

# Orthogonal Polynomials and Painlevé equations

Walter Van Assche

Workshop "Introduction to Orthogonal Polynomials and Applications"

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## **Orthogonal Polynomials and Painlevé Equations**

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# Orthogonal Polynomials and Painlevé Equations

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Orthogonal Polynomials and Painlevé Equations

There are a number of intriguing connections between Painlevé equations and orthogonal polynomials, and this book is one of the first to provide an introduction to these. Researchers in integrable systems and nonlinear equations will find the many explicit examples where Painlevé equations appear in mathematical analysis very useful. Those interested in the asymptotic behavior of orthogonal polynomials will also find the description of Painlevé transcendents and their use for local analysis near certain critical points helpful to their work. Rational solutions and special function solutions of Painlevé equations are worked out in detail, with a survey of recent results and an outline of their close relationship with orthogonal polynomials. Exercises throughout the book help the reader to get to grips with the material.

The author is a leading authority on orthogonal polynomials, giving this work a unique perspective on Painlevé equations.

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that have the *Painlevé property*

**What?:** The general solution is free from movable branch points

**Who:** Painlevé et al. found 50 families (up to Möbius transforms), all could be reduced to known equations and six new (= beginning of 20th century) equations

# The six Painlevé equations

$$P_I \quad y'' = 6y^2 + x,$$

$$P_{II} \quad y'' = 2y^3 + xy + \alpha,$$

$$P_{III} \quad y'' = \frac{(y')^2}{y} - \frac{y'}{x} + \frac{\alpha y^2 + \beta}{x} + \gamma y^3 + \frac{\delta}{y},$$

$$P_{IV} \quad y'' = \frac{(y')^2}{2y} + \frac{3}{2}y^3 + 4xy^2 + 2(x^2 - \alpha)y + \frac{\beta}{y},$$

$$P_V \quad y'' = \left( \frac{1}{2y} + \frac{1}{y-1} \right) (y')^2 - \frac{y'}{x} + \frac{(y-1)^2}{x^2} \left( \alpha y + \frac{\beta}{y} \right) + \frac{\gamma y}{x} + \frac{\delta y(y+1)}{y-1},$$

$$P_{VI} \quad y'' = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{y} + \frac{1}{y-1} + \frac{1}{y-x} \right) (y')^2 - \left( \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{1}{y-x} \right) y' + \frac{y(y-1)(y-x)}{x^2(x-1)^2} \left( \alpha + \frac{\beta x}{y^2} + \frac{\gamma(x-1)}{(y-1)^2} + \frac{\delta x(x-1)}{(y-x)^2} \right),$$

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**Geometry:** Fine tuning by Kajiwara-Noumi-Yamada (2017): they also include the **symmetry**, i.e., the group of Bäcklund transformations.

# Discrete Painlevé equation: additive

A partial list is

$$\text{d-P}_I \quad x_{n+1} + x_n + x_{n-1} = \frac{z_n + a(-1)^n}{x_n} + b,$$

$$\text{d-P}_{II} \quad x_{n+1} + x_{n-1} = \frac{x_n z_n + a}{1 - x_n^2},$$

$$\text{d-P}_{IV} \quad (x_{n+1} + x_n)(x_n + x_{n-1}) = \frac{(x_n^2 - a^2)(x_n^2 - b^2)}{(x_n + z_n)^2 - c^2},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d-P}_V \quad & \frac{(x_{n+1} + x_n - z_{n+1} - z_n)(x_n + x_{n-1} - z_n - z_{n-1})}{(x_{n+1} + x_n)(x_n + x_{n-1})} \\ & = \frac{[(x_n - z_n)^2 - a^2][(x_n - z_n)^2 - b^2]}{(x_n - c^2)(x_n - d^2)}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $z_n = \alpha n + \beta$  and  $a, b, c, d$  are constants.

# Discrete Painlevé equations: multiplicative

$$q\text{-P}_{\text{III}} \quad x_{n+1}x_{n-1} = \frac{(x_n - aq_n)(x_n - bq_n)}{(1 - cx_n)(1 - x_n/c)},$$

$$q\text{-P}_{\text{V}} \quad (x_{n+1}x_n - 1)(x_nx_{n-1} - 1) = \frac{(x_n - a)(x_n - 1/a)(x_n - b)(x_n - 1/b)}{(1 - cx_nq_n)(1 - x_nq_n/c)},$$

$$q\text{-P}_{\text{VI}} \quad \frac{(x_nx_{n+1} - q_nq_{n+1})(x_nx_{n-1} - q_nq_{n-1})}{(x_nx_{n+1} - 1)(x_nx_{n-1} - 1)} \\ = \frac{(x_n - aq_n)(x_n - q_n/a)(x_n - bq_n)(x_n - q_n/b)}{(x_n - c)(x_n - 1/c)(x_n - d)(x_n - 1/d)},$$

where  $q_n = q_0q^n$  and  $a, b, c, d$  are constants.

# Discrete Painlevé equations: asymmetric

$$\alpha\text{-d-P}_{\text{IV}} \quad (x_n + y_n)(x_{n+1} + y_n) = \frac{(y_n - a)(y_n - b)(y_n - c)(y_n - d)}{(y_n + \gamma - z_n)(y_n - \gamma - z_n)}$$
$$(x_n + y_n)(x_n + y_{n-1}) = \frac{(x_n + a)(x_n + b)(x_n + c)(x_n + d)}{(x_n + \delta - z_{n+1/2})(x_n - \delta - z_{n+1/2})}$$

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This corresponds to  $\text{d-P}(E_6^{(1)}/A_2^{(1)})$  where  $E_6^{(1)}$  is the surface type and  $A_2^{(1)}$  is the symmetry type.





# Orthogonal polynomials

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Three term recurrence relation

$$xp_n(x) = a_{n+1}p_{n+1}(x) + b_n p_n(x) + a_n p_{n-1}(x), \quad \text{orthonormal}$$

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Orthogonal polynomials on the unit circle (OPUC)

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \varphi_n(z)\overline{\varphi_m(z)}v(\theta) d\theta = \delta_{m,n}, \quad z = e^{i\theta}, \quad \varphi_n(z) = \kappa_n z^n + \dots$$

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$$z\Phi_n(z) = \Phi_{n+1}(z) + \overline{\alpha_n}\Phi_n^*(z), \quad \Phi_n^*(z) = z^n \overline{\Phi_n(1/z)}.$$

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Compatibility between these two relations gives

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This is known as **discrete Painlevé I** (d-P<sub>I</sub>).

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- Relation with continuous Painlevé IV (Magnus, 1995)

# Asymptotic behavior of $a_n^2$

## Theorem (Freud)

The recurrence coefficients for the weight  $w(x) = e^{-x^4+tx^2}$  satisfy

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{n^{1/4}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[4]{12}}.$$

# Special solution

Put  $x_n = a_n^2$ , then (for  $t = 0$ )

$$x_n(x_{n+1} + x_n + x_{n-1}) = an, \quad a = 1/4. \quad (1)$$

For orthogonal polynomials we want a solution with  $x_0 = 0$  (because  $a_0^2 = 0$ ) and  $x_n > 0$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

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**Theorem (Lew and Quarles, Nevai)**

*There is a unique solution of (1) for which  $x_0 = 0$  and  $x_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .*

# Langmuir lattice or Kac-van Moerbeke equations

General orthogonal polynomials

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## Theorem

*Let  $\mu$  be a symmetric positive measure on  $\mathbb{R}$  for which all the moments exist and let  $\mu_t$  be the measure for which  $d\mu_t(x) = e^{tx^2} d\mu(x)$ , where  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  is such that all the moments of  $\mu_t$  exist. Then the recurrence coefficients of the orthogonal polynomials for  $\mu_t$  satisfy the differential-difference equations*

$$\frac{d}{dt} a_n^2 = a_n^2 (a_{n+1}^2 - a_{n-1}^2), \quad n \geq 1.$$

Put  $a_n^2 = x_n$ , then

$$n = 4x_n(x_{n+1} + x_n + x_{n-1} - t/2), \quad (2)$$

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Eliminate  $x_{n+1}$  and  $x_{n-1}$  using (2)–(3)

$$x''_n = \frac{(x'_n)^2}{2x_n} + \frac{3x_n^3}{2} - tx_n^2 + x_n \left( \frac{n}{2} + \frac{t^2}{8} \right) - \frac{n^2}{32x_n}$$

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This is **Painlevé IV**.

# Orthogonal polynomials on the imaginary line

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Orthogonal polynomials  $(Q_n)_n$  on the imaginary axis

$$\int_{-i\infty}^{+i\infty} Q_n(x)Q_m(x)e^{-x^4+tx^2} dx = 0, \quad n \neq m,$$

$$xQ_n(x) = Q_{n+1}(x) - b_nQ_{n-1}(x).$$

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One has  $Q_n(x; t) = (-i)^n P_n(ix; -t)$ . Hence  $b_n(t) = -a_n^2(-t)$ .

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The  $(b_n)_n$  is the unique **negative** solution of d-P<sub>I</sub> with  $b_0 = 0$ .

# Orthogonal polynomials on the cross

We can combine  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $i\mathbb{R}$  and look for orthogonal polynomials  $(R_n)_n$  for which  $(n \neq m)$

$$\alpha \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_n(x)R_m(x)e^{-x^4+tx^2} dx + \beta \int_{-i\infty}^{+i\infty} R_n(x)R_m(x)e^{-x^4+tx^2} |dx| = 0,$$

with  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ .



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$$xR_n(x) = R_{n+1}(x) - c_n R_{n-1}(x)$$

The  $(c_n)_n$  still satisfy d-P<sub>I</sub>, but with initial conditions

$$c_0 = 0, \quad c_1 = \frac{\alpha m_2(t) - \beta m_2(-t)}{\alpha m_0(t) + \beta m_0(-t)},$$

where

$$m_{2k}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^{2k} e^{-x^4+tx^2} dx$$

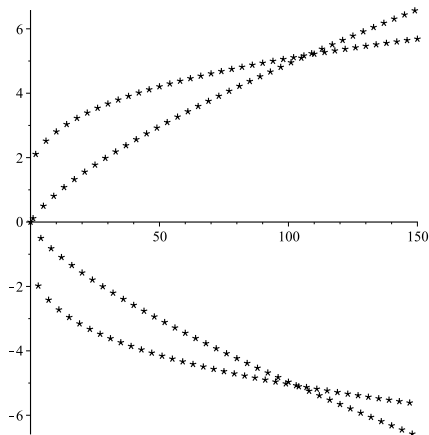
are in terms of **parabolic cylinder functions**.

# Orthogonal polynomials on the cross

The solution of  $d$ - $P_I$  behaves very different.

# Orthogonal polynomials on the cross

The solution of d-P<sub>I</sub> behaves very different. ( $t = 0, \beta/\alpha = 1/2$ )



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Furthermore*

$$R_{4n}(x) = r_n(x^4), \quad R_{4n+1}(x) = x s_n(x^4), \quad R_{4n+2}(x) = x^2 s_n(x^4).$$

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**Pearson equation**

$$\hat{v}'(z) = \frac{t}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{z^2}\right) \hat{v}(z).$$

## Property

The monic orthogonal polynomials for  $v(\theta) = e^{t \cos \theta}$  satisfy

$$\Phi'_n(z) = n\Phi_{n-1}(z) + B_n\Phi_{n-2}(z),$$

for a sequence  $(B_n)_n$ . In fact, one has

$$B_n = \frac{t}{2} \frac{\kappa_{n-2}^2}{\kappa_n^2}.$$



$$z\Phi_n(z) = \Phi_{n+1}(z) + \alpha_n\Phi_n^*(x)$$
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## Theorem (Periwal and Shevitz)

The Verblunsky coefficients for the weight  $v(\theta) = e^{t \cos \theta}$  satisfy

$$-\frac{t}{2}(\alpha_{n+1} + \alpha_{n-1}) = \frac{(n+1)\alpha_n}{1 - \alpha_n^2},$$

with initial values

$$\alpha_{-1} = -1, \quad \alpha_0 = \frac{l_1(t)}{l_0(t)}.$$

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This is **discrete Painlevé II** (d-P<sub>II</sub>)

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Let  $x_n = \alpha_{n-1}$ , then

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## Theorem

*Suppose  $\alpha > 0$ . Then there is a unique solution of (4) for which  $x_0 = 1$  and  $-1 < x_n < 1$ . The solution corresponds to  $x_1 = I_1(2\alpha)/I_0(2/\alpha)$  and is positive for every  $n \geq 0$ .*

# Asymptotic behavior

This solution converges to zero (fast)  $x_n \rightarrow 0$ .



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## Property

*The solution of  $d$ - $P_{II}$  with  $x_0 = 1$  and  $0 < x_n < 1$  for  $n \geq 1$  satisfies*

$$\frac{1}{\alpha^n n! \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\alpha^{-k}}{k!}} \leq x_n \leq \frac{4^n n!}{\alpha^n (2n)!} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{e}{\alpha n} \right)^n.$$

# The Ablowitz-Ladik lattice

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## Theorem

*Let  $\nu$  be a positive measure on the unit circle which is symmetric (the Verblunsky coefficients are real). Let  $\nu_t$  be the modified measure  $d\nu_t(\theta) = e^{t \cos \theta} d\nu(\theta)$ , with  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . The Verblunsky coefficients  $(\alpha_n(t))_n$  for the measure  $\nu_t$  then satisfy*

$$2\alpha'_n = (1 - \alpha_n^2)(\alpha_{n+1} - \alpha_{n-1}), \quad n \geq 0.$$

d- $P_{II}$  gives

$$\alpha_{n+1} + \alpha_{n-1} = \frac{-2n\alpha_n}{t(1 - \alpha_n^2)}$$

and Ablowitz-Ladik gives

$$\alpha_{n+1} - \alpha_{n-1} = \frac{2\alpha'_n}{1 - \alpha_n^2}.$$

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If we put  $\alpha_n = \frac{1+y}{1-y}$ , then  $y$  satisfies **Painlevé V** with  $\gamma = 0$ .

# Painlevé V and III

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The ratio  $w_n = \alpha_n/\alpha_{n-1}$  satisfies **Painlevé III** [Hisakado, Tracy-Widom]

# Generalized Charlier polynomials

Discrete orthogonal polynomials

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$$b_n + b_{n-1} - n + \beta = \frac{cn}{a_n^2},$$
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This corresponds to a limiting case of **discrete Painlevé with surface/symmetry  $D_4^{(1)}$**  in Sakai's classification.

Put  $c = c_0 e^t$ , then

$$\frac{c^k}{(\beta)_k k!} = e^{tk} \frac{c_0^k}{(\beta)_k k!}$$

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## Theorem

*Suppose  $\mu$  is a positive measure on the real line and  $d\mu_t = e^{tx} d\mu(x)$ , where  $t$  is such that all the moments of  $\mu_t$  exist. Then the recurrence coefficients  $b_n(t)$  and  $a_n^2(t)$  of the orthogonal polynomials for the measure  $\mu_t$  satisfy*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} a_n^2 &= a_n^2 (b_n - b_{n-1}), & n \geq 1, \\ \frac{d}{dt} b_n &= a_{n+1}^2 - a_n^2, & n \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

# generalized Charlier polynomials

Put  $x_n = a_n^2$  and  $y_n = b_n$  and  $x'_n = dx_n/da$ ,  $y'_n = dy_n/da$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}(x_n - a)(x_{n+1} - a) &= a(y_n - n)(y_n - n + \beta - 1), \\ y_n + y_{n-1} - n + \beta &= \frac{an}{x_n}\end{aligned}$$

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This can be transformed to **Painlevé III**.



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$$(u_n + v_n)(u_{n+1} + v_n) = \frac{\gamma - 1}{a^2} v_n (v_n - a) \left( v_n - a \frac{\gamma - \beta}{\gamma - 1} \right),$$

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Initial values

$$a_0 = 0, \quad b_0 = \frac{\gamma a}{\beta} \frac{M(\gamma + 1, \beta + 1, a)}{M(\gamma, \beta, a)}$$

This is **asymmetric discrete Painlevé IV** or d-P( $E_6^{(1)}/A_2^{(1)}$ ).

If we put

$$v_n(a) = \frac{a \left( ay' - (1 + \beta - 2\gamma)y^2 + (n + 1 - a + \beta - 2\gamma)y - n \right)}{2(\gamma - 1)(y - 1)y},$$

then

$$y'' = \left( \frac{1}{2y} + \frac{1}{y-1} \right) (y')^2 - \frac{y'}{a} + \frac{(y-1)^2}{a^2} \left( Ay + \frac{B}{y} \right) + \frac{Cy}{a} + \frac{Dy(y+1)}{y-1}$$

with

$$A = \frac{(\beta - 1)^2}{2}, \quad B = -\frac{n^2}{2}, \quad C = n - \beta + 2\gamma, \quad D = -\frac{1}{2},$$

which is **Painlevé V**.

## Other examples

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**Chen and Its** (2010):  $w(x) = x^\alpha e^{-x} e^{-t/x}$  on  $[0, \infty)$   
Put  $b_n = 2n + \alpha + 1 + c_n$ ,  $a_n^2 = n(n + \alpha) + y_n + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} c_j$ , and  
 $c_n = 1/x_n$

$$x_n + x_{n-1} = \frac{nt - (2n + \alpha)y_n}{y_n(y_n - t)}$$

$$y_n + y_{n+1} = t - \frac{2n + \alpha + 1}{x_n} - \frac{1}{x_n^2}$$

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$$c_n'' = \frac{(c_n')^2}{c_n} - \frac{c_n'}{t} + (2n + \alpha + 1) \frac{c_n^2}{t^2} + \frac{c_n^3}{t^2} + \frac{\alpha}{t} - \frac{1}{c_n}$$

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Basor, Chen, Ehrhardt (2010):  $w(x) = (1-x)^\alpha(1+x)^\beta e^{-tx}$



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and for  $y = 1 + t/R_n$

$$y'' = \frac{3y - 1}{2y(y - 1)}(y')^2 - \frac{y'}{t} + 2(2n + 1 + \alpha + \beta)\frac{y}{t} - \frac{2y(y + 1)}{y - 1} + \frac{(y - 1)^2}{t^2} \left( \frac{\alpha^2 y}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{2y} \right)$$

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# Other examples

$q$ -orthogonal polynomials:

$$w(x) = \frac{x^\alpha}{(-x^2; q^2)_\infty (-q^2/x^2; q^2)_\infty}, \quad x \in [0, \infty)$$

gives rise to  **$q$ -discrete Painlevé III**

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$$w(x) = \frac{x^\alpha (-p/x^2; q^2)_\infty}{(-x^2; q^2)_\infty (-q^2/x^2; q^2)_\infty}, \quad x \in [0, \infty)$$

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$$(z_n z_{n-1} - 1)(z_n z_{n+1} - 1) = \frac{(z_n + \sqrt{q^{2-\alpha}/p})^2 (z_n \sqrt{pq^{\alpha-2}})^2}{(q^{n+\alpha/2-1} \sqrt{p} z_n + 1)^2}.$$

## Other examples

$q$ -orthogonal polynomials:

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$$w(x) = x^\alpha (q^2 x^2; q^2)_\infty, \quad x \in \{q^k, k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

gives again  **$q$ -discrete Painlevé V**

## Other examples

Bi-orthogonal polynomials on the unit circle (Forrester and Witte, 2006)

$$w(z) = z^{-\mu-\omega}(1+z)^{2\omega_1}(1+tz)^{2\mu} \begin{cases} 1, & \theta \notin (\pi - \phi, \pi), \\ 1 - \xi, & \theta \in (\pi - \phi, \pi). \end{cases}, \quad t = e^{i\phi},$$

gives rise to

$$\begin{aligned} g_{n+1}g_n &= t \frac{(f_n + n)(f_n + n + 2\mu)}{f_n(f_n - 2\omega_1)}, \\ f_n + f_{n-1} &= 2\omega_1 + \frac{n - 1 + \mu + \omega}{g_n - 1} + \frac{(n + \mu + \bar{\omega})t}{g_n - t} \end{aligned}$$

**discrete Painlevé V** (Sakai's surface  $D_4^{(1)}$ ).

**Biane** (2014) worked out a  $q$ -version

$$w(e^{i\theta}) = \left| \frac{(ae^{i\theta}; q)_\infty}{(be^{i\theta}; q)_\infty} \right|^2,$$

and found **discrete Painlevé equations corresponding to  $A_3^{(1)}$**

$$r_{n+2}(a-bq^{n+2}) + qr_n(a-bq^n) = \frac{2r_{n+1}}{1-r_{n+1}^2} \left( (1-q)(a+bq^{n+1})\beta_{n+1} + (1-q^{n+1})(ab+q) \right),$$

with

$$\beta_n = \sum_{k=1}^n r_r r_{k-1}, \quad r_n = \Phi_n(0).$$

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$$\mathbb{D}_x w(x) = \frac{2V(x)}{W(x)} \mathbb{M}_x w(x),$$

where  $\mathbb{D}_x$  is a divided difference operator on a special nonuniform lattice obtained from a quadratic equation

$$Ay^2 + 2Bxy + Cx^2 + 2Dy + 2Ex + F = 0,$$

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$$W(z) \pm \Delta y V(z) = z^{\mp 3} \prod_{j=1}^6 (1 - a_j q^{-1/2} z^{\pm 1}),$$

gives the  **$q$ -discrete Painlevé cases for  $E_7^{(1)}$**  in Sakai's scheme.