

# A classification of sharp tridiagonal pairs

Tatsuro Ito   Kazumasa Nomura   Paul Terwilliger

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We will describe its features such as the eigenvalues, dual eigenvalues, shape, tridiagonal relations, split decomposition and parameter array.

We will then define an algebra  $\mathbb{T}$  by generators and relations, and prove a theorem about its structure called the  $\mu$ -**Theorem**.

We will use the  $\mu$ -Theorem to obtain a **Classification Theorem** for sharp tridiagonal pairs.

# Leonard pairs

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The following matrices are tridiagonal.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 & 3 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Tridiagonal means each nonzero entry lies on either the diagonal, the subdiagonal, or the superdiagonal.

The tridiagonal matrix on the left is **irreducible**. This means each entry on the subdiagonal is nonzero and each entry on the superdiagonal is nonzero.

# The Definition of a Leonard Pair

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## Definition

Let  $V$  denote a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$  with finite positive dimension. By a **Leonard pair** on  $V$ , we mean a pair of linear transformations  $A : V \rightarrow V$  and  $A^* : V \rightarrow V$  which satisfy both conditions below.

- 1 There exists a basis for  $V$  with respect to which the matrix representing  $A$  is irreducible tridiagonal and the matrix representing  $A^*$  is diagonal.
- 2 There exists a basis for  $V$  with respect to which the matrix representing  $A^*$  is irreducible tridiagonal and the matrix representing  $A$  is diagonal.

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In a Leonard pair  $A, A^*$  the linear transformations  $A$  and  $A^*$  are arbitrary subject to (1), (2) above.

## Example of a Leonard pair

For any integer  $d \geq 0$  the pair

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & d & 0 & & & & \mathbf{0} \\ 1 & 0 & d-1 & & & & \\ & 2 & \cdot & \cdot & & & \\ & & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & & \\ & & & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & d & 0 & \end{pmatrix},$$

$$A^* = \text{diag}(d, d-2, d-4, \dots, -d)$$

is a Leonard pair on the vector space  $\mathbb{F}^{d+1}$ , provided the characteristic of  $\mathbb{F}$  is 0 or an odd prime greater than  $d$ .

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is a Leonard pair on the vector space  $\mathbb{F}^{d+1}$ , provided the characteristic of  $\mathbb{F}$  is 0 or an odd prime greater than  $d$ .

Reason: There exists an invertible matrix  $P$  such that  $P^{-1}AP = A^*$  and  $P^2 = 2^d I$ .



# Leonard pairs and orthogonal polynomials

There is a natural correspondence between the Leonard pairs and a family of orthogonal polynomials consisting of the following types:

$q$ -Racah,  
 $q$ -Hahn,  
dual  $q$ -Hahn,  
 $q$ -Krawtchouk,  
dual  $q$ -Krawtchouk,  
quantum  $q$ -Krawtchouk,  
affine  $q$ -Krawtchouk,  
Racah,  
Hahn,  
dual-Hahn,  
Krawtchouk,  
Bannai/Ito,  
orphans ( $\text{char}(\mathbb{F}) = 2$  only).

This family coincides with the terminating branch of the Askey scheme of orthogonal polynomials.

The theory of Leonard pairs is summarized in

P. Terwilliger: An algebraic approach to the Askey scheme of orthogonal polynomials. Orthogonal polynomials and special functions, 255–330, Lecture Notes in Math., 1883, Springer, Berlin, 2006; [arXiv:math.QA/0408390](https://arxiv.org/abs/math/0408390).

# Tridiagonal pairs

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As before, we consider a pair of linear transformations  $A : V \rightarrow V$  and  $A^* : V \rightarrow V$ .

# Definition of a Tridiagonal pair

We say the pair  $A, A^*$  is a **TD pair** on  $V$  whenever (1)–(4) hold below.

- 1 Each of  $A, A^*$  is diagonalizable on  $V$ .
- 2 There exists an ordering  $\{V_i\}_{i=0}^d$  of the eigenspaces of  $A$  such that

$$A^*V_i \subseteq V_{i-1} + V_i + V_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d),$$

where  $V_{-1} = 0, V_{d+1} = 0$ .

- 3 There exists an ordering  $\{V_i^*\}_{i=0}^\delta$  of the eigenspaces of  $A^*$  such that

$$AV_i^* \subseteq V_{i-1}^* + V_i^* + V_{i+1}^* \quad (0 \leq i \leq \delta),$$

where  $V_{-1}^* = 0, V_{\delta+1}^* = 0$ .

- 4 There is no subspace  $W \subseteq V$  such that  $AW \subseteq W$  and  $A^*W \subseteq W$  and  $W \neq 0$  and  $W \neq V$ .

# The diameter

Referring to our definition of a TD pair,

it turns out  $d = \delta$ ; we call this common value the **diameter** of the pair.



# Leonard pairs and Tridiagonal pairs

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A Leonard pair is the same thing as a tridiagonal pair for which the eigenspaces  $V_i$  and  $V_i^*$  all have dimension 1.

The concept of a TD pair originated in **algebraic graph theory**, or more precisely, the theory of  **$Q$ -polynomial distance-regular graphs**. See

T. Ito, K. Tanabe, and P. Terwilliger. Some algebra related to  $P$ - and  $Q$ -polynomial association schemes, in: *Codes and Association Schemes (Piscataway NJ, 1999)*, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence RI, 2001, pp. 167–192;  
arXiv:math.CO/0406556.

# TD pairs and TD systems

When working with a TD pair, it is helpful to consider a closely related object called a **TD system**.

We will define a TD system over the next few slides.

# Standard orderings

Referring to our definition of a TD pair,

An ordering  $\{V_i\}_{i=0}^d$  of the eigenspaces of  $A$  is called **standard** whenever

$$A^*V_i \subseteq V_{i-1} + V_i + V_{i+1} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d),$$

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In this case, the ordering  $\{V_{d-i}\}_{i=0}^d$  is also standard and no further ordering is standard.

A similar discussion applies to  $A^*$ .

# Primitive idempotents

Given an eigenspace of a diagonalizable linear transformation, the corresponding **primitive idempotent**  $E$  is the projection onto that eigenspace.



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Given an eigenspace of a diagonalizable linear transformation, the corresponding **primitive idempotent**  $E$  is the projection onto that eigenspace.

In other words  $E - I$  vanishes on the eigenspace and  $E$  vanishes on all the other eigenspaces.

## Definition

By a **TD system** on  $V$  we mean a sequence

$$\Phi = (A; \{E_i\}_{i=0}^d; A^*; \{E_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$$

that satisfies the following:

- 1  $A, A^*$  is a TD pair on  $V$ .
- 2  $\{E_i\}_{i=0}^d$  is a standard ordering of the primitive idempotents of  $A$ .
- 3  $\{E_i^*\}_{i=0}^d$  is a standard ordering of the primitive idempotents of  $A^*$ .

Until further notice we fix a TD system  $\Phi$  as above.

# The eigenvalues

For  $0 \leq i \leq d$  let  $\theta_i$  (resp.  $\theta_i^*$ ) denote the eigenvalue of  $A$  (resp.  $A^*$ ) associated with the eigenspace  $E_i V$  (resp.  $E_i^* V$ ).

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We call  $\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d$  (resp.  $\{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d$ ) the **eigenvalue sequence** (resp. **dual eigenvalue sequence**) of  $\Phi$ .

# A three-term recurrence

Theorem (Ito+Tanabe+T, 2001)

*The expressions*

$$\frac{\theta_{i-2} - \theta_{i+1}}{\theta_{i-1} - \theta_i}, \quad \frac{\theta_{i-2}^* - \theta_{i+1}^*}{\theta_{i-1}^* - \theta_i^*}$$

*are equal and independent of  $i$  for  $2 \leq i \leq d - 1$ .*

Let  $\beta + 1$  denote the common value of the above expressions.

# Solving the recurrence

For the above recurrence the “simplest” solution is

$$\theta_i = d - 2i \quad (0 \leq i \leq d),$$

$$\theta_i^* = d - 2i \quad (0 \leq i \leq d).$$

In this case  $\beta = 2$ .

For this solution our TD system  $\Phi$  is said to have **Krawtchouk type**.

## Solving the recurrence, cont.

For the above recurrence another solution is

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_i &= q^{d-2i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d), \\ \theta_i^* &= q^{d-2i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d), \\ q &\neq 0, \quad q^2 \neq 1, \quad q^2 \neq -1.\end{aligned}$$

In this case  $\beta = q^2 + q^{-2}$ .

For this solution  $\Phi$  is said to have  $q$ -**Krawtchouk type**.

## Solving the recurrence, cont.

For the above recurrence the “most general” solution is

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_i &= a + bq^{2i-d} + cq^{d-2i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d), \\ \theta_i^* &= a^* + b^*q^{2i-d} + c^*q^{d-2i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d), \\ q, a, b, c, a^*, b^*, c^* &\in \overline{\mathbb{F}}, \\ q \neq 0, \quad q^2 &\neq 1, \quad q^2 \neq -1, \quad bb^*cc^* \neq 0.\end{aligned}$$

In this case  $\beta = q^2 + q^{-2}$ .

For this solution  $\Phi$  is said to have  **$q$ -Racah type**.



# Some notation

For later use we define some polynomials in an indeterminate  $\lambda$ .

For  $0 \leq i \leq d$ ,

$$\tau_i = (\lambda - \theta_0)(\lambda - \theta_1) \cdots (\lambda - \theta_{i-1}),$$

$$\eta_i = (\lambda - \theta_d)(\lambda - \theta_{d-1}) \cdots (\lambda - \theta_{d-i+1}),$$

$$\tau_i^* = (\lambda - \theta_0^*)(\lambda - \theta_1^*) \cdots (\lambda - \theta_{i-1}^*),$$

$$\eta_i^* = (\lambda - \theta_d^*)(\lambda - \theta_{d-1}^*) \cdots (\lambda - \theta_{d-i+1}^*).$$

Note that each of  $\tau_i, \eta_i, \tau_i^*, \eta_i^*$  is monic with degree  $i$ .

# The shape

It is known that for  $0 \leq i \leq d$  the eigenspaces  $E_i V$ ,  $E_i^* V$  have the same dimension; we denote this common dimension by  $\rho_i$ .

Lemma (Ito+Tanabe+T, 2001)

The sequence  $\{\rho_i\}_{i=0}^d$  is **symmetric** and **unimodal**; that is

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_i &= \rho_{d-i} & (0 \leq i \leq d), \\ \rho_{i-1} &\leq \rho_i & (1 \leq i \leq d/2).\end{aligned}$$

We call the sequence  $\{\rho_i\}_{i=0}^d$  the **shape** of  $\Phi$ .

Theorem (Ito+Nomura+T, 2009)

*The shape  $\{\rho_i\}_{i=0}^d$  of  $\Phi$  satisfies*

$$\rho_i \leq \rho_0 \binom{d}{i} \quad (0 \leq i \leq d).$$

# The parameter $\rho_0$

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We will explain this after a few slides.

# Some relations

## Lemma

Our TD system  $\Phi = (A; \{E_i\}_{i=0}^d; A^*; \{E_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$  satisfies the following relations:

$$E_i E_j = \delta_{i,j} E_i, \quad E_i^* E_j^* = \delta_{i,j} E_i^* \quad 0 \leq i, j \leq d,$$

$$1 = \sum_{i=0}^d E_i, \quad 1 = \sum_{i=0}^d E_i^*,$$

$$A = \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i E_i, \quad A^* = \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i^* E_i^*,$$

$$E_i^* A^k E_j^* = 0 \quad \text{if } k < |i - j| \quad 0 \leq i, j, k \leq d,$$

$$E_i A^{*k} E_j = 0 \quad \text{if } k < |i - j| \quad 0 \leq i, j, k \leq d.$$

We call these last two equations the **triple product relations**.

Given the relations on the previous slide, it is natural to consider the algebra generated by  $A; A^*; \{E_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{E_i^*\}_{i=0}^d$ .



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We call this algebra  $T$ .

Consider the space  $E_0^* T E_0^*$ .

Observe that  $E_0^* T E_0^*$  is an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra with multiplicative identity  $E_0^*$ .

# The algebra $E_0^*TE_0^*$

Theorem (Ito+Nomura+T, 2007)

(i) The  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra  $E_0^*TE_0^*$  is commutative and generated by

$$E_0^*A^iE_0^* \quad 1 \leq i \leq d.$$

(ii)  $E_0^*TE_0^*$  has no zero-divisors; in other words it is a field.

(iii) Viewing this field as a field extension of  $\mathbb{F}$ , the index is  $\rho_0$ .

Corollary (Ito+Nomura+T, 2007)

*If  $\mathbb{F}$  is algebraically closed then  $\rho_0 = 1$ .*

We now consider some more relations in  $T$ .

# The tridiagonal relations

Theorem (Ito+Tanabe+T, 2001)

For our TD system  $\Phi$  there exist scalars  $\gamma, \gamma^*, \varrho, \varrho^*$  in  $\mathbb{F}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} A^3 A^* - (\beta + 1) A^2 A^* A + (\beta + 1) A A^* A^2 - A^* A^3 \\ = \gamma (A^2 A^* - A^* A^2) + \varrho (A A^* - A^* A), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} A^*{}^3 A - (\beta + 1) A^*{}^2 A A^* + (\beta + 1) A^* A A^*{}^2 - A A^*{}^3 \\ = \gamma^* (A^*{}^2 A - A A^*{}^2) + \varrho^* (A^* A - A A^*). \end{aligned}$$

The above equations are called the **tridiagonal relations**.

# The Dolan-Grady relations

In the Krawtchouk case the tridiagonal relations become the **Dolan-Grady relations**

$$[A, [A, [A, A^*]]] = 4[A, A^*],$$

$$[A^*, [A^*, [A^*, A]]] = 4[A^*, A].$$

Here  $[r, s] = rs - sr$ .

# The $q$ -Serre relations

In the  $q$ -Krawtchouk case the tridiagonal relations become the cubic  $q$ -**Serre relations**

$$A^3 A^* - [3]_q A^2 A^* A + [3]_q A A^* A^2 - A^* A^3 = 0,$$

$$A^* A^3 - [3]_q A^* A^2 A A^* + [3]_q A^* A A^* A^2 - A A^* A^3 = 0.$$

$$[n]_q = \frac{q^n - q^{-n}}{q - q^{-1}} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$



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If the ground field  $\mathbb{F}$  is algebraically closed then  $\Phi$  is sharp.

Until further notice assume  $\Phi$  is sharp.

# The split decomposition

For  $0 \leq i \leq d$  define

$$U_i = (E_0^* V + \cdots + E_i^* V) \cap (E_i V + \cdots + E_d V).$$

It is known that

$$V = U_0 + U_1 + \cdots + U_d \quad (\text{direct sum}),$$

and for  $0 \leq i \leq d$  both

$$U_0 + \cdots + U_i = E_0^* V + \cdots + E_i^* V,$$

$$U_i + \cdots + U_d = E_i V + \cdots + E_d V.$$

We call the sequence  $\{U_i\}_{i=0}^d$  the **split decomposition** of  $V$  with respect to  $\Phi$ .

# The split decomposition, cont.

## Theorem (Ito+Tanabe+T, 2001)

For  $0 \leq i \leq d$  both

$$\begin{aligned}(A - \theta_i I)U_i &\subseteq U_{i+1}, \\ (A^* - \theta_i^* I)U_i &\subseteq U_{i-1},\end{aligned}$$

where  $U_{-1} = 0$ ,  $U_{d+1} = 0$ .

# The split sequence, cont.

Observe that for  $0 \leq i \leq d$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}(A - \theta_{i-1}I) \cdots (A - \theta_1I)(A - \theta_0I)U_0 &\subseteq U_i, \\ (A^* - \theta_1^*I) \cdots (A^* - \theta_{i-1}^*I)(A^* - \theta_i^*I)U_i &\subseteq U_0.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $U_0$  is invariant under

$$(A^* - \theta_1^*I) \cdots (A^* - \theta_i^*I)(A - \theta_{i-1}I) \cdots (A - \theta_0I).$$

Let  $\zeta_i$  denote the corresponding eigenvalue and note that  $\zeta_0 = 1$ .

We call the sequence  $\{\zeta_i\}_{i=0}^d$  the **split sequence** of  $\Phi$ .

# Characterizing the split sequence

The split sequence  $\{\zeta_i\}_{i=0}^d$  is characterized as follows.

Lemma (Nomura+T, 2007)

For  $0 \leq i \leq d$ ,

$$E_0^* \tau_i(A) E_0^* = \frac{\zeta_i E_0^*}{(\theta_0^* - \theta_1^*)(\theta_0^* - \theta_2^*) \cdots (\theta_0^* - \theta_i^*)}$$



# A restriction on the split sequence

The split sequence  $\{\zeta_i\}_{i=0}^d$  satisfies two inequalities.

Lemma (Ito+Tanabe+T, 2001)

$$0 \neq E_0^* E_d E_0^*,$$

$$0 \neq E_0^* E_0 E_0^*.$$

Consequently

$$0 \neq \zeta_d,$$

$$0 \neq \sum_{i=0}^d \eta_{d-i}(\theta_0) \eta_{d-i}^*(\theta_0^*) \zeta_i.$$

# The parameter array

Lemma (Ito+ Nomura+T, 2008)

*The TD system  $\Phi$  is determined up to isomorphism by the sequence*

$$(\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d; \{\zeta_i\}_{i=0}^d).$$

We call this sequence the **parameter array** of  $\Phi$ .

# The $\mu$ -Theorem

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This has to do with an algebra  $\mathbb{T}$ .

$\mathbb{T}$  is an abstract version of  $T$  defined by generators and relations.

We will define  $\mathbb{T}$  shortly.

## Definition

Let  $d$  denote a nonnegative integer and let  $(\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$  denote a sequence of scalars taken from  $\mathbb{F}$ . This sequence is called **feasible** whenever both

- (i)  $\theta_i \neq \theta_j, \theta_i^* \neq \theta_j^*$  if  $i \neq j$  ( $0 \leq i, j \leq d$ );
- (ii) the expressions  $\frac{\theta_{i-2} - \theta_{i+1}}{\theta_{i-1} - \theta_i}, \frac{\theta_{i-2}^* - \theta_{i+1}^*}{\theta_{i-1}^* - \theta_i^*}$  are equal and independent of  $i$  for  $2 \leq i \leq d - 1$ .

# The algebra $\mathbb{T}$

## Definition

Fix a feasible sequence  $p = (\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$ . Let  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{T}(p, \mathbb{F})$  denote the  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra defined by generators  $a$ ,  $\{e_i\}_{i=0}^d$ ,  $a^*$ ,  $\{e_i^*\}_{i=0}^d$  and relations

$$e_i e_j = \delta_{i,j} e_i, \quad e_i^* e_j^* = \delta_{i,j} e_i^* \quad 0 \leq i, j \leq d,$$

$$1 = \sum_{i=0}^d e_i, \quad 1 = \sum_{i=0}^d e_i^*,$$

$$a = \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i e_i, \quad a^* = \sum_{i=0}^d \theta_i^* e_i^*,$$

$$e_i^* a^k e_j^* = 0 \quad \text{if } k < |i - j| \quad 0 \leq i, j, k \leq d,$$

$$e_i a^{*k} e_j = 0 \quad \text{if } k < |i - j| \quad 0 \leq i, j, k \leq d.$$



Over the next few slides, we explain how TD systems are related to finite-dimensional irreducible  $\mathbb{T}$ -modules.

## Lemma

Let  $(A; \{E_i\}_{i=0}^d; A^*; \{E_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$  denote a TD system on  $V$  with eigenvalue sequence  $\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d$  and dual eigenvalue sequence  $\{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d$ . Let  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{T}(p, \mathbb{F})$  where  $p = (\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$ . Then there exists a unique  $\mathbb{T}$ -module structure on  $V$  such that  $a, e_i, a^*, e_i^*$  acts as  $A, E_i, A^*, E_i^*$  respectively. This  $\mathbb{T}$ -module is irreducible.

## Lemma

Fix a feasible sequence  $p = (\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$  and write  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{T}(p, \mathbb{F})$ . Let  $V$  denote a finite-dimensional irreducible  $\mathbb{T}$ -module.

- (i) There exist nonnegative integers  $r, \delta$   
( $r + \delta \leq d$ ) such that for  $0 \leq i \leq d$ ,

$$e_i^* V \neq 0 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad r \leq i \leq r + \delta.$$

- (ii) There exist nonnegative integers  $t, \delta^*$   
( $t + \delta^* \leq d$ ) such that for  $0 \leq i \leq d$ ,

$$e_i V \neq 0 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad t \leq i \leq t + \delta^*.$$

- (iii)  $\delta = \delta^*$ .

- (iv) The sequence  $(a; \{e_i\}_{i=t}^{t+\delta}; a^*; \{e_i^*\}_{i=r}^{r+\delta})$  acts on  $V$  as a TD system of diameter  $\delta$ .

# The structure of $\mathbb{T}$

Fix a feasible sequence  $p = (\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$  and consider the  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{T}(p, \mathbb{F})$ .

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As we did with  $T$  we consider the space  $e_0^* \mathbb{T} e_0^*$ .

Observe that  $e_0^* \mathbb{T} e_0^*$  is an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra with multiplicative identity  $e_0^*$ .

# Notation

Let  $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^d$  denote mutually commuting indeterminates.

Let  $\mathbb{F}[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d]$  denote the  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra consisting of the polynomials in  $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^d$  that have all coefficients in  $\mathbb{F}$ .

# The $\mu$ -Theorem

Theorem (Ito+Nomura+T, 2009)

There exists an  $\mathbb{F}$ -algebra isomorphism

$$\mathbb{F}[\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d] \rightarrow e_0^* \mathbb{T} e_0^*$$

that sends

$$\lambda_i \mapsto e_0^* a^i e_0^*$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq d$ .



# The $\mu$ -Theorem: proof summary

**Proof summary:** We first verify the result assuming  $p$  has  $q$ -Racah type. To do this we make use of the quantum affine algebra  $U_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$ . We identify two elements in  $U_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$  that satisfy the tridiagonal relations. We let these elements act on  $U_q(\hat{\mathfrak{sl}}_2)$ -modules of the form  $W_1 \otimes W_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes W_d$  where each  $W_i$  is an evaluation module of dimension 2. Each of these actions gives a TD system of  $q$ -Racah type which in turn yields a  $\mathbb{T}$ -module. The resulting supply of  $\mathbb{T}$ -modules is sufficiently rich to contradict the existence of an algebraic relation among  $\{e_0^* a^i e_0^*\}_{i=1}^d$ .

We then remove the assumption that  $p$  has  $q$ -Racah type. In this step the main ingredient is to show that for any polynomial  $h$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  in  $2d + 2$  variables, if  $h(p) = 0$  under the assumption that  $p$  is  $q$ -Racah, then  $h(p) = 0$  without the assumption.

# A classification of sharp tridiagonal systems

## Theorem (Ito+Nomura+T, 2009)

Let  $(\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d; \{\zeta_i\}_{i=0}^d)$  (1) denote a sequence of scalars in  $\mathbb{F}$ . Then there exists a sharp TD system  $\Phi$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  with parameter array (1) if and only if:

- (i)  $\theta_i \neq \theta_j, \theta_i^* \neq \theta_j^*$  if  $i \neq j$  ( $0 \leq i, j \leq d$ );
- (ii) the expressions  $\frac{\theta_{i-2} - \theta_{i+1}}{\theta_{i-1} - \theta_i}, \frac{\theta_{i-2}^* - \theta_{i+1}^*}{\theta_{i-1}^* - \theta_i^*}$  are equal and independent of  $i$  for  $2 \leq i \leq d-1$ ;
- (iii)  $\zeta_0 = 1, \zeta_d \neq 0$ , and

$$0 \neq \sum_{i=0}^d \eta_{d-i}(\theta_0) \eta_{d-i}^*(\theta_0^*) \zeta_i.$$

Suppose (i)–(iii) hold. Then  $\Phi$  is unique up to isomorphism of TD systems.

# The classification: proof summary

**Proof** (“only if”): By our previous remarks.

**Proof** (“if”): Consider the algebra  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{T}(p, \mathbb{F})$  where  $p = (\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$ .

By the  $\mu$ -Theorem  $e_0^* \mathbb{T} e_0^*$  is a polynomial algebra.

Therefore  $e_0^* \mathbb{T} e_0^*$  has a 1-dimensional module on which

$$e_0^* \tau_i(a) e_0^* = \frac{\zeta_i e_0^*}{(\theta_0^* - \theta_1^*)(\theta_0^* - \theta_2^*) \cdots (\theta_0^* - \theta_i^*)}$$

for  $1 \leq i \leq d$ .

The above 1-dimensional  $e_0^* \mathbb{T} e_0^*$ -module induces a  $\mathbb{T}$ -module  $V$  which turns out to be finite-dimensional; by construction  $e_0^* V$  has dimension 1.

One checks that the  $\mathbb{T}$ -module  $V$  has a unique maximal proper submodule  $M$ .

# The classification: proof summary, cont.

Consider the irreducible  $\mathbb{T}$ -module  $V/M$ .

By the inequalities in (iii),

$$e_0^* e_d e_0^* \neq 0, \quad e_0^* e_0 e_0^* \neq 0$$

on  $V/M$ .

Therefore each of  $e_0$ ,  $e_d$  is nonzero on  $V/M$ .

Now the  $\mathbb{T}$ -generators  $(a; \{e_i\}_{i=0}^d; a^*; \{e_i^*\}_{i=0}^d)$  act on  $V/M$  as a sharp TD system of diameter  $d$ .

One checks that this TD system has the desired parameter array  $(\{\theta_i\}_{i=0}^d; \{\theta_i^*\}_{i=0}^d; \{\zeta_i\}_{i=0}^d)$ .

QED

# Summary

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Thank you for your attention!

THE END