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**Mourad E. H. Ismail\***, Department of Mathematics, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL 32816. *The  $q=-1$  Hermite polynomials*. Preliminary report.

Deng and Yang, Proc Amer. Math. Soc., conjectured that as  $q$  tends to  $-1$  the weight function of the  $q$ -Hermite polynomials, suitably normalized tends to a sum of two delta functions. We confirm this conjecture and show that this is a general property of weight functions in the Askey scheme. Part of this work is joint with D. Dai and X. S. Wang. (Received July 14, 2019)