

# Heun differential equation satisfied by some classical biorthogonal rational functions.

Preliminary notes.

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*'We must always remember that we are part [sic] of the Continent,  
but we must never forget that we are neighbours to it.*

Bolingbroke, quoted in André Maurois's *History of England*,  
the English translation of 1937. The original French text gives the right translation  
"voisins, mais non partie".

Abstract. We consider a special family of classical biorthogonal rational functions and their differential equations. They are NOT hypergeometric, but neighbours to it, actually, **Heun's** differential equations!

## 1. Biorthogonal rational functions.

### 1.1. Orthogonality.

Let two sequences  $\{a_0, a_1, \dots\}$ ,  $\{b_0, b_1, \dots\}$  be given. With polynomials  $P_n$  and  $Q_m$  of degrees  $\leq n$  and  $m$ , let

$$p_n(x) = \frac{P_n(x)}{(x - a_0) \cdots (x - a_n)} \quad \text{and} \quad q_m(x) = \frac{Q_m(x)}{(x - b_0) \cdots (x - b_{m+1})} \quad (1)$$

be orthogonal when  $m \neq n$  with respect to the bilinear form

$$\langle f, g \rangle = \int_c^d f(t)g(t)w(t)dt.$$

This also means that, when  $n \geq 1$ ,  $P_n$  is orthogonal to all polynomials of degree  $< n$  with respect to  $\frac{w(t)}{(t-x_0)(t-x_1)\cdots(t-x_{2n+1})}$ , where  $x_{2k} = a_k, x_{2k+1} = b_k, k = 0, 1, \dots$ . So,

$$P_0 = 1, P_1(x) = x - x_3 - \frac{\mu_2}{\mu_3}, \text{ where } \mu_r = \int_c^d \frac{w(t)dt}{(t-x_0)\cdots(t-x_r)}.$$

Existence, and unicity up to multiplication by constants, depends on the nonvanishing of some determinants of the moments  $\mu_{rs}$  [17, 18], see also, of course, introductions to biorthogonality in general [3], [4, § 2.6].

Of course,  $Q_m$  satisfies similar, but not exactly the same, orthogonality conditions. Orthogonality now holds with respect to  $\frac{w(t)}{(t-a_0)(t-a_1)\cdots(t-a_{m-1})(t-b_0)(t-b_1)\cdots(t-b_{m+1})} = \frac{w(t)}{(t-x_0)(t-x_1)\cdots(t-x_{2m-2})(t-x_{2m-1})(t-x_{2m+1})(t-x_{2m+3})}$ . The polynomials  $Q_m$  will not be needed further here.

### 1.2. Recurrence relations.

One has

$$P_{n+1}(x) = (r_n x + r'_n)P_n(x) + s_n(x - x_{2n})(x - x_{2n+1})P_{n-1}(x), \quad P_{-1}(x) \equiv 0, P_0(x) \equiv 1. \quad (2)$$

cf.  $R_{II}$ -type in Ismail & Masson [9, p. 14].

Indeed, with  $r_n x + r'_n$  being the first degree polynomial interpolating  $P_{n+1}(x)/P_n(x)$  at  $x = x_{2n}$  and  $x_{2n+1}$ , see that  $\frac{P_{n+1}(x) - (r_n x + r'_n)P_n(x)}{(x - x_{2n})(x - x_{2n+1})}$  is orthogonal to any polynomial of degree  $< n - 1$  with respect to  $w(t)/[(t - x_0)(t - x_1)\cdots(t - x_{2n-1})]$ .

## 2. Rational interpolation.

There is a polynomial  $N_n$  of degree  $n + 1$  such that  $N_n/P_n$  interpolates the Stieltjes, or Markov, function of  $w$ :

$$S(x) = \int_c^d \frac{w(t)dt}{x - t}$$

at  $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{2n+1}$  [12, § 3].

Polynomial interpolation of  $P_n(x)S(x)$  at  $x_0, \dots, x_{2n+1}$  has normally a degree  $2n + 1$ , but the actual degree is found by describing the interpolant from

$$P_n(x)S(x) = \underbrace{\int_c^d \frac{P_n(x) - P_n(t)}{x - t} w(t)dt}_{\text{a polynomial}} + \int_c^d \frac{P_n(t)w(t)dt}{x - t}, \text{ where we replace } 1/(x - t) \text{ by}$$

its polynomial interpolant in  $x$  at  $x = x_0, \dots, x_{2n+1}$ . This interpolant, for a fixed  $t$ , is  $\frac{(t - x_0)\cdots(t - x_{2n+1}) - (x - x_0)\cdots(x - x_{2n+1})}{(t - x_0)\cdots(t - x_{2n+1})(x - t)}$ , and is a linear combination of ratios

$\frac{t^r - x^r}{x - t}$  with  $r \leq 2n + 2$ , so of terms  $t^u x^v$  with  $u + v = r - 1 \leq 2n + 1$ . From the orthogonality properties of  $P_n$ , the integrals of  $P_n(t)t^u$  vanish when  $u < n$ , only  $x^v$  remain when  $u \geq n$ , so  $v = r - 1 - u \leq r - 1 - n \leq 2n + 1 - n = n + 1$ .

$$\frac{N_n(x)}{P_n(x)} = r_{-1}x + r'_{-1} + \frac{s_0(x-x_0)(x-x_1)}{r_0x + r'_0 + \frac{s_1(x-x_2)(x-x_3)}{\ddots \frac{s_{n-1}(x-x_{2n-2})(x-x_{2n-1})}{r_{n-2}x + r'_{n-2} + \frac{s_{n-1}(x-x_{2n-2})(x-x_{2n-1})}{r_{n-1}x + r'_{n-1}}}}$$

$P_{-1} = 0, P_0 = 1, P_1(x) = r_0x + r'_0, P_2(x) = (r_0x + r'_0)(r_1x + r'_1) + s_1(x-x_0)(x-x_1).$   
 $N_{-1} = 1, N_0(x) = r_{-1}x + r'_{-1}, N_1 = (r_0x + r'_0)(r_{-1}x + r'_{-1}) + s_0(x-x_0)(x-x_1),$  etc.

$N_0$  interpolates  $S$  at  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ , so  $r_{-1} = \frac{S(x_1) - S(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} = \mu_1.$

Casorati:

$$N_{n-1}(x)P_n(x) - N_n(x)P_{n-1}(x) = (-1)^n s_0 \cdots s_{n-1} (x-x_0) \cdots (x-x_{2n-1}) \quad (3)$$

**Two-Points Padé Approximants** occur when  $a_k = a, b_k = b, \forall k.$  The interpolation property is then an order property  $\frac{N_n(x)}{P_n(x)} - S(x) = O([(x-a)(x-b)]^{n+1}),$  and (3) above is now

$$N_{n-1}(x)P_n(x) - N_n(x)P_{n-1}(x) = (-1)^n s_0 \cdots s_{n-1} (x-a)^n (x-b)^n \quad (4)$$

The rather strange choice in (1) (why  $b_{m+1}?$ ) ensures same powers of  $(x-a)$  and  $(x-b)$  in (4).

**Laurent expansions setting.** Let  $z = \frac{x-a}{x-b},$  so,  $x = \frac{bz-a}{z-1}.$  Taylor series in powers of  $x-a$  and  $x-b$  are expansions in  $x-a = \frac{(a-b)z}{1-z} = (a-b)(z+z^2+z^3+\cdots)$  and  $x-b = \frac{a-b}{z-1} = (a-b)(z^{-1}+z^{-2}+\cdots).$

### 3. Classical families.

Among the various ways to define a classical family of orthogonal functions [2, § 5], consider the Sonine-Hahn criterion: the derivatives  $P'_n$  are themselves involved in some family of biorthogonal rational functions, so they satisfy recurrence relations leading to differential relations and equations for  $P_n.$

Zhedanov [19] finds linear recurrence relations for the coefficients of the Laurent expansion of  $S$  in powers of  $z = \frac{x-a}{x-b},$  leading to a differential equation of the form  $AdS/dz = BS,$  with polynomials  $A$  and  $B$  of degrees 2 and 1.

Returning to  $x$  such that  $z = (x-a)/(x-b),$  one finds  $X(x)S'(x) = Y(x)S(x),$  and we may suspect that its rational approximation  $N_n(x)/P_n(x) = S(x) + O([(x-a)(x-b)]^{n+1})$  satisfies almost the same differential equation, and this also leads to differential relations and equations for  $P_n$  (Laguerre [11]).

Most general classical weight function for orthogonal polynomials is essentially the Jacobi  $(d-t)^\alpha(t-c)^\beta.$  Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (x-c)(x-d)S(x) &= \int_c^d \frac{(x-c)(x-d) - (t-c)(t-d)}{x-t} w(t) dt - \int_c^d \frac{(d-t)^{\alpha+1}(t-c)^{\beta+1}}{x-t} dt, \\
 d[(x-c)(x-d)S(x)]/dx &= \mu_{0,0} - \int_c^d \frac{d[(d-t)^{\alpha+1}(t-c)^{\beta+1}]/dt}{x-t} dt, \\
 (x-c)(x-d)S'(x) + (2x-c-d)S(x) &= \mu_{0,0} + (\alpha+1)[- \mu_{0,0} + (x-c)S(x)] - (\beta+1)[\mu_{0,0} - \\
 (x-d)S(x)]: \\
 (x-c)(x-d)S'(x) &= [(\alpha+\beta)x - \alpha c - \beta d]S(x) - (\alpha+\beta+1)\mu_{0,0}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Of special interest is  $\alpha + \beta + 1 = 0$ , we then have  $S(x) =$  a constant times  $(x-d)^\alpha(x-c)^{-1-\alpha}$ , studied by Grosjean [6], by Komlov and Suetin [10].

### 4. Chebyshev family of biorthogonal rational functions.

We even take a simpler case  $\alpha = \beta = -1/2$ ,  $d = -c$ ,  $b = -a$ , so to have a completely symmetric situation. In order to have  $S(a) = 1$ , let

$$S(x) = \sqrt{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2}}, \tag{5}$$

where the square root is a continuous function outside  $x \in [c, -c]$ , so that  $S$  is an odd function.

#### 4.1. Recurrence relations.

In particular,  $S(b) = S(-a) = -1$ , whence the first approximation  $N_0(x)/P_0(x) = x/a$  with  $r_{-1} = 1/a$ . All the  $r'_n = 0$ .

We start the continued fraction expansion:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S(x) &= \sqrt{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2}} = \frac{x}{a} + \sqrt{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2}} - \frac{x}{a} = \frac{x}{a} + \frac{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2} - \frac{x^2}{a^2}}{\sqrt{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2}} + \frac{x}{a}} \\
 &= \frac{x}{a} + \frac{x^2 - a^2}{\frac{a^2(x^2 - c^2)}{c^2 - a^2 - x^2} \left[ \sqrt{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2}} + \frac{x}{a} \right]}}, \text{ yielding the ratio}
 \end{aligned}$$

$s_0/r_0$ . A convenient choice is  $r_0 = 2(1 - a^2/c^2)$  and  $as_0 = -1 + 2a^2/c^2$ . More details on  $r_n$  and  $s_n$  are not given here, they involve values of the Chebyshev polynomials  $T_n$  and  $U_n$  at the argument  $a/c$ , see the method suggested in § 5.

#### 4.2. Differential relations.

We expect the approximation  $N_n/P_n$  to satisfy differential relations close to the differential equation  $(x^2 - c^2)dS(x)/dx + xS(x) = 0$ :  $(x^2 - c^2)(N_n(x)/P_n(x))' + xN_n(x)/P_n(x) = O((x^2 - a^2)^n)$ . Multiply by  $P_n^2(x)$ , the left-hand side being a polynomial, so is the right-hand side:

$$(x^2 - c^2)[N'_n(x)P_n(x) - N_n(x)P'_n(x)] + xN_n(x)P_n(x) = (x^2 - a^2)^n \Theta_n(x),$$

where  $\Theta_n$  is a polynomial of degree 2 (Laguerre's [11] notations!)

$\Theta_0(x) = (2x^2 - c^2)/a$ , etc.

We also have

$$[(x^2 - c^2)^{1/2}N_n(x)]'P_n(x) - (x^2 - c^2)^{1/2}N_n(x)P_n(x)' = (x^2 - c^2)^{-1/2}(x^2 - a^2)^n\Theta_n(x). \quad (6)$$

With  $P_n(x) = C_nx^n + \dots$  and  $(x^2 - c^2)^{1/2}N_n(x) = x^{n+2}/a + \dots$  for large  $x$ , we find the coeff. of  $x^2$  to be  $2C_n$ :  $\Theta_n(x) = 2C_nx^2 + \Theta_n(0)$ .

To get rid of the numerator polynomials  $N_n$ , subtract

$$(x^2 - c^2) \left( \frac{N_{n+1}(x)}{P_{n+1}(x)} - \frac{N_n(x)}{P_n(x)} \right)' + x \left( \frac{N_{n+1}(x)}{P_{n+1}(x)} - \frac{N_n(x)}{P_n(x)} \right) = \frac{(x^2 - a^2)^{n+1}\Theta_{n+1}(x)}{P_{n+1}^2(x)} - \frac{(x^2 - a^2)^n\Theta_n(x)}{P_n^2(x)}.$$

and derivate the Casorati identity (4) in the left-hand side, so

$$\begin{aligned} & (-1)^n s_0 \cdots s_n \left[ (x^2 - c^2) \left( \frac{(x^2 - a^2)^{n+1}}{P_n(x)P_{n+1}(x)} \right)' + x \frac{(x^2 - a^2)^{n+1}}{P_n(x)P_{n+1}(x)} \right] \\ &= \frac{(x^2 - a^2)^{n+1}\Theta_{n+1}(x)}{P_{n+1}^2(x)} - \frac{(x^2 - a^2)^n\Theta_n(x)}{P_n^2(x)} \end{aligned}$$

or  $(-1)^n s_0 \cdots s_n \{ (x^2 - c^2)[2(n+1)xP_n(x)P_{n+1}(x) - (x^2 - a^2)(P_n'(x)P_{n+1}(x) + P_n(x)P_{n+1}'(x))] + x(x^2 - a^2)P_n(x)P_{n+1}(x) \} = (x^2 - a^2)\Theta_{n+1}(x)P_n^2(x) - \Theta_n(x)P_{n+1}^2(x)$

Now, from  $AP_n + BP_{n+1} \equiv 0$ , form  $A \equiv \Omega_n P_{n+1}$  and  $B \equiv -\Omega_n P_n$ , with a polynomial  $\Omega_n$  (Laguerre [11, § 5, eq. (8)] again!).

$$(x^2 - c^2)[2(n+1)xP_n(x) - (x^2 - a^2)P_n'(x)] + x(x^2 - a^2)P_n(x) + \frac{(-1)^n\Theta_n(x)}{s_0 \cdots s_n}P_{n+1}(x) = \Omega_n(x)P_n(x),$$

which is our **differential relation**

$$UP_n' = V_n P_n + W_n P_{n+1}, \quad (7a)$$

with  $U(x) = (x^2 - a^2)(x^2 - c^2)$ ,  $V_n(x) = 2(n+1)x(x^2 - c^2) + x(x^2 - a^2) - \Omega_n(x)$ , and  $W_n(x) = \frac{(-1)^n\Theta_n(x)}{s_0 \cdots s_n}$ .

The second equation is

$$-(x^2 - c^2)(x^2 - a^2)P_{n+1}'(x) - (x^2 - a^2)\frac{(-1)^n\Theta_{n+1}(x)}{s_0 \cdots s_n}P_n(x) = -\Omega_n(x)P_{n+1}(x), \text{ or}$$

$$U(x)P_{n+1}'(x) = [2(n+1)x(x^2 - c^2) + x(x^2 - a^2) - V_n(x)]P_{n+1}(x) + s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)W_{n+1}(x)P_n(x) \quad (7b)$$

$n \rightarrow n+1$  in (7a) and subtraction:

$$V_{n+1}(x)P_{n+1}(x) + W_{n+1}(x) \overbrace{[P_{n+2}(x) - s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)P_n(x)]}^{r_{n+1}xP_{n+1}(x)} - [2(n+1)x(x^2 - c^2) + x(x^2 - a^2) - V_n(x)]P_{n+1}(x) = 0,$$

so  $V_{n+1}(x) + V_n(x) + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}(x) - 2(n+1)x(x^2 - c^2) - x(x^2 - a^2) = 0$ , or

$2(n+2)x(x^2 - c^2) + x(x^2 - a^2) + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}(x) = \Omega_{n+1}(x) + \Omega_n(x)$ , confirming by the way that the  $\Omega_n$ s are polynomials, here: odd cubics.

When  $x$  is a zero of  $U$ , i.e., when  $x = \pm a$  or  $x = \pm c$ , (7a-7b) show  $\frac{P_{n+1}(x)}{P_n(x)} = -\frac{V_n(x)}{W_n(x)} =$

$$-\frac{s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)W_{n+1}(x)}{2(n+1)x(x^2 - c^2) + x(x^2 - a^2) - V_n(x)} = -\frac{s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)W_{n+1}(x)}{V_{n+1}(x) + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}(x)},$$

so,  $V_n(x)[V_{n+1}(x) + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}(x)] = s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)W_n(x)W_{n+1}(x)$  at the zeros of  $U$ .

#### 4.3. Differential equation.

From  $UP'_n = V_nP_n + W_nP_{n+1}$ , put  $P'_{n+1} = \{V_{n+1}P_{n+1} + W_{n+1}[r_{n+1}xP_{n+1}(x) + s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)P_n(x)]\}/U$ , into the derivative of  $P_{n+1} = [UP'_n - V_nP_n]/W_n$ :

$$\left[\frac{UP'_n - V_nP_n}{W_n}\right]' = \frac{V_{n+1} + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}}{U} \frac{UP'_n - V_nP_n}{W_n} + \frac{s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)W_{n+1}P_n}{U},$$

$$UW_nP''_n + \left\{ U'W_n - UW'_n - W_n \left[ \underbrace{V_n + V_{n+1} + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}}_{x[2(n+1)(x^2 - c^2) + x^2 - a^2]} \right] \right\} P'_n$$

$$+ \left[ V_nW'_n - V'_nW_n + W_n(x) \frac{V_n(V_{n+1} + r_{n+1}xW_{n+1}) - s_{n+1}(x^2 - a^2)W_{n+1}W_n(x)}{U(x)} \right] P_n = 0$$

Remark that the coefficient of  $P'_n$  inside the curly braces is  $-UW_n$  times the logarithmic derivative of the **Wronskian** which is therefore  $\mathscr{W}_n(x) = (x^2 - c^2)^{-1/2}(x^2 - a^2)^n W_n(x)$ , and that is exactly (6)! So that the solutions of the differential equation are  $y = P_n(x)$  AND  $y = (x^2 - c^2)^{1/2}N_n(x)$  [10] in

$$U(x)W_n(x) \left\{ y'' + \left[ \frac{x}{x^2 - c^2} - \frac{2nx}{x^2 - a^2} - \frac{W'_n(x)}{W_n(x)} \right] y' \right\} + K_n(x)y = 0, \quad (8)$$

where  $K_n$  is a polynomial of degree  $\leq 4$ .

#### 4.4. Heun.

Let  $W_n(x) = (W''_n/2)(x^2 - \theta_n)$ . The equation (8) has three singular points  $a^2, c^2$ , and  $\theta_n$  in the bounded  $x^2$ -plane. This suggests that we are close to the Heun equation

$$(u - \mathbf{a})(u - \mathbf{b})(u - \mathbf{c}) \left\{ \frac{d^2Y}{du^2} + \left[ \frac{\gamma}{u - \mathbf{a}} + \frac{\delta}{u - \mathbf{b}} + \frac{\epsilon}{u - \mathbf{c}} \right] \frac{dY}{du} \right\} + (\alpha\beta u - Q)Y = 0. \quad (9)$$

When  $u \rightarrow \infty$ , a  $u^\rho$  behaviour implies  $\rho(\rho - 1) + (\gamma + \delta + \epsilon)\rho + \alpha\beta = 0 \Rightarrow \rho = -\alpha$  and  $-\beta$ , with  $\alpha + \beta = \gamma + \delta + \epsilon - 1$  [5, 8, 13, 15, 16]. It seems obvious that (8) becomes (9) by taking  $u = x^2$ , but a new singularity rises then at the origin. Considering that the expansions of the two solutions of (8) for large  $x$  are  $P_n(x) = C_n x^n + O(x^{n-2})$  and  $(x^2 - c^2)^{1/2}N_n(x) = x^{n+2}/a + O(x^n)$ , we kill the singularity at  $x = \infty$  by building the differential equation for  $x^{-n-2}y$ , and by taking the new variable  $t = 1/x^2$ .

4.4.1. *First*, the equation for  $\tilde{y} = x^{-n-2}y$ :

$$U(x)W_n(x) \left\{ x^2\tilde{y}'' + 2(n+2)x\tilde{y}' + (n+2)(n+1)\tilde{y} + \left[ \frac{x}{x^2 - c^2} - \frac{2nx}{x^2 - a^2} - \frac{W'_n(x)}{W_n(x)} \right] [x^2\tilde{y}' + (n+2)x\tilde{y}] \right\}$$

$$+ K_n(x)x^2\tilde{y} = 0.$$

$$U(x)W_n(x) \left\{ x^2\tilde{y}'' + x \left[ 3 + \frac{c^2}{x^2 - c^2} - \frac{2na^2}{x^2 - a^2} - \frac{2\theta_n}{x^2 - \theta_n} \right] \tilde{y}' \right\} + \tilde{K}_n(x)\tilde{y} = 0, \text{ with}$$

$$\tilde{K}_n(x) = (n+1)(n+2)UW_n + (n+2)xUW_n \left[ \frac{x}{x^2 - c^2} - \frac{2nx}{x^2 - a^2} - \frac{W'_n(x)}{W_n(x)} \right] + x^2K_n(x),$$

an even polynomial of degree  $\leq 6$ .

Seems worse than before, but the degree of  $\tilde{K}_n$  is only 2! Indeed, put the solution  $\tilde{y} = ax^{-n-2}(x^2 - c^2)^{1/2}N_n(x) = 1 + \zeta_n/x^2 + \dots$  for large  $x$  in the differential equation:

$$\tilde{K}_n(x) = -U(x)W_n(x) \left\{ x^2 \frac{\tilde{y}''}{\tilde{y}} + x \left[ 3 + \frac{c^2}{x^2 - c^2} - \frac{2na^2}{x^2 - a^2} - \frac{2\theta_n}{x^2 - \theta_n} \right] \frac{\tilde{y}'}{\tilde{y}} \right\} = O(x^2).$$

$\tilde{K}_n(0) = (n+1)(n+2)U(0)W_n(0) = -(n+1)(n+2)a^2c^2\theta_n$  is especially interesting,  $\tilde{K}_n(x) = (\tilde{K}_n''/2)x^2 - (n+1)(n+2)a^2c^2\theta_n$ .

4.4.2. Finally,  $t = 1/x^2 : x = t^{-1/2}, Y(t) = \tilde{y}(x)$ ,

$$(1/t - a^2)(1/t - c^2)(1/t - \theta_n) \left\{ t^{-1} 2t^{3/2} \frac{d}{dt} \left[ 2t^{3/2} \frac{dY}{dt} \right] - 2t^{-1/2} \left[ 3 + \frac{c^2}{1/t - c^2} - \frac{2na^2}{1/t - a^2} - \frac{2\theta_n}{1/t - \theta_n} \right] t^{3/2} \frac{dY}{dt} \right\} +$$

$$[(\tilde{K}_n''/2)t^{-1} - (n+1)(n+2)a^2c^2\theta_n]Y = 0,$$

$$(1 - a^2t)(1 - c^2t)(1 - \theta_nt) \left\{ 4 \frac{d^2Y}{dt^2} - 2 \left[ \frac{c^2}{1 - c^2t} - \frac{2na^2}{1 - a^2t} - \frac{2\theta_n}{1 - \theta_nt} \right] \frac{dY}{dt} \right\} + t\tilde{K}_n(t^{-1/2})Y = 0$$

$$(t - 1/a^2)(t - 1/c^2)(t - 1/\theta_n) \left\{ \frac{d^2Y}{dt^2} + \left[ \frac{1/2}{t - 1/c^2} - \frac{n}{t - 1/a^2} - \frac{1}{t - 1/\theta_n} \right] \frac{dY}{dt} \right\} + \left[ \frac{(n+1)(n+2)}{4}t - \frac{\tilde{K}_n''/2}{4a^2c^2\theta_n} \right] Y = 0 \quad (10)$$

is our Heun equation. It has two Frobenius-polynomial solutions  $t^{(n+2)/2}P_n(t^{-1/2})$ ,  $(t - 1/c^2)^{1/2}t^{(n+1)/2}N_n(t^{-1/2})$ , a much studied property [5, 7, 8, 13, 15, 16].

## 5. Another square root story.

There is of course an  $\infty$  simpler continued fraction expansion of our square root function, with constant coefficients:

$$\sqrt{\frac{a^2 - c^2}{x^2 - c^2}} = \frac{1}{x/a + \frac{c^2(x^2 - a^2)/[a^2(a^2 - c^2)]}{2x/a + \frac{c^2(x^2 - a^2)/[a^2(a^2 - c^2)]}{2x/a + \dots}}}$$

see also Ismail & Masson [9, Example 3.1, p. 18]. Let  $\tilde{P}_n$  be the polynomials of interest here.

They are now true Chebyshev polynomials  $\tilde{P}_n(x) = \left( \frac{c^2(x^2 - a^2)}{a^2(c^2 - a^2)} \right)^{n/2} T_n \left( \frac{x}{c} \sqrt{\frac{c^2 - a^2}{x^2 - a^2}} \right)$ ,

orthogonal with respect to  $w(t)/(t^2 - a^2)^n$  instead of  $w(t)/(t^2 - a^2)^{n+1}$ . This means that the  $P_n$  of before is related to a modified weight function involving multiplication or division by a polynomial (Christoffel, Uvarov):  $\frac{P_{n+2}(x)P_n(a) - P_{n+2}(a)P_n(x)}{x^2 - a^2} = \text{constant } \tilde{P}_n(x)$ .

Recurrence relations of the  $P_n$ s involve special values

$$\tilde{P}_n(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} 2^{n-1} \left( \frac{c^2(x^2 - a^2)}{a^2(c^2 - a^2)} \right)^{n/2} \left( \frac{x}{c} \sqrt{\frac{c^2 - a^2}{x^2 - a^2}} \right)^n = 2^{n-1}.$$

$$\text{Coefficient of } x^n \text{ in } \tilde{P}_n = \left( \frac{c^2}{a^2(c^2 - a^2)} \right)^{n/2} T_n \left( \sqrt{1 - a^2/c^2} \right).$$

This may lead to recurrence coefficients, and even differential properties and equations, by particular methods [13, 14], but we plan to study other classical biorthogonal rational functions, when these modified weight function techniques do not apply.

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