty)$ yields

$$(-1)^n\left(\varphi^{(n)}(q) - \varphi^{(n)}(p+q)\right) \le -(-1)^n p\,\varphi^{(n+1)}(q)$$
$$\le (-1)^n\left(\varphi^{(n)}(q-p) - \varphi^{(n)}(q)\right),$$

and hence

$$(-1)^n\left(\frac{q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q)}{p\,q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}} - \frac{(p+q)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(p+q)}{p\,(p+q)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}\right)$$
$$\le -(-1)^n \frac{q^{n+1+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n+1)}(q)}{q^{n+1+\frac{1}{2}}}$$
$$\le (-1)^n\left(\frac{(q-p)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q-p)}{p\,(q-p)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}} - \frac{q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q)}{p\,q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}\right). \tag{18}$$

Now let $q = kp$, where $k > 2$ is fixed; then (18) becomes

$$(-1)^n\left(k\,q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q) - \frac{k\,(p+q)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(p+q)}{(1+\frac{1}{k})^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}\right)$$
$$\le -(-1)^n q^{n+1+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n+1)}(q)$$
$$\le (-1)^n\left(k\frac{(q-p)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q-p)}{(1-\frac{1}{k})^{n+\frac{1}{2}}} - k\,q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q)\right).$$

Next let $q \to \infty$, keeping $k > 2$ fixed, so that $p \to \infty$ and $q - p = (k-1)p \to \infty$. It follows from the inductive hypothesis that

$$\lim_{q\to\infty} q^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q) = \lim_{q\to\infty}(p+q)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(p+q) = \lim_{q\to\infty}(q-p)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(q-p)$$
$$= (-1)^n\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\,\Gamma\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right),$$

and therefore

$$\left(k - \frac{k}{(1+\frac{1}{k})^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}\right)\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\,\Gamma\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right) \le \liminf_{q\to\infty}(-1)^{n+1}q^{n+1+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n+1)}(q)$$
$$\le \limsup_{q\to\infty}(-1)^{n+1}q^{n+1+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n+1)}(q)$$
$$\le \left(\frac{k}{(1-\frac{1}{k})^{n+\frac{1}{2}}} - k\right)\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\,\Gamma\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right). \tag{19}$$

Since

$$\lim_{k\to\infty}\left(k-\frac{k}{\left(1+\frac{1}{k}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}\right)=\lim_{k\to\infty}\left(\frac{k}{\left(1-\frac{1}{k}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}-k\right)$$
$$=\lim_{t\to 0}\frac{1-(1+t)^{-n-\frac{1}{2}}}{t}=n+\frac{1}{2},$$

it follows from (19) that

$$\lim_{q\to\infty}(-1)^{n+1}q^{n+1+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n+1)}(q)=\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)\Gamma\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)=\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\Gamma\left(n+1+\frac{1}{2}\right),$$

and this completes the proof of the inductive step. ■

3. FINAL REMARKS. Our proof of Theorem 1 shows both that

$$\lim_{p\to\infty}p^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(p)=a_n \tag{20}$$

exists and determines the value of a_n. If we know in advance that the limit exists for every nonnegative integer n, then we can use Lemmas 1 and 2 to write

$$\lim_{p\to\infty}\sqrt{p}\,\varphi(p(1+x))=\lim_{p\to\infty}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}p^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(p)\frac{x^n}{n!}=\frac{\sqrt{3\pi/2}}{\sqrt{1+x}}$$

for $1-\frac{1}{p}>x>\frac{1}{p}-1$, and then justify the exchange of limit and sum, and expand the final term to obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}a_n\frac{x^n}{n!}=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}(-1)^n\Gamma\left(n+\tfrac{1}{2}\right)\frac{x^n}{n!}.$$

Comparing coefficients of the above two exponential generating functions yields the desired valuation

$$a_n=\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}(-1)^n\Gamma\left(n+\tfrac{1}{2}\right). \tag{21}$$

In fact, to justify the exchange by means of the series version of Lebesgue's theorem on dominated convergence one needs to establish something like

$$\left|\frac{p^{n+\frac{1}{2}}\varphi^{(n)}(p)}{n!}\right|\le M$$

with M a positive constant independent of n and p, and this requires an inequality such as the right-hand side of (19) (with q replaced by p and n by $n-1$) used in the given proof of Theorem 1.

Another way of determining the value of a_n in (20), if we know it exists for every n, is to proceed via L'Hospital's rule as follows:

$$a_{n-1} = \lim_{p\to\infty} \frac{\varphi^{(n-1)}(p)}{p^{-n+\frac{1}{2}}} = \lim_{p\to\infty} \frac{\varphi^{(n)}(p)}{-(n-\frac{1}{2})p^{-n-\frac{1}{2}}} = -\frac{a_n}{n-\frac{1}{2}},$$

whence, by Lemma 2,

$$a_n = (-1)^n a_0 \prod_{k=1}^{n}\left(k-\frac{1}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}(-1)^n \Gamma\left(n+\tfrac{1}{2}\right),$$

which is (20) again.

One advantage of our explicit proof of Lemma 2 over Olver's asymptotic result in (3) is that it is easily exploited to establish (2).

Theorem 2. *For all $p > 1$ we have*

$$I(p) > \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}} \frac{2p}{2p+1} > \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}\left(1-\frac{1}{2p}\right). \tag{22}$$

Proof. For $x > 0$ and $0 < s < 1$, Abromowitz and Stegun [**1**] records (as (5.6.4) in the new web version) that

$$x^{1-s} < \frac{\Gamma(x+1)}{\Gamma(x+s)} < (x+1)^{1-s}. \tag{23}$$

Hence, from (10) and (23) we obtain for $p > 1$ that

$$\begin{aligned} I(p) &> \sqrt{p}\sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}\frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{3}{2}\right)}} = \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}\frac{2\sqrt{p}}{2p+1}\frac{\Gamma(p+1)}{\Gamma\left(p+\frac{1}{2}\right)}} \\ &> \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}\frac{2p}{2p+1} > \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{2}}\left(1-\frac{1}{2p}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Here, for the penultimate inequality, we have used the left-hand inequality in (23) with $x = p, s = 1/2$. ∎

Note that (22) implies that

$$\|\mathrm{sinc}\|_p > \left(\frac{2\sqrt{6p\pi}}{2p+1}\right)^{1/p}$$

when sinc is viewed as a function in $L_p([-\infty, \infty])$. We finish by observing that the lower bound is asymptotically of the correct order, and leave as an open question whether similar explicit techniques to those in Theorem 1 can be used to establish the second-order term in the asymptotic expansion (3) or the concavity properties conjectured in the introduction.

Finally, we note that a much more accurate computation of the critical and inflection points can be found at `http://www.carma.newcastle.edu.au/~jb616/oscillatory.pdf`, and the values are as shown below:

- **p at critical point (conjectured minimum):**
  3.36354876022451532816334301553541106982340973010200
  93393024274526853624322808822111780630522743546839
  65168546672961485462827077846841786411218613089950
  8745727158152731
- **$I(p)$ at critical point (conjectured minimum):**
  2.09002860269180412254956491550781177353834974949186
  75161558946115770419271274624491776411344314758189
  93461306711846030747363223735023118868888017902470
  29802232734781888386061734850631082243846394257215
  38511911622108100945818827513170410889481080593453
  364388301851618971531246883340068963419076
- **p at inflection point:**
  4.46987788658564578917780820674988693171596919867299
  11634253975525983837941459705451646979509928424279
  4233718363336416486397093

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Most Unlikely Breakfast Table Conversation by a 13-Year-Old High School Freshman and his Mother

The following exchange occurs in the 2008 Australian movie "Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger," written and directed by Cathy Randall:

Jacob Blueburger: "Mom, do the trigonometric functions form a complete basis for the space of all continuous functions?"
Grace Blueburger: "Yes, but the functions must have compact support."

No dialogue before or after this in the movie is even remotely like the above exchange, which seems to come out of the blue (no pun intended).

—Submitted by Frederick G. Schmitt, College of Marin, Kentfield, CA