

**Symmetry reductions of integrable
equations on quad-graphs
and discrete Painlevé equations**

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Problems: An Introduction*

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Symmetries of Ordinary Difference Equations

Let M be an N -dimensional manifold with smooth (holomorphic) local coordinates $x^i = (x^1, x^2, \dots, x^N)$.

A map $\Phi : M \rightarrow M$

$$x^i \rightarrow \Phi^i(x^j) \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

defines a system of ordinary difference equations of first order, on M .

The equations are defined by assigning labels on two successive images and pre-images of the map, which vary by unit steps *only*, i.e.

$$x_{n+1}^i = \Phi^i(x_n^j)$$

- A solution of such an equation, is a sequence of points

$$x_0 \quad x_1 \quad \dots \quad x_n \quad \dots$$

where

$$x_n = \Phi \circ \Phi \circ \dots \circ \Phi(x_0) \quad n\text{-times}$$

(S. Maeda *Math. Japonica* **25** No.4 (1980), 405-420).

- A smooth (holomorphic) function $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}(\mathbb{C})$ is said to be an *invariant*, or *integral*, iff

$$\Phi^* f = f$$

holds $\forall x \in M$, where $\Phi^* f$ is the function defined by

$$(\Phi^* f)(x) = f(\Phi(x)).$$

- A group G which acts on M , is said to be a *symmetry group* of Φ , iff every element g of G transforms any solution of Φ to another solution.

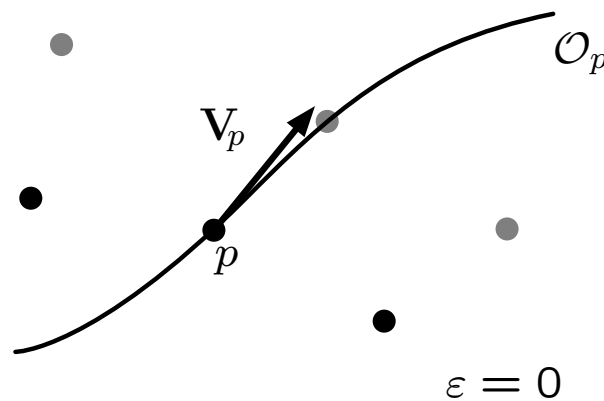
$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 x_0 & \xrightarrow{g} & g(x_0) \\
 \Phi \downarrow & & \downarrow \Phi \\
 x_1 & \xrightarrow{g} & g(\Phi(x_0)) = \Phi(g(x_0)) & g \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ g \\
 \vdots & & \vdots \\
 x_n & \xrightarrow{g} & g(x_n)
 \end{array}$$

- This definition implies that the symmetry group acts on the domain of the dependent variables.

One-parameter groups of transformations

Let G be a one-parameter group of transformations acting on the domain of the dependent variables,

$$G : x_n^i \mapsto \Psi^i(n, x_n^j; \varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon \in \mathbb{C}.$$



The infinitesimal generator of the group action of G on f is the vector field

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum_{i=1}^N Q^i(n, x_n^j) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n^i}, \quad Q^i(n, x) = \left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \Psi^i(n, x_n^j; \varepsilon) \right|_{\varepsilon=0}$$

There is a one-to-one correspondence between connected groups of transformations and their associated infinitesimal generators since the group action is reconstructed by the flow of the vector field \mathbf{v} by exponentiation

$$\Psi^i(n, x_n^j; \varepsilon) = \exp(\varepsilon \mathbf{v}) x_n^i$$

The prolongation of the group action on the space J with coordinates $(x, x_{n+1} \dots)$ is specified by

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &\mapsto \Psi(n+1, x_{n+1}; \varepsilon) \\ &\vdots \\ x_{n+k} &\mapsto \Psi(n+k, x_{n+k}; \varepsilon) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

The prolongation of the infinitesimal action of G on J is generated by the prolonged vector field

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} = \sum_{i=1}^N Q^i(n, x_n^j) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n^i} + \dots + \sum_{i=1}^N Q^i(n+k, x_{n+k}^j) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{n+k}^i} + \dots$$

Definition: G is a *symmetry* of equation $x_{n+1}^i = \Phi^i(x_n^j)$, if it transforms any solution of $x_{n+1}^i = \Phi^i(x_n^j)$, to another solution of the same equation.

Infinitesimal criterion

For connected groups of transformations, a necessary and sufficient condition for \mathbf{v} to be a symmetry generator is

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}}(x_{n+1} - \Phi(x_n)) = 0 \quad \text{mod} \quad x_{n+1} = \Phi(x_n)$$

$$Q^i(n+1, \Phi^k(x_n)) = \sum_{j=1}^N Q^j(n, x_n^k) \frac{\partial \Phi^i}{\partial x_n^j} \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

Example A discrete Riccati equation

Let $M = \mathbb{C}P^1$, and the mapping

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{ax_n + b}{cx_n + d} \quad ad - bc \neq 0$$

Symmetry condition

$$\xi \left(\frac{ax_n + b}{cx_n + d} \right) = \xi(x) \frac{ad - bc}{(cx + d)^2}$$

Adopting a quadratic *Ansatz* in the arguments of ξ , we find that the Riccati discrete equation admits the symmetry generator $X = \xi(x)\partial_x$ where

$$\xi(x) = cx^2 + (d - a)x - b$$

- Integration algorithm:

Define canonical variable y

$$y = \int \frac{dx}{\xi(x)}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{r_1 - r_2} \log \left(\frac{x - r_1}{x - r_2} \right)$$

The Riccati equation linearizes to

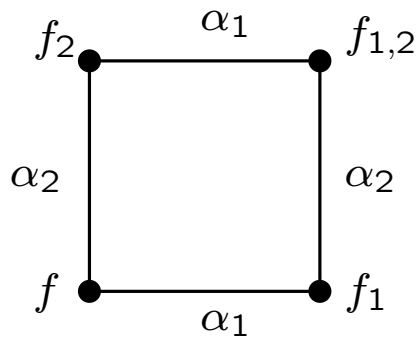
$$y_{n+1} = y_n + A$$

for suitable constant $A = A(a, b, c, d)$.

General solution

$$y = An + C$$

Equations on quad-graphs



$f : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ (or \mathbb{CP}^1), complex fields assigned on the vertices of a square, at sites (n_1, n_2) .

α_1, α_2 complex parameters assigned on the edges, being equal on opposite edges.

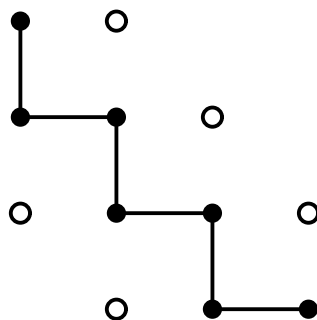
The basic building block of equations on quad-graphs consists of a relation of the form

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f_1, f_2, f_{1,2}; \alpha_1, \alpha_2) = 0,$$

between the values of four fields residing on the vertices of each elementary quadrilateral for which we use the shorthand notation:

$$f := f(n_1, n_2), \quad f_1 := f(n_1+1, n_2), \quad f_{1,2} := f(n_1+1, n_2+1) \dots$$

Solution of an elementary Cauchy problem on a staircase



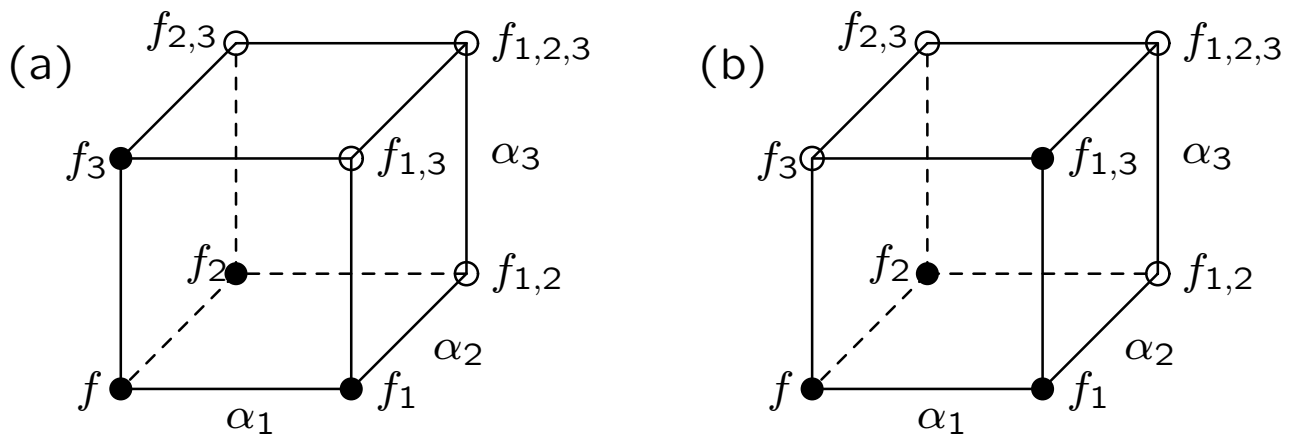
Integrability - The consistency property

The overdetermined system of equations

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f_i, f_j, f_{i,j}; a_i, a_j) = 0, \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq n,$$

can be imposed on all faces of a 3-cube in a consistent way.

The property can be verified by considering an elementary initial value problem. E.g. for $n = 3$



Example The potential discrete KdV

$$(f_{1,2} - f)(f_1 - f_2) = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2,$$

with given initial data configuration as in figure (a). For this particular equation one finds that the value $f_{1,2,3}$ is

$$f_{1,2,3} = \frac{(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)f_1 f_2 + (\alpha_3 - \alpha_1)f_1 f_3 + (\alpha_2 - \alpha_3)f_2 f_3}{(\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)f_3 + (\alpha_1 - \alpha_3)f_2 + (\alpha_3 - \alpha_2)f_1}.$$

Integrable - 3D consistent lattice equations

$$\mathcal{E}_1 : \quad (f_{1,2} - f)(f_1 - f_2) - \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = 0,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_2 : \quad \alpha_1(f f_1 + f_2 f_{1,2}) - \alpha_2(f f_2 + f_1 f_{1,2}) + \delta(\alpha_1^2 - \alpha_2^2) = 0,$$

$$\mathcal{E}_3 : \quad \frac{f_1 - \alpha_1 f}{f_2 - \alpha_2 f} \frac{f_2 - \alpha_1 f_{1,2}}{f_1 - \alpha_2 f_{1,2}} = \frac{1 - \alpha_1^2}{1 - \alpha_2^2}.$$

- A classification of 3-D consistent equations on quad-graphs has been obtained recently (V. Adler, A. Bobenko and Yu. Suris 2003)

$$f_{1,2} = g \frac{\alpha_1 f_2 - \alpha_2 f_1}{\alpha_1 g_1 - \alpha_2 g_2},$$

$\mathcal{E}_4 :$

$$g_{1,2} = \frac{g}{f} \frac{\alpha_1 f_1 g_2 - \alpha_2 f_2 g_1}{\alpha_1 g_1 - \alpha_2 g_2}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_5 : \quad (f_{1,2} - f) = \frac{\alpha_1 - \alpha_2}{|f_1 - f_2|^2} (f_1 - f_2) \quad f : \mathbb{Z}^2 \mapsto \mathbb{C}^r$$

Lie point symmetry groups of quadrilateral equations

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f_1, f_2, f_{1,2}; \alpha_1, \alpha_2) = 0$$

Let G be a one-parameter group of transformations acting on the domain of the dependent variables,

$$G : f \mapsto \Psi(n_1, n_2, f; \varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon \in \mathbb{C}.$$

The infinitesimal generator of the group action of G on f is the vector field

$$\mathbf{v} = Q(n_1, n_2, f) \partial_f, \quad Q(n_1, n_2, f) = \left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \Psi(n_1, n_2, f; \varepsilon) \right|_{\varepsilon=0}$$

$$f_1 \mapsto \Psi(n_1 + 1, n_2, f_1; \varepsilon)$$

$$f_2 \mapsto \Psi(n_1, n_2 + 1, f_2; \varepsilon)$$

$$f_{1,2} \mapsto \Psi(n_1 + 1, n_2 + 1, f_{1,2}; \varepsilon)$$

⋮

Discrete prolongation of the vector field \mathbf{v} on the lattice jet space J with coordinates $(f, f_1, f_2, f_{1,2})$

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} = Q \partial_f + Q_1 \partial_{f_1} + Q_2 \partial_{f_2} + Q_{1,2} \partial_{f_{1,2}},$$

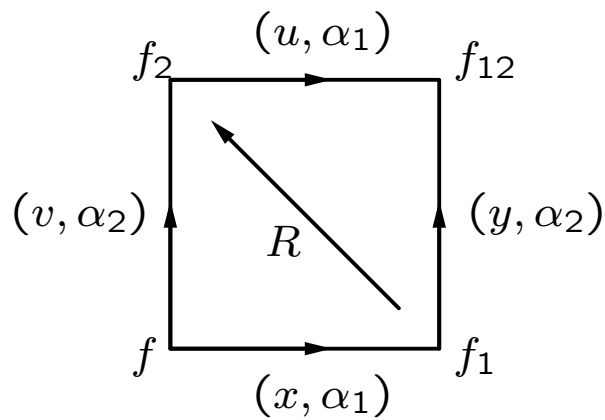
Definition: G is a *symmetry* of the lattice equation $\mathcal{E} = 0$, if it transforms any solution of $\mathcal{E} = 0$, to another solution of the same equation.

Infinitesimal criterion :

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}}(\mathcal{E}(f, f_1, f_2, f_{1,2}; \alpha_1, \alpha_2)) = 0,$$

Invariants of symmetry groups

Definition: A function $I : J \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a *lattice invariant* of the transformation group G , if I is not affected under the action of G .



Infinitesimal invariance condition

$$\hat{v}(I) = 0.$$

$$\frac{dQ}{df} = \frac{dQ_1}{df_1} = \frac{dQ_2}{df_2} = \frac{dQ_{1,2}}{df_{1,2}}$$

Lattice invariants assigned to the edges

$$x = I(f, f_1), \quad y = I(f_1, f_{1,2}), \quad u = I(f_2, f_{1,2}), \quad v = I(f, f_2),$$

Application: Construction of Yang-Baxter maps

Let G a one-parameter group of Lie point symmetry transformations of a quadrilateral equation

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f_1, f_2, f_{1,2}; \alpha_1, \alpha_2) = 0$$

and x, y, u, v the associated symmetry invariants assigned to the edges of the square

- Equation $\mathcal{E} = 0$ can be written in terms of the invariants

$$\mathcal{D}(x, y, u, v; \alpha_1, \alpha_2) = 0 \quad (*)$$

- There exists a relation among them

$$\mathcal{F}(x, y, u, v; \alpha_1, \alpha_2) = 0 \quad (**)$$

following from the fact that the space of G -orbits is three-dimensional.

Solving equations $(*)$, $(**)$ for u, v in terms of x, y , assuming that the solution is unique, we obtain a map $R(x, y) = (u, v)$.

Proposition: *If the discrete equation $\mathcal{E} = 0$ satisfies the 3D consistency property, then the map $R(x, y) = (u, v)$, satisfies the YB relation.*

(V. Papageorgiou, A.T. and A. Veselov 2006)

Symmetries of the lattice (potential) KdV

$$(f_{1,2} - f)(f_1 - f_2) = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2,$$

Lie point symmetries :

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \partial_f, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = (-1)^{n_1+n_2} f \partial_f, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = (-1)^{n_1+n_2} \partial_f.$$

- $ISO(\mathbb{R}^{1,1})$

Generalized symmetries:

$$\Delta = f(n_1 + 1, n_2) - f(n_1 - 1, n_2)$$

$$\Lambda = f(n_1, n_2 + 1) - f(n_1, n_2 - 1)$$

$$\mathbf{w}_1 = \frac{1}{\Delta} \partial_f, \quad \mathbf{w}_2 = \frac{1}{\Lambda} \partial_f,$$

$$\mathbf{w}_3 = \left(\frac{n_1}{\Delta} + \frac{n_2}{\Lambda} \right) \partial_f$$

$$\mathbf{w}_4 = \left(\frac{n_1 \alpha_1}{\Delta} + \frac{n_2 \alpha_2}{\Lambda} - \frac{1}{2} f \right) \partial_f$$

Taking the commutators $[\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_3]$ and $[\mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3]$ we find new symmetry operators

$$\mathbf{w}_5 = [\mathbf{w}_1, \mathbf{w}_3] = \frac{1}{\Delta^2} (\Delta_1 + \Delta_{-1}) \partial_f$$

$$\mathbf{w}_6 = [\mathbf{w}_2, \mathbf{w}_3] = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} (\Lambda_2 + \Lambda_{-2}) \partial_f$$

Invariant solutions

Definition. We say that a solution f of the lattice equation $\mathcal{E} = 0$ is invariant under the symmetry operator

$$\mathbf{v} = Q[n_1, n_2, f] \partial_f,$$

if it satisfies in addition the compatible constraint

$$\mathbf{v}(f) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad Q[n_1, n_2, f] = 0$$

Reduction of KdV to a discrete Riccati equation

For \mathbf{v} we take a linear combination of \mathbf{w}_1 and \mathbf{w}_2 . Symmetry constraint:

$$\frac{1}{f(n_1 + 1, n_2) - f(n_1 - 1, n_2)} = \frac{\lambda}{f(n_1, n_2 + 1) - f(n_1, n_2 - 1)}$$

Reduced equation

$$w(n_1 + 1, n_2) = \frac{c_1 w(n_1, n_2) + c_2}{c_3 w(n_1, n_2) + c_4}$$

where

$$w = (f(n_1 + 1, n_2 + 1) - f(n_1, n_2))(f(n_1 + 2, n_2 + 1) - f(n_1 + 1, n_2))$$

and

$$c_1 = -c_4 = \lambda(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2), \quad c_2 = (\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)^2(1 + \lambda), \quad c_3 = (1 - \lambda)$$

Invariant solutions of KdV under $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{w}_3 - \lambda \mathbf{v}_1 - \mu \mathbf{v}_3$

$$\mathbf{v} = \left(\frac{n_1}{f_1 - f_{-1}} + \frac{n_2}{f_2 - f_{-2}} - \lambda - \mu(-1)^{n_1+n_2} \right) \partial_f$$

$$(f_{1,2} - f)(f_1 - f_2) = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2$$

$$\frac{n_1}{f_1 - f_{-1}} + \frac{n_2}{f_2 - f_{-2}} = \lambda + \mu(-1)^{n_1+n_2}$$

Lattice invariant under \mathbf{v}_1 : $w = f_{1,2} - f$

$$f_1 - f_{-1} = w_{-1} + \frac{r}{w} \quad r = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2$$

$$B := f_2 - f_{-2} \quad B_1 = w - \frac{rw}{Bw + r}$$

Solutions of discrete KdV equation subject to the symmetry constraint $\mathbf{v}(f) = 0$ are determined by solving the following second order difference equation

$$\frac{(n_1 + 1)r}{w_{n_1} w_{n_1+1} + r} + \frac{n_1 r}{w_{n_1} w_{n_1-1} + r} = n_1 + n_2 + 1 + \lambda \left(\frac{r}{w_{n_1}} - w_{n_1} \right) + \mu(-1)^{n_1+n_2} \left(\frac{r}{w_{n_1}} + w_{n_1} \right)$$

- alt-dPII when $\mu = 0$

Invariant solutions of KdV under $\boxed{w_3 - \lambda v_2}$

The symmetry constraint

$$\frac{n_1}{f f_1 - f f_{-1}} + \frac{n_2}{f f_2 - f f_{-2}} = \lambda(-1)^{n_1+n_2}$$

Using the following symmetry invariants under v_2

$$x = f f_1, \quad y = f_1 f_{1,2}$$

we arrive at the following system of ordinary difference equations

$$(y_{n_1-1} - x_{n_1})(x_{n_1} - y_{n_1}) = r x_{n_1}$$

$$n_1 \frac{x_{n_1} - y_{n_1-1}}{x_{n_1} - x_{n_1-1}} = \frac{n_1 + n_2}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + (\lambda y_{n_1-1} + c)(-1)^{n_1+n_2}$$

The system can be decoupled by solving the last equation for y_{n_1-1} and substituting the result into the first equation.

The result is a second order difference equation for x_{n_1} with four free parameters (n_2, r, λ, c) .

Lattice modified Boussinesq

$$f_{1,2} = g \frac{\alpha_1 f_2 - \alpha_2 f_1}{\alpha_1 g_1 - \alpha_2 g_2}, \quad g_{1,2} = \frac{g}{f} \frac{\alpha_1 f_1 g_2 - \alpha_2 f_2 g_1}{\alpha_1 g_1 - \alpha_2 g_2}$$

$f, g : \mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$ (Nijhoff 1999)

Lie point symmetry transformations

$$G^1 : (f, g) \mapsto (e^{\epsilon_1} f, f),$$

$$G^2 : (f, g) \mapsto (f, e^{\epsilon_2} g),$$

$$G^3 : (f, g) \mapsto \left(e^{\epsilon_3 \omega^{n_1+n_2}} f, e^{-\epsilon_3 \omega^{n_1+n_2+1}} g \right),$$

$$G^4 : (f, g) \mapsto \left(e^{\epsilon_4 \omega^{2(n_1+n_2)}} f, e^{-\epsilon_4 \omega^{2(n_1+n_2+1)}} g \right),$$

ω a primitive cubic root of unity. Infinitesimal generator

$$\mathbf{v} = \left(\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 \omega^{n_1+n_2} + \lambda_4 \omega^{2(n_1+n_2)} \right) f \partial_f + \left(\lambda_2 - \lambda_3 \omega^{n_1+n_2+1} - \lambda_4 \omega^{2(n_1+n_2+1)} \right) g \partial_g.$$

Generalized symmetries

$$\mathbf{w}_1 = (\xi^1 - 1) f \partial_f - (\zeta^1 - 1) g \partial_g,$$

$$\mathbf{w}_2 = (\xi^2 - 1) f \partial_f - (\zeta^2 - 1) g \partial_g,$$

$$\mathbf{w}_3 = \left(n_1 (\xi^1 - 1) + n_2 (\xi^2 - 1) \right) f \partial_f - \left(n_1 (\zeta^1 - 1) + n_2 (\zeta^2 - 1) \right) g \partial_g,$$

where

$$\xi^1 = \frac{3 f_1 g}{f_1 g + f_{-1} g_1 + f g_{-1}}, \quad \xi^2 = \frac{3 f_2 g}{f_2 g + f_{-2} g_2 + f g_{-2}},$$

$$\zeta^1 = \frac{3 f g_{-1}}{f_1 g + f_{-1} g_1 + f g_{-1}}, \quad \zeta^2 = \frac{3 f g_{-2}}{f_2 g + f_{-2} g_2 + f g_{-2}},$$

Group invariant solutions under $\boxed{w_3 - v}$

Joint invariants of the subgroup $\{G^1, G^2\}$

$$x(n_1, n_2) = \frac{f(n_1, n_2 + 1)}{f(n_1 + 1, n_2)}, \quad y(n_1, n_2) = \frac{g(n_1, n_2 + 1)}{g(n_1 + 1, n_2)}$$

$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4, r, c \longrightarrow$ complex parameters

Reduced system of ordinary difference equations:

$$\beta_{n_1}^1 - n_1 \xi_{n_1} = \frac{x_{n_1}(r^2 y_{n_1} - 1) (\beta_{n_1+1}^1 - (n_1 + 1) \xi_{n_1+1})}{(r x_{n_1} - 1)(r y_{n_1} - x_{n_1})} + \frac{x_{n_1} (\beta_{n_1+1}^2 - (n_1 + 1) \zeta_{n_1+1} - 3c)}{r y_{n_1} - x_{n_1}},$$

$$\beta_{n_1}^2 - n_1 \zeta_{n_1} = \frac{\beta_{n_1+1}^1 - (n_1 + 1) \xi_{n_1+1}}{1 - r x_{n_1}} + \frac{r (\beta_{n_1+1}^2 - (n_1 + 1) \zeta_{n_1+1})}{r - y_{n_1}}.$$

auxiliary quantities

$$\xi_{n_1} = 3 \left(1 + \frac{x_{n_1}}{y_{n_1}} \frac{r y_{n_1-1} - x_{n_1-1}}{r x_{n_1-1} - 1} + x_{n_1} \frac{r - y_{n_1-1}}{r x_{n_1-1} - 1} \right)^{-1},$$

$$\zeta_{n_1} = 3 \left(1 + \frac{1}{x_{n_1}} \frac{r x_{n_1-1} - 1}{r - y_{n_1-1}} + \frac{1}{y_{n_1}} \frac{r y_{n_1-1} - x_{n_1-1}}{r - y_{n_1-1}} \right)^{-1},$$

$$\beta_{n_1}^1 = \lambda_1 + \lambda_3 \omega^{n_1} + \lambda_4 \omega^{2n_1} + n_1 + c,$$

$$\beta_{n_1}^2 = -\lambda_2 + \lambda_3 \omega^{n_1+1} + \lambda_4 \omega^{2(n_1+1)} + n_1 + c,$$

A.T. and F. Nijhoff 2006

Related References

V.G. Papageorgiou, A.G. Tongas, A.P. Veselov, Yang-Baxter maps and symmetries of integrable equations on quad-graphs *J. Math. Phys.* **47** (2006) 083502.

A.Tongas and F. Nijhoff, A discrete Garnier type system from symmetry reduction on the lattice *J. Phys. A: Math. Gen.* **39** (2006) 12191-12202.