

# Newton's Method as a Formal Recurrence

CARL EDQUIST, SAM LACHTERMAN, BRENDAN YOUNGER, HAL CANARY  
University of Wisconsin–Madison

May 7, 2004

## Non-commuting Algebra

We have defined  $P_n$  and  $Q_n$  with  $P_0(x) = x$  and  $Q_0(x) = 1$ . If we instead let  $P_0(x) = x$  and  $Q_0(x) = y$ , it can be verified that we get slightly different formula:

$$P_n(x, y) = a^{2^n-1}x^{2^n} + \sum_{k=0}^{(2^n-2)} \sum_{i=1}^{(2^n-k-1)} (-1)^i \binom{2^n}{k} \binom{2^n-k-i-1}{i-1} a^{k+i-1} b^{2^n-k-2i} c^i x^k y^{2^n-k}$$

$$Q_n(x, y) = \sum_{k=0}^{(2^n-1)} \sum_{i=0}^{(2^n-k-1)} (-1)^i \binom{2^n}{k} \binom{2^n-k-i-1}{i} a^{k+i} b^{2^n-k-2i-1} c^i x^k y^{2^n-k}$$

But suppose that  $x$  and  $y$  do not commute, but rather satisfy the formula  $yx = qxy$ . What happens? If we define

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \prod_{i=1}^{n-k} \frac{1-q^{i+k}}{1-q^i}$$

then the  $q$ -version of the binomial formula is: [1]

$$(x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q x^k y^{n-k}.$$

**Conjecture 1.** *If  $yx = qxy$  and if  $P_n(x, y)$  and  $Q_n(x, y)$  are defined by*

$$P_0 = x \quad Q_0 = y$$

$$P_{n+1} = aP_n^2 - cQ_n^2 \quad Q_{n+1} = aP_nQ_n + aQ_nP_n + bQ_nQ_n.$$

then

$$P_n(x, y) = a^{2^n-1}x^{2^n} + \sum_{k=0}^{(2^n-2)} \sum_{i=1}^{(2^n-k-1)} (-1)^i \begin{bmatrix} 2^n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \binom{2^n-k-i-1}{i-1} a^{k+i-1} b^{2^n-k-2i} c^i x^k y^{2^n-k}$$

$$Q_n(x, y) = \sum_{k=0}^{(2^n-1)} \sum_{i=0}^{(2^n-k-1)} (-1)^i \begin{bmatrix} 2^n \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q \binom{2^n-k-i-1}{i} a^{k+i} b^{2^n-k-2i-1} c^i x^k y^{2^n-k}.$$

It is not clear to us that the proof we provided for Theorem (??) is applicable to this more general conjecture.

## References

- [1] Marcel Paul Schützenberger. Une interprétation de certaines solutions de l'équation fonctionnelle:  $F(x + y) = F(x)F(y)$ . *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris*, 236:352–353, 1953.