

# Contents

Preface	ix
Algebraic and Algorithmic Aspects of Linear Difference Equations BY MICHAEL F. SINGER	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Algebraic varieties	2
2.1. Varieties and ideals	3
2.2. Irreducible varieties	4
2.3. Morphisms and coordinate rings	6
2.4. Problems	8
3. Linear algebraic groups	8
3.1. Linear algebraic groups	8
3.2. Lie-Kolchin theorem	11
3.3. Torsors	11
3.4. Problems	12
4. Picard-Vessiot extensions	13
4.1. Difference rings and fields	13
4.2. Linear difference equations and Picard-Vessiot extensions	14
4.3. Applications	19
4.4. Problems	20
5. Picard-Vessiot groups	20
5.1. Galois groups of PV extensions	20
5.2. PV extensions and torsors	21
5.3. Applications	23
5.4. Galois correspondence	25
5.5. Problems	27
6. Computational questions	27
6.1. Calculating PV groups and algebraic relations among solutions of linear difference equations	27
6.2. Liouvillian sequences	31
7. Hints and answers to problems	36
7.1. Problems for Section 2	36
7.2. Problems for Section 3	37
7.3. Problems for Section 4	38
7.4. Problems for Section 5	39
References	40

Galoisian Approach to Differential Transcendence	
BY CHARLOTTE HARDOUIN	43
1. Introduction	43
2. Differential algebraic equations from an algebraic point of view	45
2.1. Differential rings	45
2.2. Differential ideals	48
2.3. Differential polynomial rings and differential algebras	50
2.4. Differential fields	57
3. Differential algebraic geometry	63
3.1. Differential algebraic sets	64
3.2. $k$ - $\delta$ -coordinate rings and $k$ - $\delta$ -morphisms	66
3.3. Dimension of a $k$ - $\delta$ -closed set	70
3.4. From algebraic geometry to differential algebraic geometry and vice versa	71
3.5. Linear $k$ - $\delta$ -groups	71
4. Parametrized Picard-Vessiot theory	78
4.1. The framework	79
4.2. Parametrized Picard-Vessiot rings	80
4.3. The parametrized Galois group	88
4.4. Applications to differential transcendence and isomonodromic problems	92
References	99
Analytic Study of $q$ -Difference Equations	
BY JACQUES SAULOY	103
1. Introduction and motivation: $q$ -analogies	106
1.1. Euler, the master of the series	106
1.2. $q$ -analogues and $q$ -degeneracies	110
1.3. Exercises on Section 1	114
2. Some difference and $q$ -difference algebra	115
2.1. Difference fields	115
2.2. Difference operators	117
2.3. Difference equations	118
2.4. Difference systems	120
2.5. Difference modules	122
2.6. Exercises on Section 2	124
3. Fuchsian $q$ -difference equations and systems	126
3.1. Definitions and criteria	126
3.2. Local reduction and classification	127
3.3. Solving fuchsian systems	129
3.4. Local and global classification of fuchsian systems	132
3.5. Two examples	134
3.6. Exercises on Section 3	136
4. Galois and $q$ -monodromy groups of fuchsian systems	139
4.1. Local fuchsian differential Galois group and monodromy group	139
4.2. Local fuchsian $q$ -difference Galois group and $q$ -monodromy group	143
4.3. Global fuchsian $q$ -difference Galois group and $q$ -monodromy group	148
4.4. Exercises on Section 4	149

5. Slopes and filtration	150
5.1. The Newton polygon of an operator	150
5.2. Factorisation of operators	151
5.3. The Adams filtration	156
5.4. Birkhoff-Guenther normal form	159
5.5. Growth of solutions	163
5.6. Exercises on Section 5	164
A. Confluence	164
A.1. What lies behind $q$ -degeneracies	164
A.2. Degeneracy of basic functions when $q \rightarrow 1$	165
A.3. Degeneracy of canonical solutions when $q \rightarrow 1$	166
A.4. Degeneracy of Birkhoff's matrix when $q \rightarrow 1$	167
A.5. Basic hypergeometric series again	168
A.6. Exercises on Appendix A	169
References	169