

Continued Fractions for Rogers-Szegö polynomials

Qing-Hu Hou

Center for Combinatorics, LPMC
Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, P. R. China
Email: contact@eyou.com

Alain Lascoux

CNRS, Institut Gaspard Monge, Université de Marne-la-Vallée
77454 Marne-la-Vallée Cedex, France

and

Center for Combinatorics, LPMC
Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, P.R. China
Alain.Lascoux@univ-mlv.fr

Yan-Ping Mu

Center for Combinatorics, LPMC
Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, P. R. China
Email: myphb@eyou.com

Abstract

We evaluate different Hankel determinants of Rogers-Szegö polynomials, and deduce from it continued fraction expansions for the generating function of RS polynomials. We also give an explicit expression of the orthogonal polynomials associated to moments equal to RS polynomials, and a decomposition of the Hankel form with RS polynomials as coefficients.

1 Definitions and Notations

Let $(a)_n = (a; q)_n = (1-a)(1-aq) \cdots (1-aq^{n-1})$. The q -binomial coefficient, or the *Gauss polynomial*, is

$$\begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix} = \frac{(q; q)_n}{(q; q)_k (q; q)_{n-k}} = \frac{(q^n - 1)(q^{n-1} - 1) \cdots (q^{n-k+1} - 1)}{(q^k - 1)(q^{k-1} - 1) \cdots (q - 1)},$$

which is equal to the number of k -dimensional vector subspaces of the n -dimensional vector space $V_n(q)$ over the finite field $GF(q)$ if q is a prime power.

The *Rogers-Szegö polynomials* are defined by

$$h_n(t, q) = \sum_{k=0}^n \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix} t^k = (q)_n \sum \frac{t^k}{(q)_k (q)_{n-k}}. \quad (1.1)$$

They are some variants of q -Hermite polynomials which play an important role in the theory of basic hypergeometric series [1]. In fact, we have

$$H_n(x|q) = e^{in\theta} h_n(e^{2i\theta}, q), \quad x = \cos \theta.$$

Rogers-Szegö polynomials appear as coefficients in Fine's transformation of hypergeometric series [7, p. 27]. New representations for them have been recently given by Berkovitch and Warnaar [4]. Distribution of zeros of Rogers-Szegö polynomials are studied in [6], [13].

For $t = 1$, Rogers-Szegö polynomials specialize to the Galois numbers of Goldman and Rota [8, p. 77] (cf. also [11]):

$$G_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let us introduce some notations related to symmetric functions (cf. [12]). Given two sets of indeterminates A, B (we say *alphabets*), the complete symmetric functions $S^i(A - B)$, $i \in \mathbb{Z}$, of the formal difference $A - B$ are defined by the following generating function (using another variable z):

$$\sigma_z(A - B) = \sum_{i \geq 0} S^i(A - B) z^i = \frac{\prod_{b \in B} (1 - bz)}{\prod_{a \in A} (1 - az)}. \quad (1.2)$$

More generally, for any polynomial $P = \sum_{(c,u)} c u$, $c \in \mathbb{C}$, u monomial, and any extra variable q , we define $S^i(P)$ and $S^i(P/(1-q))$ by the generating functions

$$\sigma_z \left(\sum_{(c,u)} c u \right) = \sum_i z^i S^i(P) = \prod_{(c,u)} (1 - zu)^{-c} \quad (1.3)$$

$$\sigma_z \left(\frac{P}{1-q} \right) = \sum_i z^i S^i \left(\frac{P}{1-q} \right) = \prod_{(c,u)} \prod_{j=0}^{\infty} (1 - zq^j u)^{-c} \quad (1.4)$$

With these notations, a variable x is identified with the alphabet $\{x\}$ of order 1, and $(1 - q)^{-1}$ with the infinite alphabet $\{1, q, q^2, \dots\}$. Any formal

series $\sum_{n \geq 0} z^n S^n$, with $S^0 = 1$, can be formally factorized, i.e. identified with $\sigma_z(A)$ for some alphabet A such that $S^n = S^n(A)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Our basic ring \mathcal{R} is the ring of rational functions in two variables q, t and some alphabets A, B, \dots

For any element $\theta \in \mathcal{R}$, any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, any $I = (i_1, \dots, i_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$, the *Schur function* $S_I(\theta)$ is defined by the determinant [14] :

$$S_I(\theta) = |S^{i_s + s - r}(\theta)|_{1 \leq r, s \leq n}.$$

2 Recursion for Rogers-Szegö Polynomials

Taking coefficients of powers of z in (1.2), one gets

$$S^n(A \pm B) = \sum_{k=0}^n S^k(A) S^{n-k}(\pm B). \quad (2.1)$$

From (2.1), we see that the Rogers-Szegö Polynomial $h_n(t, q)$ can be written as:

$$(q)_n S^n \left(\frac{1+t}{1-q} \right).$$

Lemma 2.1 *Let B, C be two alphabets of order less than or equal to m . Then $\mathcal{S}_n := S^n \left(\frac{B-C}{1-q} \right)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, satisfies the following recurrence:*

$$\sum_{r=0}^m (S^r(-B) - S^r(-C)q^{n-r}) \mathcal{S}_{n-r} = 0. \quad (2.2)$$

Proof. Writing $-B + \frac{B-C}{1-q} = -C + q \frac{B-C}{1-q}$, then from (2.1), together with the fact that $S^n(-B) = 0 = S^n(-C)$, for $n > m$, we get that

$$\sum S^r(-B) S^{n-r} \left(\frac{B-C}{1-q} \right) = \sum S^r(-C) q^{n-r} S^{n-r} \left(\frac{B-C}{1-q} \right).$$

□

Lemma 2.1 implies the following recursion [16]:

Corollary 2.2 *Let $h_n(t, q)$ be the Rogers-Szegö polynomial. Then*

$$h_n(t, q) = (1+t)h_{n-1}(t, q) - t(q^{n-1} - 1)h_{n-2}(t, q), \quad n \geq 2. \quad (2.3)$$

Proof. Taking $B = \{1, t\}, C = \emptyset$ in Lemma 2.1, we have

$$(1 - q^n)S^n \left(\frac{1+t}{1-q} \right) - (1+t)S^{n-1} \left(\frac{1+t}{1-q} \right) + tS^{n-2} \left(\frac{1+t}{1-q} \right) = 0. \quad (2.4)$$

Substituting $S^n \left(\frac{1+t}{1-q} \right) = h_n(t, q)/(q)_n$ in Equation (2.4), we derive the recursion immediately. \square

Remark. Goldman and Rota [8] proved the recursion

$$G_{n+1} = 2G_n + (q^n - 1)G_{n-1}, \quad G_0 = 1, \quad G_1 = 2,$$

using vector spaces over finite fields. Nijenhuis, Solow and Wilf [15] gave a bijective proof for the same recursion. K. Hikami and B. Basu-Mallick [9] gave also a recursion for generalized Rogers-Szegö polynomials.

3 Determinants of Rogers-Szegö Polynomials

Theorem 3.1 *Let \mathbb{A} be the alphabet defined by $S^i(\mathbb{A}) = h_i(t, q)$, $i \in \mathbb{N}$. For $m \geq 0$, we have*

$$S_{n^n}(\mathbb{A}) = t^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n+1}{3}} (q)_0 (q)_1 \cdots (q)_{n-1} h_n(t, q^{-1}), \quad (3.1)$$

$$S_{n^n, m}(\mathbb{A}) = (q)_0 (q)_1 \cdots (q)_n t^{\binom{n+1}{2}} q^{\binom{n+1}{3}} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ n \end{bmatrix} h_{m-n}(t, q), \quad (3.2)$$

where $h_n(t, q)$ are regarded as 0 for $n < 0$. In particular,

$$S_{n^{n+1}}(\mathbb{A}) = (q)_0 (q)_1 \cdots (q)_n t^{\binom{n+1}{2}} q^{\binom{n+1}{3}}. \quad (3.3)$$

Proof. Denote $X = \frac{1+t}{1-q}$. By definition,

$$\begin{aligned} S_{n^n}(\mathbb{A}) &= |h_{n+j-i}(t, q)|_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \\ &= |(q)_{n+j-i} S^{n+j-i}(X)|_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \\ &= (q)_1 \cdots (q)_n \cdot |(q^{n-i+2})_{j-1} S^{n+j-i}(X)|_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

We can write recursion (2.4) as

$$\begin{aligned}
& (q^k)_m S^{k+m-1}(X) \\
&= (1+t)(q^k)_{m-1} S^{k+m-2}(X) - t(1-q^{m-1})(q^k)_{m-2} S^{k+m-3}(X) \\
&\quad - tq^{m-1}(q^{k-1})_{m-1} S^{k+m-3}(X). \tag{3.5}
\end{aligned}$$

Applying identity (3.5) on columns $n, n-1, \dots, 2$ of the determinant in (3.4) successively, it becomes

$$(-t)^{n-1} q^{n-2} q^{n-3} \dots q^0 \times \begin{vmatrix} S^n(X) & S^{n-1}(X) & (q^n)_1 S^n(X) & \dots & (q^n)_{n-2} S^{2n-3}(X) \\ S^{n-1}(X) & S^{n-2}(X) & (q^{n-1})_1 S^{n-1}(X) & \dots & (q^{n-1})_{n-2} S^{2n-4}(X) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ S^2(X) & S^1(X) & (q^2)_1 S^2(X) & \dots & (q^2)_{n-1} S^{n-1}(X) \\ S^1(X) & S^0(X) & (q)_1 S^1(X) & \dots & (q)_{n-2} S^{n-2}(X) \end{vmatrix}.$$

Repeating the same transformation, we will finally reach

$$(-t)^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n}{3}} \begin{vmatrix} S^n(X) & S^{n-1}(X) & \dots & S^1(X) \\ S^{n-1}(X) & S^{n-2}(X) & \dots & S^0(X) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \\ S^2(X) & S^1(X) & \dots & 0 \\ S^1(X) & S^0(X) & \dots & 0 \end{vmatrix} = t^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n}{3}} S_{1^n}(X).$$

Noting that

$$S_{1^n}(X) = (-1)^n S^n \left(-\frac{1+t}{1-q} \right) = \frac{q^{\binom{n}{2}}}{(q)_n} h_n(t, q^{-1}),$$

we obtain

$$S_{n^n}(\mathbb{A}) = t^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n+1}{3}} (q)_1 \dots (q)_{n-1} h_n(t, q^{-1}).$$

For $m \geq n$, define

$$\begin{aligned}
W_{n,m} &= \frac{S_{n^n, m}(\mathbb{A})}{(q)_0 (q)_1 \dots (q)_n} \\
&= \begin{vmatrix} S^n(X) & (q^{n+1})_1 S^{n+1}(X) & \dots & (q^{n+1})_{n-1} S^{2n-1}(X) & (q^{n+1})_m S^{n+m}(X) \\ S^{n-1}(X) & (q^n)_1 S^n(X) & \dots & (q^n)_{n-1} S^{2n-2}(X) & (q^n)_m S^{n+m-1}(X) \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ S^1(X) & (q^2)_1 S^2(X) & \dots & (q^2)_{n-1} S^n(X) & (q^2)_m S^{m+1}(X) \\ S^0(X) & (q)_1 S^1(X) & \dots & (q)_{n-1} S^{n-1}(X) & (q)_m S^m(X) \end{vmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

Applying identity (3.5) on the last column of $W_{n,m}$, we transform it into

$$W_{n,m} = (1+t)W_{n,m-1} - t(1-q^{m-1})W_{n,m-2} + \begin{vmatrix} S^n(X) & \cdots & (q^{n+1})_{n-1}S^{2n-1}(X) & (q^n)_{m-1}S^{n+m-2}(X) \\ S^{n-1}(X) & \cdots & (q^n)_{n-1}S^{2n-2}(X) & (q^{n-1})_{m-1}S^{n+m-3}(X) \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ S^1(X) & \cdots & (q^2)_{n-1}S^n(X) & (q)_{m-1}S^{m-1}(X) \\ S^0(X) & \cdots & (q)_{n-1}S^{n-1}(X) & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

After successive such transformations, one finally obtains

$$W_{n,m} = (1+t)W_{n,m-1} - t(1-q^{m-1})W_{n,m-2} + t^n q^{m-1} q^{\binom{n-1}{2}} W_{n-1,m-1}. \quad (3.6)$$

Noting that

$$t^{\binom{n+1}{2}} q^{\binom{n+1}{3}} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ n \end{bmatrix} h_{m-n}(t, q)$$

satisfies the recursion (3.6) and coincides with $W_{n,m}$ for $(0, m)$, $(n, 0)$ and $(n, 1)$, we get (3.2). \square

4 Continued Fractions for Rogers-Szegö Polynomial

There are three main types of continued fraction expressions for formal series. They are all obtained by evaluating some Hankel determinants, i.e. determinants which are constant along anti-diagonals. What we write $S_{k^n}(\mathbb{A})$ would usually appear as

$$\begin{vmatrix} c_{k-n+1} & \cdots & c_k \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ c_k & \cdots & c_{k+n-1} \end{vmatrix} \longleftrightarrow \pm \begin{vmatrix} S_k(\mathbb{A}) & \cdots & S_{k+n-1}(\mathbb{A}) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ S_{k-n+1}(\mathbb{A}) & \cdots & S_k(\mathbb{A}) \end{vmatrix},$$

the $c_i = S_i(\mathbb{A})$ being the moments.

We refer to Stieltjes [17], Wall [18] and Brezinski [5]. The determinants given by Theorem 3.1 allow us to write the following three continued fractions. We do not treat questions of convergence, but only expand formally continued fractions.

Theorem 4.1 *The generating function of Rogers-Szegö polynomials $h_n(t, q)$ is equal to each of the three following continued fractions:*

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} h_n(t, q)z^n &= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{z\gamma_1}{1 - \frac{z\gamma_2}{1 - \frac{z\gamma_3}{\dots}}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \zeta_0 z + \frac{\beta_1 z^2}{1 - \zeta_1 z + \frac{\beta_2 z^2}{1 - \zeta_2 z + \frac{\beta_3 z^2}{\dots}}}}, \\ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} h_n(t, q)z^{-n-1} &= \frac{1}{z + \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{\alpha_1} + \frac{1}{\frac{z}{\alpha_2} + \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{\alpha_3} + \dots}}}}}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\alpha_m = \begin{cases} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{q^{\binom{n}{2}} h_n(t, q^{-1}) h_{n-1}(t, q^{-1})}{t^{n-1} (q)_{n-1}}, & m = 2n - 1, \\ (-1)^n \frac{t^n (q)_n}{q^{\binom{n}{2}} h_n^2(t, q^{-1})}, & m = 2n, \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma_m = \begin{cases} \frac{q^{n-1} h_n(t, q^{-1})}{h_{n-1}(t, q^{-1})}, & m = 2n - 1, \\ -t(1 - q^n) \frac{h_{n-1}(t, q^{-1})}{h_n(t, q^{-1})}, & m = 2n, \end{cases}$$

$$\beta_n = q^{n-1} t(1 - q^n),$$

$$\zeta_n = q^n(1 + t).$$

Proof. In our notations, Stieltjes' parameters, for the series $\sum z^n S^n(\mathbb{A})$, are

[12]

$$\alpha_m = \begin{cases} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{S_{n^n}(\mathbb{A})S_{(n-1)^{n-1}}(\mathbb{A})}{S_{(n-1)^n}(\mathbb{A})^2}, & m = 2n - 1, \\ (-1)^n \frac{S_{n^{n+1}}(\mathbb{A})S_{(n-1)^n}(\mathbb{A})}{S_{n^n}(\mathbb{A})^2}, & m = 2n, \end{cases}$$

$$\beta_n = \frac{S_{n^{n+1}}(\mathbb{A})S_{(n-2)^{n-1}}(\mathbb{A})}{S_{(n-1)^n}(\mathbb{A})^2} = -\gamma_{2n}\gamma_{2n-1},$$

$$\gamma_n = \alpha_n\alpha_{n-1},$$

$$\zeta_n = \frac{S_{n^n, n+1}(\mathbb{A})}{S_{n^{n+1}}(\mathbb{A})} - \frac{S_{(n-1)^{(n-1), n}}(\mathbb{A})}{S_{(n-1)^n}(\mathbb{A})}.$$

□

Remark. Note that the usual generating function considered for the Rogers-Szegő polynomials is

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{h_n(t; q)}{(q; q)_n} z^n = \frac{1}{(z; q)_\infty (zt; q)_\infty},$$

which is different from the one in Theorem 4.1.

5 Hankel Forms

To any alphabet \mathbb{A} is associated a Hankel form

$$H(\mathbb{A}; x) = \sum_{i, j=0}^{\infty} S_{i+j}(\mathbb{A}) x_i x_j .$$

The problem of decomposing Hankel forms into sums of squares has also been solved by Stieltjes [3]. He found the coefficients, that we denote by \star , such that

$$H(\mathbb{A}; x) = (x_0 + \star x_1 + \dots)^2 + \star(x_1 + \star x_2 + \dots)^2 + \star(x_2 + \star x_3 + \dots)^2 + \dots .$$

Theorem 5.1 (Stieltjes) *Let \mathbb{A} be a generic alphabet. With $\mathbb{A}^0 = \mathbb{A}$, define the alphabets $\mathbb{A}^1, \mathbb{A}^2, \dots$ by the generating series*

$$\sigma_z(\mathbb{A}^k) = S_{k^{k+1}}(\mathbb{A})^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} S_{k^k, k+j}(\mathbb{A}) z^j .$$

Then the form $K(\mathbb{A}; x, y) = \sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} S_{i+j}(\mathbb{A})x^i y^j$ decomposes as

$$\begin{aligned} K(A; x, y) &= \sigma_1\left((x+y)\mathbb{A}^0\right) - xyS_{11}(\mathbb{A})\sigma_1\left((x+y)\mathbb{A}^1\right) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \cdots + (-xy)^n \frac{S_{n^{n+1}}(\mathbb{A})}{S_{(n-1)^n}(\mathbb{A})} \sigma_1\left((x+y)\mathbb{A}^n\right) + \cdots . \end{aligned}$$

Substituting Equation (3.2) into the above identity, we instantly derive that

Corollary 5.2 For Rogers-Szegö polynomials $h_n(t, q)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} h_{i+j}(t, q)x^i y^j &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-t)^n (q)_n q^{\binom{n}{2}} \\ &\quad \times \left(\sum_{u=0}^{\infty} h_u(t, q) \begin{bmatrix} n+u \\ u \end{bmatrix} x^{n+u} \right) \left(\sum_{v=0}^{\infty} h_v(t, q) \begin{bmatrix} n+v \\ v \end{bmatrix} y^{n+v} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of $t^m s^n$ of both sides, we get the following formula due to Askey and Ismail [2]:

$$h_{m+n}(t, q) = \sum_{k=0}^{\min\{m,n\}} \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m \\ k \end{bmatrix} (-t)^k (q)_k q^{\binom{k}{2}} h_{m-k}(t, q) h_{n-k}(t, q).$$

6 Orthogonal Polynomials

Let \int be a linear functional on polynomials in x such that there exists a family of *orthogonal polynomials* $\{P_n(x)\}$:

$$\int P_m(x)P_n(x) = 0 \text{ if } m \neq n, \quad \int P_n(x)P_n(x) = c_n \neq 0.$$

c_n is called the normalization constant.

Identifying the *moments* $\int x^n$ to the complete functions $S^n(A)$ of some alphabet A , we can rewrite the classical expressions of orthogonal polynomials in term of symmetric functions:

$$P_n(x) = S_{n^n}(A - x), \quad c_n = (-1)^n S_{(n-1)^n}(A) S_{n^{n+1}}(A), \quad n \geq 0. \quad (6.1)$$

In the case where we take as moments the Rogers-Szegö polynomials, the corresponding orthogonal polynomials have a simple expression which is a corollary of combinatorial properties of Al-Salam-Chihara polynomials obtained by Ismail and Stanton[10, Th. 6, Cor. 1]. We give a direct algebraic proof in the following theorem.

Theorem 6.1 *Let $\int_{\mathbb{A}}$ be the linear functional with moments equal to the Rogers-Szegö polynomials: $\int_{\mathbb{A}} x^n = h_n(t, q)$. Then*

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix} q^{\binom{k}{2}} h_k(t, q^{-1}) x^{n-k} = (q)_n S^n \left(\frac{x-1-t}{1-q} \right),$$

are its associated orthogonal polynomials, with normalization constant

$$c_n = t^n q^{\binom{n}{2}} (q-1)(q^2-1) \cdots (q^n-1).$$

Proof. Start with

$$S_{n^n}(\mathbb{A} - x) = \begin{vmatrix} S^n(\mathbb{A}) & S^{n+1}(\mathbb{A}) & \cdots & S^{2n-1}(\mathbb{A}) & x^n \\ S^{n-1}(\mathbb{A}) & S^n(\mathbb{A}) & \cdots & S^{2n-2}(\mathbb{A}) & x^{n-1} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ S^1(\mathbb{A}) & S^2(\mathbb{A}) & \cdots & S^n(\mathbb{A}) & x^1 \\ S^0(\mathbb{A}) & S^1(\mathbb{A}) & \cdots & S^{n-1}(\mathbb{A}) & 1 \end{vmatrix},$$

and write $X = \frac{1+t}{1-q}$. The same kind of transformation as for Theorem 3.1

allows us to write the preceding determinant as

$$\begin{aligned}
& (q)_0(q)_1 \cdots (q)_n \begin{vmatrix} S^n(X) & \cdots & (q^{n+1})_{n-1}S^{2n-1}(X) & x^n/(q)_n \\ S^{n-1}(X) & \cdots & (q^n)_{n-1}S^{2n-2}(X) & x^{n-1}/(q)_{n-1} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ S^1(X) & \cdots & (q^2)_{n-1}S^n(X) & x^1/(q)_1 \\ S^0(X) & \cdots & (q)_{n-1}S^{n-1}(X) & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\
&= (q)_0(q)_1 \cdots (q)_n (-t)^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n}{3}} \\
&\quad \begin{vmatrix} S^n(X) & S^{n-1}(X) & \cdots & S^1(X) & x^n/(q)_n \\ S^{n-1}(X) & S^{n-2}(X) & \cdots & S^0(X) & x^{n-1}/(q)_{n-1} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ S^1(X) & S^0(X) & \cdots & 0 & x^1/(q)_1 \\ S^0(X) & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\
&= (q)_1 \cdots (q)_n t^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n}{3}} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^{n-k} \frac{x^{n-k}}{(q)_{n-k}} S_{1^k}(X) \\
&= (-1)^n (q)_1 \cdots (q)_{n-1} t^{\binom{n}{2}} q^{\binom{n}{3}} \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix} q^{\binom{k}{2}} h_k(t, q^{-1}) x^{n-k},
\end{aligned}$$

After normalization, we finally get the polynomials

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \begin{bmatrix} n \\ k \end{bmatrix} q^{\binom{k}{2}} h_k(t, q^{-1}) x^{n-k} = (q)_n S^n \left(\frac{x-1-t}{1-q} \right),$$

with normalization constant

$$c_n = t^n q^{\binom{n}{2}} (q-1)(q^2-1) \cdots (q^n-1).$$

□

Acknowledgments. This work was done under the auspices of the National 973 Project on Mathematical Mechanization and the National Science Foundation of China. We thank the referees and D. Stanton for their comments.

References

- [1] G.E. Andrews, *The Theory of Partitions*, Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., Mass-London-Amsterdam, 1976.

- [2] R. Askey and M.E.H. Ismail, *A generalization of ultraspherical polynomials*, In: Studies in Pure Mathematics, P. Erdős, Ed., pp. 55-78, Birkhäuser, Boston, MA, 1983.
- [3] B. Baillaud, H. Bourget, *Correspondance d'Hermite et de Stieltjes*, Gauthier-Villars, Paris, 1905.
- [4] A. Berkovich and O. Warnaar, *Positivity preserving transformations for q -binomial coefficients*, `math.CO/0302320` (2003).
- [5] C. Brezinski, *History of continued fractions and Padé approximants*, Springer, 1991.
- [6] K. A. Driver and D. Lubinsky, *Convergence of Padé Approximants for a q -Hypergeometric Series*, *Aequationes Math.*, **42** (1991), 85–106.
- [7] N. J. Fine, *Basic hypergeometric series and application*, Mathematical Surveys and Monographs, Vol. 27, Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, 1988.
- [8] J. Goldman and G.-C. Rota, *The number of subspaces of a vector space*, in: Recent Progress in Combinatorics, W. T. Tutte ed., Academic Press, 1969, pp. 75-83.
- [9] K. Hikami and B. Basu-Mallick, *Supersymmetric Polychronakos spin chain: motifs, distribution functions and characters*, *Nuclear Physics B* **566** (2000) 511–528.
- [10] M. Ismail and D. Stanton, *More orthogonal polynomials as moments*, *Mathematical Essays in Honor of Gian-Carlo-Rota*, Birkhauser (1998) 377–396.)
- [11] V. Kac and P. Cheung, *Quantum Calculus*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 2002, pp. 25–26.
- [12] A. Lascoux, *Symmetric functions and combinatorial operators on polynomials*, CBMS-AMS Conference Lecture Notes (to appear).
- [13] D. Lubinsky and E. B. Saff, *Convergence of Padé Approximants of Partial Theta Functions and the Rogers-Szegö Polynomials*, *Constructive Approximation*, **3** (1987), 331–361.
- [14] I.G. Macdonald, *Symmetric functions and Hall polynomials*, Clarendon press, Oxford, 1979.
- [15] A. Nijenhuis, A.E. Solow and H.S. Wilf, *Bijjective methods in the theory of finite vector spaces*, *J. Combin. Theory (A)* **37** (1984) 80-84.
- [16] G. Szegő, *Ein Beitrag zur Theorie der Thetafunktionen*, *Sitz. Preuss. Akad. Wiss., Phys.-Math. Klasse* **19** (1926) 249-252 (reprinted in *Collected Papers vol 1*, R. Askey ed., (Boston, MA: Birkhäuser) pp. 795–805).
- [17] T.J. Stieltjes, *Recherches sur les fractions continues*, *Ann. Fac. Sc. Toulouse* **8** (1894) 1–122.
- [18] H.S. Wall, *Analytic theory of Continued Fractions*, Chelsea reprint, 1973.