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Explicit matrix inverses for lower triangular matrices with entries involving continuous $q$-ultraspherical polynomials

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Abstract

For a one-parameter family of lower triangular matrices with entries involving continuous $q$-ultraspherical polynomials we give an explicit lower triangular inverse matrix, with entries involving again continuous $q$-ultraspherical functions. The matrices are $q$-analogues of results given by Cagliero and Koornwinder recently. The proofs are not $q$-analogues of the Cagliero-Koornwinder case, but are of a different nature involving $q$-Racah polynomials. Some applications of these new formulas are given.

Also the limit $β \to 0$ is studied and gives rise to continuous $q$-Hermite polynomials for $0 < q < 1$ and $q > 1$.

1 Introduction


In this paper we give a partial $q$-analogue of the result of Cagliero and Koornwinder [5]. In a forthcoming paper [1], which is a quantum analogue of [10] [11], the main Theorem 1.1 is used to obtain an inverse of a lower triangular matrix with entries involving continuous $q$-ultraspherical polynomials. Theorem 1.1 gives the inverse of this matrix in a more general situation. Theorem 1.1 is the main result of this paper.

Theorem 1.1. Let $β \in \mathbb{C}\backslash\{0\}$, $β \neq q^{\frac{k}{2}}$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Define doubly infinite lower triangular matrices $L^β(x)$ and $M^β(x)$ by

\[
L^β(x)_{m,n} = \frac{1}{(β^2 q^{2n}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; β q^n |q), \quad n \leq m,
\]

\[
M^β(x)_{m,n} = \frac{β^{m-n} q^{(m-1)(m-n)}}{(β^2 q^{m+n-1}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; β^{-1} q^{1-m} |q), \quad n \leq m,
\]

where $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $C_{m}(x; β |q)$ are the continuous $q$-ultraspherical polynomials defined in Section 2 for all $β$. Then $M^β(x)$ and $L^β(x)$ are each other’s inverse, i.e. $L^β(x) M^β(x) = I = M^β(x) L^β(x)$, where $I_{m,n} = δ_{m,n}$ is the identity.

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The proof of Theorem 1.1 is given in Section 3.

Theorem 1.1 has a finite dimensional analogue, because the entries of \( L^\beta M^\beta \) only involve finite sums of continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials. From Theorem 1.1 we have to following corollary.

**Corollary 1.2.** For a non-negative integer \( N \) and \( \beta \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} \) such that \( \beta \neq q^{-\frac{k}{2}} \) for \( k = 0, 1, \ldots, 2N - 2 \). Define lower triangular matrices \( L^\beta(x) \) and \( M^\beta(x) \)

\[
L^\beta(x)_{m,n} = \frac{1}{(\beta^2 q^{2n}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; \beta q^m | q), \quad 0 \leq n \leq m \leq N
\]

\[
M^\beta(x)_{m,n} = \frac{\beta^{m-n} q^{(m-1)(m-n)}}{(\beta^2 q^{m+n+1}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; \beta^{-1} q^{1-m} | q), \quad 0 \leq n \leq m \leq N.
\]

Then \( M^\beta(x) \) and \( L^\beta(x) \) are each others inverse, i.e. \( L^\beta(x) M^\beta(x) = I = M^\beta(x) L^\beta(x) \), where \( I \) is the identity matrix.

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is not a straightforward \( q \)-analogue of the proof given by Cagliero and Koornwinder [5]. The proof uses \( q \)-Racah polynomials and does not use Rodrigues formulas or product rules of differentials which are the essential ingredients for the proof in [6]. In particular, the \( q \to 1 \) limit of the proof presented here gives an alternative proof of the special case \( \alpha = \beta \) of Cagliero and Koornwinder [5].

We compute the coefficients of \( e^{ik\theta} \) of products of two continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials and express the coefficients in terms of terminating balanced basic hypergeometric series \( \phi_4 \). For certain parameters this series transforms to a \( q \)-Racah polynomial. The orthogonality relations of the \( q \)-Racah polynomials then lead to Theorem 1.1. The proof of Theorem 1.1 for \( q \to 1 \), gives an interesting new proof of [6] Theorem 4.1 in the special case \( \alpha = \beta \), showing that the coefficients of \( e^{ik\theta} \) of products of certain Gegenbauer polynomials are actually Racah polynomials. The entries of the matrix identity \( L(x) M(x) = I \) in [6] Theorem 4.1 correspond to orthogonality relations of Racah polynomials, see Example 4.4.

In Section 5 we study matrices \( L^\beta \) and \( M^\beta \) for Theorem 1.1 for a suitable limit \( \beta \to 0 \). The entries of \( L^\beta \) become continuous \( q \)-Hermite polynomials and the entries of \( M^\beta \) converge to continuous \( q^{-1} \)-Hermite polynomials as \( \beta \to 0 \).

We emphasise again that our proof is different than the proof of Cagliero and Koornwinder [5]. It is possible to extend the proof of Cagliero and Koornwinder [5] to a \( q \)-analogue for certain polynomials in the \( q \)-Askey scheme [9]. For example [6] Lemma 5.1 has a \( q \)-analogue for the \( q \)-derivative operator [6] Exercise 1.12. Then with the use of Rodrigues’ formula and suitable parameters for the orthogonal polynomials it is possible to find \( q \)-analogues for [5] (4.1),(4.2)]. The author was able to extend [6] (4.1), (4.2)] to the little \( q \)-Jacobi polynomials. However these results involve different \( q \)-shifts in the \( x \) of the polynomials and don’t seem to lead to a result similar to Theorem 1.1 or [6] Theorem 4.1. Also Cagliero and Koornwinder [5] were motivated by [4,11] to extend their formulas to a two parameter family of Jacobi polynomials. We lack this motivation and therefore decided not to include these results for the little \( q \)-Jacobi polynomials in this paper. We didn’t extend the results to other families of polynomials.

## 2 Preliminaries

We recall some facts on basic hypergeometric series and related polynomials, see Gasper and Rahman [6] and Koekoek, Lesky and Swarttouw [9]. We fix \( 0 < q < 1 \) and we follow notation of [6].

For \( \beta \in \mathbb{C} \), the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials are given by

\[
C_n(x; \beta | q) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{\binom{n}{k} \binom{n-k}{k} q^{n-k}}{(q;q)_k (q;q)_{n-k}} e^{i(n-2k)\theta}, \quad x = \cos(\theta),
\]

see [6] Exercise 1.28] and [9] §14.10. Notice that the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials are defined for
all \( \beta \). A generating function for the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials is

\[
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n(x; \beta|q)^n = \frac{(\beta t^{i\theta}, \beta t^{-i\theta}; q)_\infty}{(t^{i\theta}, t^{-i\theta}; q)_\infty} |t| < 1, \quad x = \cos(\theta) \in [-1, 1], \tag{2.2}
\]


For \( \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{R} \) such that \( q\alpha = q^{-N}, \beta \delta = q^{-N} \) or \( \gamma q = q^{-N} \), for \( N \in \mathbb{N} \), define the \( q \)-Racah polynomials

\[
R_n(\mu(x); \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta; q) = 4\phi_3\left(q^{-n}, \alpha \beta q^{n+1}, q^{-x}, \gamma \delta q^{x+1}; q, q; \alpha q, \beta q, \gamma q\right),
\]

where \( n = 0, 1, \ldots, N \). If \( q\alpha = q^{-N} \) and \( \beta = 1 \) the \( q \)-Racah polynomials are not orthogonal with respect to a positive measure. Still the \( q \)-Racah polynomials are orthogonal

\[
\sum_{x=0}^{N} \frac{(q^{-N}, \gamma \delta q; q)_x}{(q, \gamma \delta q^{N+2}; q)_x} (1 - \gamma \delta q^{2x+1}) q^{Nx} R_m(\mu(x); q^{-N-1}, 1, 1, 1, \gamma, \delta; q) = h_m(\gamma, \delta; N),
\]

where \( h_m(\gamma, \delta; N) \) is given in \([6] \, \text{§7.2} \) and \([9] \, \text{§14.2} \). It follows that if \( n = 0 \) we have

\[
\sum_{x=0}^{N} \frac{(q^{-N}, \gamma \delta q; q)_x}{(q, \gamma \delta q^{N+2}; q)_x} (1 - \gamma \delta q^{2x+1}) q^{Nx} R_m(\mu(x); q^{-N-1}, 1, 1, 1, \gamma, \delta; q) = h_0(\gamma, \delta; N),
\]

where \( h_0(\gamma, \delta; N) = \delta N, 0 \) if \( \gamma \neq q^{-\ell} \) and \( \delta \neq q^{-m} \) with \( \ell, m = 1, 2, \ldots, N \).

Note that [2.4] can also be proved directly, also see [9]. To show this substitute [2.4] in [2.4] so that

\[
\sum_{x=0}^{N} \frac{(q^{-N}, \gamma \delta q; q)_x}{(q, \gamma \delta q^{N+2}; q)_x} (1 - \gamma \delta q^{2x+1}) q^{Nx} \sum_{k=0}^{N} \frac{(q^{-m}, q^{-N}, q^{-x}, \gamma \delta q^{x+1}; q)_k}{(q, q^{-N}, \gamma \delta q; q)_k} q^k.
\]

Then expand the left hand side of [2.4] in \( q^x \) observing that it is a polynomial in \( q^x \) of degree \( N - k \). Finally applying the summation formula [6] (II.21) on the \( x \)-sum gives the right hand side of [2.4].

**Remark 2.1.** One of the referees pointed out that if \( q\alpha = q^{-N} \) and \( \beta = 1 \) then from [2.4] it follows that \( R_n = R_{N-n} \). Therefore for \( n > \frac{1}{2} N \) the polynomial \( R_n \) will have degree \( N - n < n \). So there can be no non-degenerate orthogonality. However, the system of polynomials \( R_n \) for \( n \leq \frac{1}{2} N \) can still be orthogonal with respect to positive weights.

Sears’ transformation formula, [6] (III.15) & (III.16)], for terminating balanced \( 4\phi_3 \) series is

\[
4\phi_3\left(q^{-n}, a, b, c; \alpha \beta q; q, q\right) = \frac{(e a^{-1}, f a^{-1}; q)_n}{(e, f; q)_n} 4\phi_3\left(q^{-n}, a, db^{-1}, de^{-1}; q, q\right)
\]

\[
= \frac{(a, e f (ab)^{-1}, e f (ac)^{-1}; q)_n}{(e, f, e f (abc)^{-1}; q)_n} 4\phi_3\left(q^{-n}, e a^{-1}, f a^{-1}, e f (abc)^{-1}; q, q\right),
\]

where \( abc = def q^n \).

### 3 Proof of Theorem 1.1

The idea of the proof of Theorem 1.1 is to first expand a sum of products of continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials in terms of \( e^{ik\theta} \), where \( x = \cos(\theta) \). We show that the coefficients of \( e^{ik\theta} \) are balanced basic hypergeometric series \( 4\phi_3 \). For the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials with parameters as in Theorem 1.1 we show that the coefficients of \( e^{ik\theta} \) correspond to the orthogonality relations for \( q \)-Racah polynomials. This proves the key Lemma 3.3 from which Theorem 1.1 follows.
Lemma 3.1. Take \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). Let \( \alpha_k, \beta_k \) and \( c(k) \) be constants for \( k = 0, 1, \ldots, n \). Then
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} c(k) C_{n-k}(x; \alpha_k|q) C_k(x; \beta_k|q) = \sum_{p=0}^{n} d(p) e^{i(n-2p)\theta}, \quad x = \cos(\theta),
\]
where \( d(p) \) is given by
\[
d(p) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-p} c(k) \frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_p \left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-p-k} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_k}{\left(q; q\right)_p \left(q; q\right)_{n-p-k} \left(q; q\right)_k} 4\phi_3\left(\frac{q^{-p}, \alpha_k q^{n-p-k}, q^{-k}, \beta_k}{q^{1-p} \alpha_k^{-1}, q^{1-k} \beta_k^{-1}, q^{n-p-k+1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_k^{-1}}\right) + \sum_{k=n-p+1}^{n} c(k) \frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-k} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{p-n+k} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{n-p}}{\left(q; q\right)_{n-k} \left(q; q\right)_{p+n-k} \left(q; q\right)_{n-p}} 4\phi_3\left(\frac{q^{k-n}, q^{p-n}, \alpha_k, \beta_k q^{-p-n}}{q^{1-n+k} \alpha_k^{-1}, q^{1+p-n+1}, q^{1-n+p} \beta_k^{-1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_k^{-1}}\right).
\]

Proof. First expand the left hand side of (3.1) using (2.1), so that the left hand side of (3.1) equals
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} c(k) \sum_{s=0}^{n-k} \frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_s \left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-k-s} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_k \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{k-t} e^{i(n-2(s+t))\theta}}{\left(q; q\right)_s \left(q; q\right)_{n-k-s} \left(q; q\right)_k \left(q; q\right)_{k-t}}.
\]
Now fix \( p = s + t \) and substitute \( s = p - t \) in (3.3) so that the coefficient of \( e^{i(n-2p)\theta} \) becomes
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} c(k) \sum_{t=0}^{k-p} \frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{p-t} \left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-k-p+t} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_t \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{k-t}}{\left(q; q\right)_{p-t} \left(q; q\right)_{n-k-p+t} \left(q; q\right)_t \left(q; q\right)_{k-t}}.
\]
For \( 0 \leq k \leq n-p \) so that \( k + p - n \leq 0 \), the t-sum of (3.4) is, after simplifying the q-Pochhammer symbols, the balanced terminating \( 4\phi_3 \)
\[
\frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_p \left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-p-k} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_k}{\left(q; q\right)_p \left(q; q\right)_{n-p-k} \left(q; q\right)_k} 4\phi_3\left(\frac{q^{-p}, \alpha_k q^{n-p-k}, q^{-k}, \beta_k}{q^{1-p} \alpha_k^{-1}, q^{1-k} \beta_k^{-1}, q^{n-p-k+1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_k^{-1}}\right).
\]
For \( n-p \leq k \leq n \) so that \( k + p - n \geq 0 \) substitute \( t \to t + k + p - n \) so that the t-sum of (3.4) is, after simplifying the q-Pochhammer symbols, the balanced terminating \( 4\phi_3 \)
\[
\frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-k} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{p+n-k} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{n-p}}{\left(q; q\right)_{n-k} \left(q; q\right)_{p+n-k} \left(q; q\right)_{n-p}} 4\phi_3\left(\frac{q^{k-n}, q^{p-n}, \alpha_k, \beta_k q^{k+p-n}}{q^{1-n+k+1} \alpha_k^{-1}, q^{1+p-n+1}, q^{1+n+p} \beta_k^{-1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_k^{-1}}\right).
\]
Combining (3.5) and (3.6) gives (3.2).

Remark 3.2. Since the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials are polynomials in \( x \) the coefficients of \( e^{i(n-p)\theta} \) and \( e^{i p \theta} \) of the left hand side of (3.1) must be equal. Therefore \( d(p) = d(n-p) \) and (3.1) can be rewritten in terms of Chebychev polynomials \( T_p \) of the first kind, see [1] §9.8.2, as follows
\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} c(k) C_{n-k}(x; \alpha_k|q) C_k(x; \beta_k|q) = \sum_{p=0}^{[\frac{n}{2}]} (2 - \delta_{n,2p})d(p) T_{n-2p}(x).
\]
Remark 3.3. It is possible to write (3.2) uniformly
\[
d(p) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} c(k) \frac{\left(\alpha_k; q\right)_p \left(\beta_k; q\right)_k \left(\alpha_k; q\right)_{n-k-p} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{n-k-p} \left(\beta_k; q\right)_{n-p}}{\left(q; q\right)_p \left(q; q\right)_k \left(q; q\right)_{n-k-p} \left(q; q\right)_{n-k-p} \left(q; q\right)_{n-p}} 4\phi_3\left(\frac{q^{-p}, \alpha_k q^{n-p-k}, q^{-k}, \beta_k}{q^{1-p} \alpha_k^{-1}, q^{1-k} \beta_k^{-1}, q^{n-p-k+1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_k^{-1}}\right).
\]
If \(0 \leq k \leq n - p\) we have that (3.3) is equal to

\[
\frac{(\alpha_k;q)_p}{(q;q)_p} \left( \frac{\beta_k}{q} \right) \frac{(\alpha_k;q)_\infty}{(q^n-k-p; q)_\infty} \frac{(q^{n-k-p+1}; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} 4 \phi_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} q^{-p}, \alpha_k q^{n-p-k}, q^{-k}, \beta_k \\ q_1^{-p}, \alpha_k^{-1}, q_1^{-k} \beta_1, q^{n-p-k+1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_1^{-1} \end{array} \right) .
\]

(3.7)

Use the convention

\[
\frac{(q^{1-N}; q)_\infty}{(q^{1-N}; q)_t} = (q^{1-N+t}; q)_\infty,
\]

so that for \(n - p < k \leq n\)

\[
\frac{(q^{1-N}; q)_\infty}{(q^{1-N}; q)_t} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{C_t}{(q,q^{1-N}; q)_t} = \frac{(q^{N+1}; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{C_{N+t}}{(q,q^{N+1}; q)_t},
\]

where \(N \in \mathbb{N}\) and \(C_t\) are arbitrary constants. Then for \(N = k + p - n\) we have that (3.7) becomes

\[
\frac{(\alpha_k;q)_p}{(q;q)_p} \left( \frac{\beta_k}{q} \right) \frac{(\alpha_k;q)_\infty}{(q^{n-k-p }; q)_\infty} \frac{(q^{1+k+p-n}; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} 
\times \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q^{-p}, \alpha_k q^{n-k-p}, \beta_k, q^{-k}; q)_t}{(q^{1+k+p-n}; q)_t} \left( q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_1^{-1} \right)^{t+k+p-n}
= \frac{(\alpha_k;q)_p}{(q;q)_p} \left( \frac{\beta_k}{q} \right) \frac{(\alpha_k;q)_\infty}{(q^{n-k-p }; q)_\infty} \frac{(q^{1+k+p-n}; q)_\infty}{(q; q)_\infty} 
\times \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{(q^{-p}, \alpha_k q^{n-k-p}, \beta_k, q^{-k}; q)_t}{(q^{1+k+p-n}; q)_t} \left( q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_1^{-1} \right)^{k+p-n}
\times 4 \phi_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} q^{k-n}, \alpha_k, \beta_k q^{k+p-n}, q^{p-n} \\ q^{k+p-n}, q^{k+n+1} \alpha_k^{-1}, q^{1+p-n} \beta_1^{-1}; q, q^2 \alpha_k^{-1} \beta_1^{-1} \end{array} \right).
\]

(3.8)

Simplifying the \(q\)-Pochhammer symbols of (3.3) shows that (3.8) is equal to (3.6).

**Lemma 3.4.** For \(m, n \in \mathbb{Z}\) such that \(n \leq m\). Let \(\beta \in \mathbb{C}\) such that \(\beta^2 \neq q^{-2m+1}, q^{-2m+2}, \ldots, q^{-2n}\). Then

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{(1 - \beta^2 q^{2n+2k+1}; q)}{(\beta^2 q^{2n+k+1}; q)_{m-n+1}} q^{k(n+k+1)} C_{m-n-k}(x; \beta q^k) q C_k(x; \beta^{-1} q^{1-k-n}) = \delta_{m,n}.
\]

(3.9)

**Proof.** Apply Lemma 3.3 with \(n, \alpha_k, \beta_k\) specialised to \(m-n, q^{k+n} \beta, q^{1-k-n} \beta^{-1}\) so that in particular \(\alpha_k \beta_k = q\) for all \(k\). Then the left hand side of (3.9) is \(\sum_{p=0}^{m-n} d(p) e^{i(m-n-2p)\theta},\) where \(x = \cos(\theta)\) and

\[
d(p) = \sum_{k=0}^{m-n-p} \frac{(1 - \beta^2 q^{2n+2k+1}; q)}{(\beta^2 q^{2n+k+1}; q)_{m-n+1}} \beta^k q^{k(n+k+1)} 
\times \left( \frac{q^{k+n}; q)_p \beta q^{k+n}; q)_{m-n-p-k} (\beta^{-1} q^{1-k-n}; q)_k}{(q; q)_p (q; q)_{m-n-p-k} (q; q)_k} 
\times 4 \phi_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} q^{-k}, q^{-p} \beta^{m-n}, q^{n-k+1} \beta^{-1} \\ \beta q^n, q^{-p-n-k+1} \beta^{-1}, q^{m-n-k-p+1}; q \end{array} \right) \right)
\]

\[
+ \sum_{k=m-n-p+1}^{m-n} \frac{(1 - \beta^2 q^{2n+2k-1}; q)}{(\beta^2 q^{2n+k+1}; q)_{m-n+1}} \beta^k q^{k(n+k+1)} 
\times \left( q^{k+n} \beta; q)_{m-n-k} (q^{1-k-n} \beta^{-1}; q)_{p-m+n+k} (q^{1-k-n} \beta^{-1}; q))_{m-n-p} (q; q)_{m-n-k} (q; q)_{p-m+n+k} (q; q)_{m-n-p} 
\times 4 \phi_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} q^{-k-m+n}, q^{p-m-n}, q^{k+n} \beta, q^{1+p-m} \beta^{-1} \\ q^{m-n-1} \beta, q^{k+p-m+n+1} \beta q^{2n-m+p+k}; q \end{array} \right). \]

(3.10)
We transform the basic hypergeometric series $\phi_3$ of (3.10). Apply Sears’ transformation formula (2.5) to the first $\phi_3$ in (3.10) to see that the $4\phi_3$ is equal to

$$
\frac{(q^{-n-k+1}\beta^{-1}, q^{m-n-k+1}; q)_k}{(q^{-n-k+1}\beta^{-1}, q^{m-n-k+1}; q)_k} q^{pk} 4\phi_3 \left( \frac{q^{-k}, q^{-p}, q^{n-m+p}, \beta^2q^{2n+k-1}}{\beta q^n, \beta q^n, q^{n-m}} : q, q \right).
$$

(3.11)

Apply Sears’ transformation formula (2.6) to the second $\phi_3$ in (3.10) in order to see that the $4\phi_3$ is equal to

$$
\frac{(q^{1+p-m}\beta^{-1}, q^{m-n}, \beta q^n; q)_{m-n-p}}{(\beta q^{2m+k+p}, q^{1-m\beta^{-1}}, q^{-k}; q)_{m-n-p}} 4\phi_3 \left( \frac{q^{n-m+p}, \beta^2q^{2n+k-1}, q^{-p}, q^{-k}}{\beta q^n, \beta q^n, q^n} : q, q \right).
$$

(3.12)

The $4\phi_3$ of (3.11) and (3.12) can be written as the $q$-Racah polynomial $R_p(\mu(k); q^{m-n-1}, 1, \beta q^{n-1}, \beta q^{n-1}; q)$, see (2.3). Therefore (3.10) becomes, after simplifying the $q$-Pochhammer symbols using $(\alpha^{-1}; q)_\ell = (-1)^\ell q^{\ell(\ell+1)}\beta^{-\ell}(\beta q^{1-\ell}; q)_\ell$ repeatedly,

$$
\frac{(\beta q^n; q)_p(\beta q^n; q)_{m-n-p}}{(\beta q^{2n}; q)_{m-n}(q; q)_p(q; q)_{m-n-p}} \sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{\left( \beta^2q^{2n-1}, q^{n-m}; q \right)_k}{(q, \beta^2q^n+m; q)_k} \frac{(1 - \beta^2q^{2n+k-1})}{(1 - \beta^2q^{2n-1})} q^{k(m-n)} R_p(\mu(k); q^{m-n-1}, 1, \beta q^{n-1}, \beta q^{n-1}; q).
$$

(3.13)

The $k$-sum of (3.13) corresponds to the orthogonality relations (2.4) for the $q$-Racah polynomial. Hence (3.13) becomes

$$
d(p) = \frac{(\beta q^n; q)_{m-n}}{(\beta q^{2n}; q)_{m-n}(q; q)_{m-n}} \delta_{p,0} h_0(\beta q^n, \beta q^n; m-n).
$$

Since $h_0(\beta q^n, \beta q^n; m-n) = 0$ if $n < m$ and $h_0(\beta q^n, \beta q^n; m-n) = 1$ if $m = n$, the result follows.

Proof of Theorem 4.1. Multiplying the matrices $L^\beta$ and $M^\beta$ it is sufficient to evaluate the entries of $L^\beta M^\beta$ for $m \geq n$. Hence

$$
(L^\beta(x)M^\beta(x))_{m,n} = \sum_{k=n}^{m} \frac{\beta^{k-n}q^{k(1-k)}}{(\beta^2q^{2k}; q)_{m-k}(\beta^2q^{2n+k-1}; q)_{k-n}} C_{m-k}(x; \beta q^n) C_{k-n}(x; q^{1-k}\beta^{-1}) q^{-n+k-1}.
$$

$$
= \sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{(1 - \beta^2q^{2n+2k-1})}{(\beta^2q^{2n+k-1}; q)_{m-n-k}} \beta^k q^{k(k+n-1)} C_{m-n-k}(x; \beta q^{k+n}) C_{k}(x; q^{1-k-n}\beta^{-1}) q^{-n+k-1}.
$$

Applying Lemma 3.4 then yields the result.

4 Applications

Example 4.1. The limit $q \to 1$ in the proof of Theorem 4.1 gives a new proof for [5, Theorem 4.1] for $\alpha = \beta$. Lemma 3.1 gives

$$
\sum_{k=0}^{n} c(k) C^{(\alpha_k)}_{n-k}(x) C^{(\beta_k)}_{k}(x) = \sum_{p=0}^{n} d(p) e^{(n-2p)\theta}, \quad x = \cos(\theta),
$$

where $C^{(\alpha)}_{k}(x)$ are the Gegenbauer polynomials, see [9, §9.8.1], and

$$
d(p) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-p} c(k) \binom{\alpha_k}{p} \binom{\alpha_n-p-k}{n-p-k} \binom{\beta_k}{k} \binom{\beta_n-k}{k} 4F_3 \left[ \begin{array}{c} \alpha_k+n-p-k, -k, \beta_k \\ 1-p-\alpha_k, 1-k-\beta_n, n-p+k+1 \end{array} ; 2-\alpha_k-\beta_k \right]
$$

$$
+ \sum_{k=n-p+1}^{n} c(k) \binom{\alpha_k}{n-k} \binom{\beta_k}{p-n+k} \binom{\beta_n-k}{n-k} \binom{\beta_n-k}{n-k} \binom{\beta_n-k}{p-k} \binom{\beta_n-k}{(n-p)!} \binom{(n-k)!}{(p-n+k)!} \binom{(n-p)!}{(n-k)!} 
$$

$$
\times 4F_3 \left[ \begin{array}{c} k-n, n-p+k+1 \alpha_k, k+p, p+n, 1, 1-n+p-\beta_k \end{array} ; 2-\alpha_k-\beta_k \right].
$$
Then Lemma 3.4 yields, for \( 0 \leq n \leq m \) and \( \alpha \in \mathbb{C}, 2\alpha \neq -2m+1, -2m+2, \ldots, -2n, \)

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{(2n+2k+2\alpha-1)}{(2n+k+2\alpha-1)m-n+1} C_m^{(\alpha+k+n)}(x) C_k^{(1-k-n-\alpha)}(x) = \delta_{m,n},
\]

which is the key equation to show Theorem 1.1 for the case \( \alpha = \beta. \)

**Example 4.2.** The problem of finding an inverse of the matrix \( L^\beta \) in Theorem 1.1 originally arose in [1] where the finite dimensional lower triangular matrix

\[
L(x)_{m,n} = q^{m-n} \frac{(q^2; q^2)_m (q^2; q^2)_{m+n} + 1}{(q^2; q^2)_{m+n+1}} C_m(x; q^{2n+2}|q^2), \quad 0 \leq n \leq m \leq N,
\]

for arbitrary \( N \in \mathbb{N} \) appears. Using Corollary 1.2 in base \( q^2 \) with \( \beta = q^2 \) after conjugation with a diagonal matrix we find that the inverse matrix is given by

\[
(L(x))^{-1}_{m,n} = q^{(2m+1)(m-n)} \frac{(q^2; q^2)_m (q^2; q^2)_{m+n}}{(q^2; q^2)_{2m} (q^2; q^2)_n} C_m(x; q^{-2m}|q^2), \quad 0 \leq n \leq m \leq N.
\]

Note that the entries of \( L(x) \) and its inverse \( L(x)^{-1} \) are independent of the size of \( N. \)

**Example 4.3.** From the generating function 2.2 for the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials it follows that

\[
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n(x; \alpha|x) t^n = \frac{(\alpha t e^{i\theta}, \alpha t e^{-i\theta}; q)_\infty}{(te^{i\theta}, te^{-i\theta}; q)_\infty} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} C_m(x; \alpha|q) C_n(x; \beta|q) t^m (\alpha t)^n.
\]

Comparing the powers of \( t \) shows

\[
C_n(x; \alpha|x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha^k C_{n-k}(x; \alpha|q) C_k(x; \beta|q).
\]

Now take \( \beta = \alpha^{-1} \), then (4.1) for \( \beta = 1 \) gives

\[
\delta_{n,0} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha^k C_{n-k}(x; \alpha|q) C_k(x; \alpha^{-1}|q).
\]

On the other hand from Lemma 5.1 it follows that

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha^k C_{n-k}(x; \alpha|q) C_k(x; \alpha^{-1}|q) = \sum_{p=0}^{n} d(p) e^{i(n-2p)} \}, \quad x = \cos(\theta).
\]

Combining (4.1) and (4.2) it follows that \( d(p) = \delta_{n,0} \). Writing out the explicit expression of \( d(p) \) gives for \( n > 0 \) the identity

\[
0 = \sum_{k=0}^{n-p} \alpha^k \frac{(\alpha; q)_p (\alpha; q)_{n-p-k} (\alpha^{-1}; q)_k}{(q; q)_p (q; q)_{n-p-k} (q; q)_k} 4\phi_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} q^{-p}, \alpha q^{n-p-k}, q^{-k}, \alpha^{-1} \\ q^{-1-p}, \alpha q^{-1}, q^{1-k-n-p+k+1} \end{array} \right)
\]

\[
+ \sum_{k=n-p+1}^{n} \alpha^k \frac{(\alpha; q)_n-k (\alpha^{-1}; q)_{n-k} (\alpha^{-1}; q)_{n-p} (\alpha^{-1}; q)_{n-k}}{(q; q)_n-k (q; q)_{n-k} (q; q)_{n-k}} 4\phi_3 \left( \begin{array}{c} q^{k-n}, q^{p-n}, \alpha, q^{k+p-n-1} \alpha^{-1} \\ q^{-1-n+k+1}, \alpha q^{k+p-n+1} \end{array} \right).
\]

In particular if \( p = 0 \)

\[
\sum_{k=0}^{n} \alpha^k \frac{(\alpha; q)_n-k (\alpha^{-1}; q)_k}{(q; q)_n-k (q; q)_k} = 0.
\]
Remark that (4.3) also follows from applying (4.3) twice.

\[ \lim_{k \to 0} \frac{\alpha^k (\alpha; q)_{n-k}}{(q; q)_{n-k}} = \frac{(1 - \alpha q^{n-k})(1 - q^k)}{(1 - \alpha q^{n-k})(1 - q^{n+1-k})} q^{1-k} = \alpha^k (\alpha^{-1}; q)_{n-k}. \]

Remark that this result also follows from applying (4.3) twice.

5 Limit case \( \beta \to 0 \)

Define \( L^0(x) \) and \( M^0(x) \) by \( L^0(x)_{m,n} = \lim_{\beta \to 0} L^\beta(x)_{m,n} \) and \( M^0(x)_{m,n} = \lim_{\beta \to 0} M^\beta(x)_{m,n} \), where the limit is taken over \( \beta \neq q^k \), where \( k \in \mathbb{Z} \). We show that the limits exist, that the entries of \( L^0(x) \) are given in terms of continuous \( q \)-Hermite polynomials and that the entries of \( M^0(x) \) are given in terms of continuous \( q^{-1} \)-Hermite polynomials.

The continuous \( q \)-Hermite polynomials are given by

\[ H(x|q) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{(q; q)_n}{(q; q)_k (q; q)_{n-k}} e^{i(n-2k)\theta}, \quad x = \cos(\theta), \tag{5.1} \]

see [9] 14.26. The continuous \( q \)-Hermite polynomials are, apart from a different normalisation, the special case \( \beta = 0 \) of the continuous \( q \)-ultraspherical polynomials

\[ C_n(x; 0|q) = \frac{H_n(x|q)}{(q; q)_n}. \tag{5.2} \]

The corresponding generating function for the continuous \( q \)-Hermite polynomials is

\[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{H_n(x|q)}{(q; q)_n} t^n = \frac{1}{(te^{i\theta}, te^{-i\theta}; q)_\infty} \quad |t| < 1, \quad x = \cos(\theta), \tag{5.3} \]


The polynomials \( H_n(x|q^{-1}) \) are called the continuous \( q^{-1} \)-Hermite polynomials and are defined by taking \( q \to q^{-1} \) in (5.1), see [2]. The continuous \( q \)-Hermite polynomials are orthogonal with respect to a positive measure on \([-1, 1] \). However the continuous \( q^{-1} \)-Hermite polynomials are orthogonal on the imaginary axis and correspond to an indeterminate moment problem, see [2] and [8].

**Theorem 5.1.** The doubly infinite lower triangular matrices \( L^0(x) \) and \( M^0(x) \) are given by

\[ L^0(x)_{m,n} = \frac{H_{m-n}(x|q)}{(q; q)_{m-n}}, \quad M^0(x)_{m,n} = (-1)^{m-n} q^{(m-n)} \frac{H_{m-n}(x|q^{-1})}{(q; q)_{m-n}}, \quad n \leq m, \]

where \( m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \). \( M^0(x) \) and \( L^0(x) \) are each others inverse, i.e. \( L^0(x)M^0(x) = I = M^0(x)L^0(x) \), where \( I_{m,n} = \delta_{m,n} \) is the identity.

**Proof.** With (5.2) we have for \( n \leq m \)

\[ L^0(x)_{m,n} = \lim_{\beta \to 0} L^\beta(x)_{m,n} = \lim_{\beta \to 0} \frac{1}{(\beta^2 q^{2n}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; \beta q^n|q) = \frac{H_{m-n}(x|q)}{(q; q)_{m-n}}. \]

From (2.1) it follows that \( C_n(x; \beta|q) = (\beta q^{-1})^n C_n(x; \beta^{-1}q^{-1}) \). Therefore write \( M^\beta(x)_{m,n} \) as

\[ \frac{\beta^{m-n} q^{(m-1)(m-n)}}{(\beta^2 q^{m+n}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; \beta^{-1}q^{-1}) = \frac{q^{-m-n}}{(\beta^2 q^{m+n-1}; q)_{m-n}} C_{m-n}(x; \beta q^{-1}q^{-1}). \]
Upon taking the limit $\beta \to 0$ and using (5.2) we find
\[ M^0(x)_{m,n} = \lim_{\beta \to 0} M^\beta(x)_{m,n} = q^{-(m-n)} H_{m-n}(x|q^{-1}) \frac{q^{m-n} H_{m-n}(x|q^{-1})}{(q;q)_{m-n}}. \]

From Theorem 1.1 it follows that $L^0(x) M^0(x) = I = M^0(x)L^0(x)$. \hfill $\square$

**Corollary 5.2.** For $N \in \mathbb{N}$ define lower triangular matrices $L^0(x)$ and $M^0(x)$
\[ L^0(x)_{m,n} = \frac{H_{m-n}(x|q)}{(q;q)_{m-n}}, \quad M^0(x)_{m,n} = (-1)^{m-n} q^{\frac{m-n}{2}} \frac{H_{m-n}(x|q^{-1})}{(q;q)_{m-n}}, \quad 0 \leq n \leq m \leq N, \]

Then $M^0(x)$ and $L^0(x)$ are each others inverse, i.e. $L^0(x)M^0(x) = I = M^0(x)L^0(x)$, where $I$ is the identity matrix.

**Remark 5.3.** Theorem 5.1 also follows from a generating function for the continuous $q^{-1}$-Hermite polynomials. From [7] Theorem 21.2.1
\[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(\frac{n}{2})} H_n(x|q^{-1}) t^n = (te^{i\theta}, te^{-i\theta}; q) \infty, \quad |t| < 1, \quad x = \cos(\theta). \] (5.4)

Combining (5.3) and (5.4) it follows that for $|t| < 1$
\[ 1 = \frac{(te^{i\theta}, te^{-i\theta}; q) \infty}{(te^{i\theta}, te^{-i\theta}; q) \infty} = \left( \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{H_m(x|q)}{(q;q)_m} \right) \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n q^{(\frac{n}{2})} \frac{H_n(x|q^{-1})}{(q;q)_n} \right) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{p} \frac{H_{p-k}(x|q)}{(q;q)_{p-k}} (-1)^k q^{\frac{k}{2}} \frac{H_k(x|q^{-1})}{(q;q)_k} \right) t^p. \]

Take $p = m - n$ so that we have
\[ \sum_{k=0}^{m-n} \frac{H_{m-n-k}(x|q)}{(q;q)_{m-n-k}} (-1)^k q^{\frac{k}{2}} \frac{H_k(x|q^{-1})}{(q;q)_k} = \delta_{m,n}. \] (5.5)

From (5.5) Theorem 5.1 also follows.

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**References**


