

The (f, g) -Difference Operator, (f, g) -Expansion Formula, and Their Applications

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报告的主要内容是

- A.** Lagrange inversion formula and three known results
- B.** Discrete analogue of the Lagrange-inversion formula
- C.** The (f, g) -difference operator
- D.** The (f, g) -expansion formula and Ismail's argument
- E.** The $(1 - xy, x - y)$ -expansion formula
- F.** The (f, g) -expansion form of Gessel and Stanton's q -analogue
- G.** Applications of the (f, g) -expansion formula to basic hypergeometric series

A. The Lagrange inversion formula and three known results

Lagrange inversion formula (cf.[46, §7.32])

Theorem 1. *Assume that $F(x)$ and $\phi(x)$ are analytic around $x = 0$, $\phi(0) \neq 0$. Then*

$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \left(\frac{x}{\phi(x)} \right)^n, \quad (1)$$

and the coefficients a_n are given by

$$a_n = n! \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}} \left[\phi^n(x) \frac{dF(x)}{dx} \right]_{x=0}.$$

where $\frac{d}{dx}$ denotes the usual derivative operator.

In the past years, various q -analogues (as generalizations) of the Lagrange inversion formula, as an active field of research with an increasing number of applications to q -series and the Rogers-Ramanujan identities, have been studied by numerous authors (cf. [1, 8, 18, 25, 26, 42, 43]).

For a good survey about results and open problems on this topic, we would like to refer the reader to Stanton's paper [43].

Carlitz's analogue [9, (1973)]

Theorem 2. *For any formal series $F(x)$, it holds that*

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{(q, x; q)_k} \left[\mathcal{D}_{q,x}^k \{ F(x)(x; q)_{k-1} \} \right]_{x=0}, \quad (2)$$

where $\mathcal{D}_{q,x}$ denotes the q -difference operator.

Gessel and Stanton's analogue [18, (1983)]

Theorem 3. For any formal power series $F(x)$,

$$F(x) = \sum_{n \geq k \geq 0}^{\infty} a_k \frac{(Ap^k q^k; p)_{n-k}}{(q; q)_{n-k}} q^{-nk} x^n \quad (3)$$

if and only if

$$a_n = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} q^{\binom{n-k+1}{2} + nk} \frac{(1 - Ap^k q^k)(Aq^n p^{n-1}; p^{-1})_{n-k-1}}{(q; q)_{n-k}} F(q^k). \quad (4)$$

Their result is based on the deep insight that the essential character of the Lagrange inversion formula is equivalent to finding the inverse of

an infinite lower triangular matrix $F = (B_{n,k})$ subject to $B_{n,k} = 0$ unless $n \geq k$, $B_{n,n} \neq 0$, that is, another unique matrix $G = (B_{n,k}^{-1})$ satisfying

$$\sum_{n \geq i \geq k} B_{n,i}^{-1} B_{i,k} = \delta_{n,k},$$

where δ denotes the usual Kronecker delta.

Liu 's expansion formula [30, (2002)]

Theorem 4. *Given any formal series $F(x)$, it holds that*

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - aq^{2k})(aq/x; q)_k x^k}{(q; q)_k (x; q)_k} [\mathcal{D}_{q,x}^k \{F(x)(x; q)_{k-1}\}]_{x=aq}. \quad (5)$$

B. Discrete analogue of the Lagrange-inversion formula

基于对以上结论的观察, 我们可以引入以下概念

Definition 1. *Let $f(x, y)$ and $g(x, y)$ be two arbitrary nonzero functions over \mathbb{C} in variables x, y . Suppose that for all four numbers a, b, c, x ,*

$$f(x, a)g(b, c) + f(x, b)g(c, a) + f(x, c)g(a, b) = 0, \quad (6)$$

then $f(x, y)$ is called orthogonal to $g(x, y)$. In particular, $f(x, y)$ is called self-orthogonal if $f(x, y)$ is orthogonal to itself.

Write $f(x, y) \perp g(x, y)$, or in short, $f \perp g$ if $f(x, y)$ is orthogonal to $g(x, y)$. As it stands, $f \perp g$ does not mean $g \perp f$. This definition allows us to rewrite

$$\text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3 = \{f(x, y) | f \perp f\}, \quad \text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3^{(g)} = \{f(x, y) | f \perp g\}.$$

Now, we use Ω to denote an open subset of the complex plane, and $\mathcal{H}(\Omega)$ the space of analytic functions over Ω .

Definition 2. *With the assumption as above. Let $F(x) \in \mathcal{H}(\Omega)$. The following series*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)}, \quad (7)$$

where the coefficients $G(n)$ are given by

$$\sum_{k=0}^n F(b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} f(x_i, b_k)}{\prod_{i=0, i \neq k}^n g(b_i, b_k)},$$

is called the (f, g) -series generated by $F(x)$ with respect to two

sequences $\{b_i\}$ and $\{x_i\}$ over Ω . We denote it by

$$F(x) \sim \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)} \quad (8)$$

Very similar to the situation in the theory of Fourier series, we come up against two questions:

The convergence problem Does the series (7) converge at some point $x \in \Omega$?

The representation problem If (7) does converge at $x \in \Omega$, is its sum $F(x)$? more precisely,

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)}. \quad (9)$$

这两个问题都是围绕 (f, g) -inversion formula的新问题。为了研究这个反演公式在基本超几何理论内的作用，我们把精力放在表示问题上。为此引入

Definition 3. *Let $F(x) \in \mathcal{H}(\Omega)$ and $f(x, y) \in \text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3^{(g)}$. If there exist three sequences $\{x_i\}, \{b_i\} \subseteq \Omega$, and $\{\chi(i)\}$, such that for any $x \in \Omega$,*

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \chi(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)}. \quad (10)$$

then it is called the (f, g) -expansion formula of $F(x)$ with respect to two sequences $\{b_i\}$ and $\{x_i\}$ over Ω .

Whereas many nonterminating summation and transformation formulas from the theory of basic hypergeometric series, just like Examples 2 and 3, fit into such a framework, apparently there is no general theorem (aside from those formulas mentioned in Section 1) known on the existence of such phenomena.

C. The (f, g) -difference operator

In what follows, we use $\mathbb{C}(x)$ to denote the linear space of all functions over \mathbb{C} of a variable x .

Definition 4. Let $f(x, y) \in \text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3^{(g)}$, $\{x_i\}$ and $\{b_i\}$ be arbitrary sequences such that none of the denominators in (11) vanish. Then the mapping

$$\mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{\bullet\} : \mathbb{C}(x) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

such that

$$\mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{F(x)\} = \sum_{k=0}^n F(b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} f(x_i, b_k)}{\prod_{i=0, i \neq k}^n g(b_i, b_k)} \quad (11)$$

is said to be the n th order (f, g) -difference operator with respect to

$n + 1$ pairwise distinct nodes $b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$ and $n - 1$ parameters x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1} .

The following example displays that $\mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)}$ is a generalization of the divided difference and the q -difference operator in numerical analysis and special function.

Example 1. Let $f(x, y) = 1, g(x, y) = x - y, b_i = x_{i+1}, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$.
Then

$$\mathbb{D}_{(g)}^{(n)}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1}]\{F(x)\} = (-1)^n F[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1}], \quad (12)$$

where the classical divided difference $F[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1}]$ is recursively

defined by

$$F[x_1] = F(x_1);$$

$$F[x_1, x_2] = \frac{F(x_1) - F(x_2)}{x_1 - x_2};$$

$$F[x_1, x_2, x_3] = \frac{F[x_1, x_2] - F[x_2, x_3]}{x_1 - x_3};$$

\dots ;

$$F[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n] = \frac{F[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1}] - F[x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n]}{x_1 - x_n}.$$

See [3, p.123] for more details.

As might be expected from this definition by specializing

$b_i = x + h(i - 1)$, $\mathbb{D}_{(g)}^{(n)}$ can be expressed in a simpler form

$$\mathbb{D}_{(g)}^{(n)}[x, x + h, x + 2h, \dots, x + nh]\{F(x)\} = \frac{1}{n!h^n} \nabla_h^n F(x),$$

where ∇_h is the usual backward difference operator defined as $\nabla_h\{F(x)\} = F(x) - F(x + h)$. In the meantime, assume that $F(x)$ is n -times differentiable at x . Then it is easily found that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{D}_{(g)}^{(n)}[x, x + h, x + 2h, \dots, x + nh]\{F(x)\} = \frac{1}{n!} \frac{d^n}{dx^n} F(x). \quad (13)$$

Another interesting case is that with the specification $b_i = xq^i, i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, we have

$$\mathbb{D}_{(g)}^{(1)}[x, xq]\{F(x)\} = \frac{1}{(q - 1)} \mathcal{D}_{q,x} F(x),$$

where $\mathcal{D}_{q,x}$ denotes the q -difference operator (cf. [24]) appeared previously in (2)

$$\mathcal{D}_{q,x}F(x) = \frac{F(x) - F(qx)}{x}. \quad (14)$$

(f, g) -差分算子也具有良好的性质:

Theorem 5. [递推关系] Let $f(x, y) \in \text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3^{(g)}$, and $\mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)}$ be defined as above. Then for any integer $n \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n+1)} \begin{bmatrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{n+1} \\ x_1, \dots, x_n \end{bmatrix} \{F(x)\} \\ &= \frac{f(x_n, b_0)}{g(b_{n+1}, b_0)} \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \begin{bmatrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \{F(x)\} \\ &+ \frac{f(x_n, b_{n+1})}{g(b_0, b_{n+1})} \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \begin{bmatrix} b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{n+1} \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \{F(x)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Theorem 6. [Leibinz formula] Let $f(x, y) \in \text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3^{(g)}$, and $\mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)}$ be defined as above. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \left[\begin{array}{c} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{array} \right] \{F(x)H(x)\} \\
 = & \sum_{k=0}^n f(x_k, b_k) \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(k)} \left[\begin{array}{c} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k \\ x_1, \dots, x_{k-1} \end{array} \right] \{H(x)\} \\
 & \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n-k)} \left[\begin{array}{c} b_k, b_{k+1}, \dots, b_n \\ x_{k+1}, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{array} \right] \{F(x)\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

D. The (f, g) -expansion formula and Ismail's argument

下面的结论既说明 $F(x)$ 的 (f, g) -展开式若存在则必是唯一的,同时说明 (f, g) -差分算子的作用.

Theorem 7. *The coefficients $\chi(n)$ in (10) are uniquely determined by $\{G(i)\}$, i.e.,*

$$\chi(n) = \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \begin{bmatrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{bmatrix} \{F(x)\}. \quad (17)$$

It is worth pointing out that even if the (f, g) -series generated by $F(x)$ does not converge to itself, it always agrees with $F(x)$ at infinite points

$b_n, n = 0, 1, \dots$, i.e.,

$$F(b_n) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)} \Big|_{x=b_n}. \quad (18)$$

什么是“Ismaïl 原理”？

Generally speaking, the “Ismaïl’s argument” can be summarized briefly as follows: if one wants to prove two analytic functions $F(x) = G(x)$, all that is necessary is to show that they agree infinitely often near a point that is an interior point of the set of analyticity.

Hence, in order to guarantee that they are equal over Ω , it is sufficient to require that the series and $F(x)$ be analytic around $x = b$ while b can be chosen as an accumulation point of $\{b_i\}$ in the interior of Ω . Combining this idea with the original “Ismaïl’s argument” due to Ismaïl, we get all that described in the present paper.

Theorem 8. [Generalized Ismail's argument] Let $F(x) \in \mathcal{H}(\Omega)$, $f(x, y) \in \text{Ker}\mathcal{L}_3^{(g)}$. Let $S_n(x)$ be the sequence of partial sums of the (f, g) -series generated by $F(x)$, say

$$S_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n G(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)} \quad (19)$$

where the coefficients

$$G(k) = \mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(k)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k \\ x_1, \dots, x_{k-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{F(x)\}. \quad (20)$$

Assume further that

- (i) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = b \in \Omega$;
- (ii) $S_n(x)$ converges uniformly to $S(x)$ in a neighborhood of $b \in \Omega$;

(iii) for any integer $i \geq 0$, $g(b_i, x)/f(x_{i+1}, x)$ is analytic at $x = b$.

Then there exists a subset $\Omega_1 \subseteq \Omega$ containing b such that for $x \in \Omega_1$,

$$F(x) = S(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k) f(x_k, b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, x)}. \quad (21)$$

Our argument is based on the (f, g) -inversion formula.

Lemma 1. Let $F = (B_{n,k})_{n,k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ and $G = (B_{n,k}^{-1})_{n,k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be two matrices with entries given by

$$B_{n,k} = \frac{\prod_{i=k}^{n-1} f(x_i, b_k)}{\prod_{i=k+1}^n g(b_i, b_k)} \quad \text{and} \quad (22)$$

$$B_{n,k}^{-1} = \frac{f(x_k, b_k) \prod_{i=k+1}^n f(x_i, b_n)}{f(x_n, b_n) \prod_{i=k}^{n-1} g(b_i, b_n)}, \quad \text{respectively,} \quad (23)$$

where \mathbb{Z} denotes the set of integers, $\{x_i\}$ and $\{b_i\}$ are arbitrary sequences such that none of the denominators in the right hand sides of (22) and (23) vanish. Then $F = (B_{n,k})_{n,k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ and $G = (B_{n,k}^{-1})_{n,k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is a matrix inversion if and only if $f(x, y) \in \text{Ker} \mathcal{L}_3^{(g)}$.

这个反演公式统一了目前主要的已知结论: Gould-Hsu inversion(1973年); Krattenthaler's formula(1996年); Warnaar's formula(2002年).

Remark 1. Note that Conditions (i) and (ii) are also necessary. Otherwise, the conclusion may be false. For instance, let $F(x) = \sin(\pi x)$ and parameter sequence $b_k = k, k = 1, 2, \dots$. Assume that

$$\sin(\pi x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k)x(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-k+1).$$

By the $(1, x - y)$ -inversion, it would follow that

$$G(n) = \mathbb{D}_{(x-y)}^{(n)}[0, 1, \dots, n]\{\sin(\pi x)\} \equiv 0$$

for $n \geq 1$, i.e., $\sin(\pi x) = 1$, which is obviously contrary to the known fact.

Remark 2. Note that Conditions (i) and (ii) are also necessary. Otherwise, the conclusion may be false. For instance, let $F(x) = \sin(\pi x)$ and parameter sequence $b_k = k, k = 1, 2, \dots$. Assume that

$$\sin(\pi x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G(k)x(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-k+1).$$

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for $n \geq 1$, i.e., $\sin(\pi x) = 1$, which is obviously contrary to the known fact.

Remark 3. 广义的Ismail原理也可以视为Lagrange反演公式的离散模拟(discrete analogue),即在(1)中

$$\left(\frac{x}{\phi(x)}\right)^n \longmapsto f(x_n, b_n) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} g(b_i, x)}{\prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i, x)}.$$

Five important cases of Theorem 8 are worthy of note, which are obtained by specializing

$$\begin{array}{ll} f(x, y) = 1, & g(x, y) = x - y; \\ = x - y, & = x - y; \\ = 1 - xy, & = x - y; \\ = (1 - axy)(1 - b\frac{x}{y}), & = (x - y)(1 - \frac{b}{axy}); \\ = y\theta(xy)\theta(\frac{x}{y}), & = y\theta(xy)\theta(\frac{x}{y}) \end{array}$$

respectively. We now summarize these results without proof.

Corollary 1. *With the same assumption as Theorem 8. Then the*

following hold

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{F(b_j)}{\prod_{i=0, i \neq j}^k (b_i - b_j)} \right\} \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (b_i - x) \quad (24)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (x_k - b_k) \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^k F(b_j) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} (x_i - b_j)}{\prod_{i=0, i \neq j}^k (b_i - b_j)} \right\} \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (b_i - x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (x_i - x)} \quad (25)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (1 - x_k b_k) \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^k F(b_j) \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} (1 - x_i b_j)}{\prod_{i=0, i \neq j}^k (b_i - b_j)} \right\} \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (b_i - x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - x x_i)} \quad (26)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G_1(k) (1 - a x_k b_k) (1 - b x_k / b_k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (b_i - x) (1 - \frac{b}{a b_i x})}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - a x_i x) (1 - b \frac{x_i}{x})} \quad (27)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G_2(k) b_k \theta(x_k b_k) \theta\left(\frac{x_k}{b_k}\right) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} \theta(b_i x) \theta\left(\frac{b_i}{x}\right)}{\prod_{i=1}^k \theta(x_i x) \theta\left(\frac{x_i}{x}\right)}, \quad (28)$$

where the coefficients

$$G_1(k) = \mathbb{D}_{((1-axy)(1-b\frac{x}{y}), (x-y)(1-\frac{b}{axy}))}^{(k)} \left[b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k \right] \{F(x)\},$$

$$G_2(k) = \mathbb{D}_{(y\theta(xy)\theta(\frac{x}{y}), y\theta(xy)\theta(\frac{x}{y}))}^{(k)} \left[b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k \right] \{F(x)\}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\theta(x) = (x; q)_\infty \left(\frac{q}{x}; q\right)_\infty, \quad |q| < 1.$$

We remark that the theta function $\theta(x)$ satisfying Jacobi's *triple product identity*

$$\theta(x)(q; q)_\infty = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^k q^{\binom{k}{2}} x^k, \quad x \neq 0$$

has been frequently used in the study of the elliptic hypergeometric series.

E. The $(1 - xy, x - y)$ -expansion theorem

在广义的Ismail原理的基础上，我们可以建立

Theorem 9. [The $(1 - xy, x - y)$ -expansion theorem] *Let $F(x) \in \mathcal{H}(\Omega)$, $\{b_i\}, \{x_i\} \subseteq \Omega$ such that $\{b_i\}$ are pairwise distinct and $\{x_i\}$ is bounded, $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} b_i = b \neq b_0$ and $\inf\{|1/x_i - b| : i \geq 0\} > 0$. Suppose further that $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} |\lambda_k| < \infty$ where*

$$\lambda_k = \frac{\mathbb{D}_{(1-xy, x-y)}^{(k)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{k+1} \\ x_1, \dots, x_{k-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{F(x)\}}{\mathbb{D}_{(1-xy, x-y)}^{(k)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k \\ x_1, \dots, x_{k-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{F(x)\}}. \quad (29)$$

Then there exists an open set Ω_1 containing b such that for $x \in \Omega_1$,

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (1 - x_k b_k) \left\{ \mathbb{D}_{(1-xy, x-y)}^{(k)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_k \\ x_1, \dots, x_{k-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{F(x)\} \right\} \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (b_i - x)}{\prod_{i=1}^k (1 - xx_i)}. \quad (30)$$

Remark 4. It is also worthy of note that Fu and Lascoux, in their paper [13], established a similar expansion formula in the setting of formal power series by virtue of a divided difference operator acting on multivariate function. For a discussion of this divided difference operator and related matters, the reader may consult [29].

E1. The $(1 - xy, x - y)$ -expansion form of Gessel and Stanton's q -analogue

一个被人们忽视(包括Gessel and Stanton本人)的事实:定理 9其实是蕴含了 Gessel and Stanton的结果的 (f, g) -展开公式形式. 这一公式统一了刘治国的展开公式 (因此Carlitz's q -模拟.)

Theorem 10. [Gessel and Stanton's q -analogue (3)/(4)] *Let $|p|, |q| < 1$ and $F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ be arbitrary power series with the nonzero radius R of convergence and be also convergent at $x = R$. Assume further R is not of the form $q^n (n \geq 0)$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n+1}/a_n = c_0$, and $0 < m|c_0|^n \leq |a_n| \leq M|c_0|^n$. Then*

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G_3(k)(1 - Ap^k q^k) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (q^i - x)}{(q; q)_k (Apq; p)_k}$$

where the coefficients

$$G_3(n) = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} q^{\binom{k+1}{2} - nk} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q (Apq^k; p)_{n-1} F(q^k); \quad (31)$$

Remark 5. We obtain it only by specializing $b_i = q^i$, $x_i = Ap^i$ in (30). It can be regarded as initial study on the representation problem of $F(x)$ in terms of (f, g) -series.

Remark 6. Liu's q -expansion formula (5) follows from the q -analogue of Gessel and Stanton by substituting $p \mapsto q$, $A \mapsto a$, $x \mapsto x/aq$, and Identity (2) is the special case $a \mapsto 0$ of (5).

G. Two illustrative examples

Example 2. For $|q| < 1$ and a variable $z : |z| < 1$,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a; q)_n}{(q; q)_n} z^n = \frac{(az; q)_{\infty}}{(z; q)_{\infty}} \quad (32)$$

is equivalent to its finite form

$$\sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k q^{\binom{k+1}{2} - nk} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q (z; q)_k = z^n \iff \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k q^{\binom{k}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q c^k = (c; q)_n. \quad (33)$$

Proof. Now, we replace the parameter a by a new variable x and take z

as a parameter, and then reformulate (32) as

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{(q; q)_k} (x; q)_k = \frac{(zx; q)_{\infty}}{(z; q)_{\infty}},$$

which turns out to be equivalent to, under the substitution $x \mapsto 1/x, z \mapsto zx$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k z^k}{(q; q)_k} \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (q^i - x) = \frac{(z; q)_{\infty}}{(zx; q)_{\infty}}. \quad (34)$$

Letting $x = q^n$ yields a terminating summation formula

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k z^k}{(q; q)_k} \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (q^i - q^n) = (z; q)_n. \quad (35)$$

Now, applying the $(1, x - y)$ -inversion given in Lemma 1 to (35) to arrive at

$$\frac{(-1)^n z^n}{(q; q)_n} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(z; q)_k}{\prod_{i=0, i \neq k}^n (q^i - q^k)},$$

which reduces after simplification to the desired result. Conversely, in the light of the $(1, x - y)$ -inversion, (33) is equivalent to (35), the latter states that (34) is valid for $x = q^n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. Then by the generalized “Ismail’s argument”, (34), i.e., the q -binomial theorem holds.

■

Another example of the $(1 - xy, x - y)$ -expansion formula, also a good case to illustrate the “Ismail’s argument”, is the following generalized Lebesgue identity due to Carlitz.

Example 3. For three indeterminates q, x, a with $|q| < 1$ and $|x| < 1$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k q^{\binom{k}{2}} \frac{(x; q)_k a^k}{(q, bx; q)_k} = \frac{(a, x; q)_{\infty}}{(bx; q)_{\infty}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(b; q)_k}{(q, a; q)_k} x^k. \quad (36)$$

Proof. At first, apply the substitution $b \mapsto b/y, x \mapsto xy, a \mapsto y$ to reformulate equivalently the identity in question as

$$F(y) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^k \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} g(b_i, y)}{(q; q)_k \prod_{i=1}^k f(x_i, y)}, \quad (37)$$

where $f(x, y) = 1 - xy, g(x, y) = x - y, b_i = bq^i, x_i = q^{i-1}$, and $F(y)$ is defined by

$$F(y) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^i q^{\binom{i}{2}} (bxq^i; q)_{\infty}}{(q; q)_i} \frac{y^i}{(y, xyq^i; q)_{\infty}}. \quad (38)$$

By the $(1 - xy, x - y)$ -expansion formula, it suffices to show in a direct way that

$$\frac{(bx)^n}{1 - bq^{2n-1}} = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k q^{\binom{k+1}{2} - nk} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q (bq^k; q)_{n-1} F(bq^k). \quad (39)$$

For this, we calculate by using Heine's transformation formula to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F(bq^k) &= \frac{(bx; q)_k}{(bq^k; q)_\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^i q^{\binom{i}{2}} (bq^k)^i (bxq^k; q)_i}{(q; q)_i (bx; q)_i} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q^{-k}; q)_i (bxq^k)^i}{(q, bq^k; q)_i} = \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i q^{\binom{i}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix}_q \frac{(bx)^i}{(bq^k; q)_i}. \end{aligned}$$

Inserting this into the r.h.s. of (39) to simplify the resulting identity, we

have

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{RHS of (39)} &= \sum_{n \geq k \geq i \geq 0} (-1)^{k+i} q^{\binom{k+1}{2} - nk + \binom{i}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \begin{bmatrix} k \\ i \end{bmatrix}_q \frac{(bq^k; q)_{n-1} (bx)^i}{(bq^k; q)_i} \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^n (bx)^i q^{-Ni} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ i \end{bmatrix}_q \sum_{K=0}^N (-1)^K q^{\binom{K+1}{2} - NK} \begin{bmatrix} N \\ K \end{bmatrix}_q \frac{(b; q)_{N+K+2i-1}}{(b; q)_{K+2i}},
\end{aligned}$$

where $N = n - i$, $K = k - i$. Evidently, if $N \geq 1$, then

$$\frac{(b; q)_{N+K+2i-1}}{(b; q)_{K+2i}} = (bq^{K+2i}; q)_{N-1}.$$

Since for fixed i , $(bq^{2i}x; q)_{N-1}$ is a polynomial of degree no more than $N - 1$ in x , thus by a proposition of the difference operator, we find that

the inner sum turns out to be

$$\sum_{K=0}^N (-1)^K q^{\binom{K+1}{2} - NK} \begin{bmatrix} N \\ K \end{bmatrix}_q \frac{(b; q)_{N+K+2i-1}}{(b; q)_{K+2i}} = 0.$$

Thus, the only nonzero term corresponding to $N = 0$ of the r.h.s. of (39) is $(bx)^n / (1 - bq^{2n-1})$. It gives the complete proof of (39). ■

结束语

We hope that the generalized “Ismail’s argument” or the representation of analytic functions in terms of (f, g) -series in this article is a new general approach to the basic hypergeometric series. 下面三个问题有待于进一步研究

1. 求 $F(x)$, 使得 $F(x) \in \mathcal{H}(\Omega)$ 的 n 阶 (f, g) -差分

$$\mathbb{D}_{(f,g)}^{(n)} \left[\begin{matrix} b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \\ x_1, \dots, x_{n-1} \end{matrix} \right] \{F(x)\}$$

是封闭的 ?

2. The (f, g) -expansion formula of $F(x)$ is in fact a rational approximation to $F(x)$ if $f(x, y)$ and $g(x, y)$ are polynomials of two

variables x and y . Thus, it is necessary to study application of this expansion formula as well as the n -th order (f, g) -difference operator in the theory of (numerical) approximation.

3. The same problem remains open to the expansion formula (28), i.e.,

$$F(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} G_2(k) b_k \theta(x_k b_k) \theta\left(\frac{x_k}{b_k}\right) \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} \theta(b_i x) \theta\left(\frac{b_i}{x}\right)}{\prod_{i=1}^k \theta(x_i x) \theta\left(\frac{x_i}{x}\right)}, \quad (40)$$

in the theory of elliptic hypergeometric series [45].

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