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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Solvable nonlinear discrete-time evolutions and Diophantine findings

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Certain nonlinearly-coupled systems of N discrete-time evolution equations are identified, which can be solved by algebraic operations; and some remarkable Diophantine findings are thereby obtained. These results might be useful to test the accuracy of numerical routines yielding the N roots of polynomials of arbitrary degree N .

1. Introduction and notation

As the reader will easily see, the results of this paper amount to a transfer—from *continuous* to *discrete* time, via the approach introduced in [1]—of the findings reported in [2] and [3] (see also Chapters 3 and 7 of [4]).

Throughout this paper the following notation is used: N and L are two *arbitrary positive integers* ($N \geq 2, L \geq 2$), the indices n and m run from 1 to N , the *discrete-time* variable $\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ takes all *nonnegative integer* values, the N dependent variables $z_n(\ell)$ are generally *complex* numbers and, being generally defined (see below) as the N zeros of a polynomial of degree N in its (complex) argument z , they are the elements of an *unordered* set of N elements identified hereafter with the notation $\tilde{z}(\ell)$; likewise in the following the notation \tilde{f} denotes the *unordered* set of N elements f_n .

2. Results

Proposition 2.1. *Consider the system of N second-order discrete-time evolution equations*

$$2 \prod_{m=1}^N [z_n(\ell + 2) - z_m(\ell + 1)] - \prod_{m=1}^N [z_n(\ell + 2) - z_m(\ell)] = 0 ; \tag{2.1a}$$

note that this formula provides the unordered set $\tilde{z}(\ell + 2)$, the elements of which are the N values $z_n(\ell + 2)$, as the N zeros of the polynomial of degree N in z defined in terms of the two unordered sets $\tilde{z}(\ell)$ and $\tilde{z}(\ell + 1)$ as follows:

$$P_N(z; \tilde{z}(\ell), \tilde{z}(\ell + 1)) = 2 \prod_{m=1}^N [z - z_m(\ell + 1)] - \prod_{m=1}^N [z - z_m(\ell)] . \tag{2.1b}$$

Let this system of second-order discrete-time evolution equations, (2.1a), be complemented by the following assignments of the two *unordered* sets $\tilde{z}(0)$ respectively $\tilde{z}(1)$ of $2N$ *initial* data $z_n(0)$

respectively $z_n(1)$: (i) the N data $z_n(0)$ are assigned *arbitrarily*; (ii) the N data $z_n(1)$ are defined—in terms of the parameter L , ($L \neq 1$), the *unordered* set $\tilde{z}(0)$, and the *unordered* set \tilde{f} the elements of which are N *arbitrarily* assigned (generally *complex*) numbers f_m —by the N algebraic equations

$$\prod_{m=1}^N [z_n(1) - z_m(0)] + \frac{(-1)^N}{L-1} \prod_{m=1}^N [z_n(1) - f_m] = 0 ; \tag{2.2a}$$

hence these N data $z_n(1)$ are the N roots of the polynomial $p_N^{(1)}(z; \tilde{z}(0), \tilde{f}; L)$, of degree N in z , defined as follows in terms of the two unordered sets $\tilde{z}(0)$ and \tilde{f} :

$$p_N^{(1)}(z; \tilde{z}(0), \tilde{f}; L) = \prod_{m=1}^N [z - z_m(0)] + \frac{(-1)^N}{L-1} \prod_{m=1}^N [z - f_m] . \tag{2.2b}$$

The solution $z(\ell)$ of the system of second-order discrete-time evolution equations (2.1a) is then given by the N roots of the following polynomial of degree N in z :

$$\psi_N(z; \tilde{z}(0), \tilde{f}; L; \ell) = \left(\frac{L-\ell}{L}\right) \prod_{m=1}^N [z - z_m(0)] + \left(\frac{\ell}{L}\right) (-1)^N \prod_{m=1}^N (z - f_m) . \quad \square \tag{2.3}$$

Proposition 2.1 is proven in the following Section. In the meantime the reader may immediately verify the validity of the formula (2.3) at $\ell = 0$ and—via (2.2b)—at $\ell = 1$.

Remark 2.1. Note that—while in the formulation of this Proposition 2.1 we considered the system of N equations (2.2) as determining the N elements of the unordered set $\tilde{z}(1)$ in terms of the $2N$ elements of the two, *arbitrarily* assigned, unordered sets $\tilde{z}(0)$ and \tilde{f} , this system (2.2) of N algebraic equations might as well be considered to define the N elements f_m of the unordered set \tilde{f} in terms of the $2N$ elements of the two—both then *arbitrarily* assigned—unordered sets $\tilde{z}(0)$ and $\tilde{z}(1)$. \square

Corollary 2.1. At $\ell = L$ the unordered set $\tilde{z}(L)$ coincides with the unordered set \tilde{f} :

$$\tilde{z}(L) \equiv \tilde{f} . \quad \square \tag{2.4}$$

The validity of this Corollary 2.1 is an immediate consequence of the Proposition 2.1, being obtained by setting $\ell = L$ in (2.3). And it has an obvious Diophantine implication if the N , *a priori arbitrary*, numbers f_m are chosen to be *integers* or *rationals*.

3. Proof

The starting point of the proof of Proposition 2.1 is the definition (2.3) of the polynomial $\psi_N(z; \ell)$. The consistency of this definition with the assignment of the initial data $\tilde{z}(0)$ and $\tilde{z}(1)$ has already been noted above. What remains to be proven is that the formula

$$\psi_N(z; \ell) = \prod_{n=1}^N [z - z_n(\ell)] \tag{3.1}$$

—which, with $\psi_N(z; \ell)$ defined by (2.3), clearly coincides with the statement of Proposition 2.1—implies that the N zeros $z_n(\ell)$ satisfy the evolution equation (2.1a). To this end we note that since by

definition (see (2.3)) the dependence of $\psi_N(z; \ell)$ on the discrete-time variable ℓ is *linear*, $\psi_N(z; \ell)$ satisfies identically the *linear second-order* difference equation

$$\psi_N(z; \ell + 2) - 2\psi_N(z; \ell + 1) + \psi_N(z; \ell) = 0 . \quad (3.2)$$

For $z = z_n(\ell + 2)$, via (3.1), this formula implies (2.1a).

Q. E. D.

4. Envoy

The result reported in the above Proposition 2.1 is likely to look, at least at first sight, somewhat *remarkable*, especially in view of the arbitrariness of the assignment of the $2N$ numbers $z_n(0)$ and f_n (or, equivalently, $z_n(0)$ and $z_n(1)$; see the above Remark 2.1). But of course, after its validity has been proven, it shall be considered *obvious*—as all valid mathematical results in some sense are. A potential application of this finding is as a tool to test the accuracy of numerical routines to compute the zeros of polynomials of *arbitrary* degree N : by comparing, with the simple *explicit* outcome detailed in the above Corollary 2.1, the results yielded by the application of such routines in order to solve numerically—from the initial data detailed in Proposition 2.1, up to $\ell = L$ —the discrete-time evolution (2.1); which indeed requires finding the zeros of appropriate polynomials of degree N at every step of this discrete-time evolution. In this context the flexibility implied by the possibility to assign *arbitrarily* the two integers N and L and the $2N$, generally *complex*, numbers $z_n(0)$ and f_n might be quite useful. Specialists in numerical analysis might be interested to explore in detail the vistas implied by such possibilities: note for instance that, for $N = 20$ and $f_m = m$, Corollary 2.1—for any arbitrary assignment of the parameters L and $x_n(0)$ —yields the 20 zeros of the perfidious Wilkinson polynomial [5].

An extension of the findings reported in this paper to the case in which the finite positive integer N is replaced by ∞ is of course possible, see [2].

A (perhaps less elegant) variant of the approach described in this paper—characterized by the replacement of the system of *second-order* discrete-time evolution equations (2.1a) by systems of *first-order* discrete-time evolution equations—is of course possible, in analogy to the treatments of the continuous-time cases, see [1], [2] and Chapter 3 of [4].

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