

# The generalized Bochner condition about classical orthogonal polynomials revisited

A. F. Loureiro <sup>a,\*<sup>1</sup></sup>, P. Maroni <sup>b,1</sup>, Z. da Rocha <sup>c,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Departamento de Física e Matemática do Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Coimbra, Rua Pedro Nunes – Quinta da Nora, 3030–199 Coimbra, Portugal*

<sup>b</sup>*Laboratoire Jacques–Louis Lions – CNRS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Boîte courrier 187, 75252 Paris cedex 05, France*

<sup>c</sup>*Departamento de Matemática Aplicada da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto, Rua do Campo Alegre n.687, 4169 - 007 Porto, Portugal*

---

## Abstract

We bring a new proof for showing that an orthogonal polynomial sequence is classical if and only if any of its polynomial fulfils a certain differential equation of order  $2k$ , for some  $k \geq 1$ . So, we build those differential equations explicitly. If  $k = 1$ , we get the Bochner's characterization of classical polynomials. With help of the formal computations made in *Mathematica*, we explicitly give those differential equations for  $k = 1, 2$  and  $3$  for each family of the classical polynomials. Higher order differential equations can be obtained similarly.

*Key words:* Classical orthogonal polynomials, classical forms, Bochner's differential equation

*1991 MSC:* 33C45, 42C05, 33D45

---

\* Corresponding author.

Email addresses: [anafsl@fc.up.pt](mailto:anafsl@fc.up.pt) (A. F. Loureiro), [maroni@ann.jussieu.fr](mailto:maroni@ann.jussieu.fr) (P. Maroni ), [mrdioh@fc.up.pt](mailto:mrdioh@fc.up.pt) (Z. da Rocha).

<sup>1</sup> Work (partially) supported by the Centro de Matemática da Universidade do Porto (CMUP), financed by FCT (Portugal) through the programmes POCTI (Programa Operacional "Ciência, Tecnologia, Inovação") and POSI (Programa Operacional Sociedade da Informação) and also PRAXIS XXI, with national and European Community structural funds. Pdf file available from <http://cmup.fc.up.pt/cmup/>