

We can write

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{D}_{\mathfrak{J}_D}^{\mathfrak{J}_B, (1,0;(\tilde{A}\tilde{B}/\tilde{D}\tilde{C})^{\frac{1}{2}})} \mathfrak{F}(u) &= \frac{\prod_{l=1}^4 (1 - a_l u)}{(1 - u^2)(1 - qu^2)} (\mathfrak{F}(qu) - \mathfrak{F}(u)) \\ &+ \frac{\prod_{j=1}^4 (1 - a_j u^{-1})}{(1 - u^{-2})(1 - qu^{-2})} (\mathfrak{F}(qu^{-1}) - \mathfrak{F}(u)) + E_{\mathfrak{J}_D}^{\mathfrak{J}_B, (1,0;(\tilde{A}\tilde{B}/\tilde{D}\tilde{C})^{\frac{1}{2}})} \mathfrak{F}(u), \\ a_1 &= q^{\frac{1}{2}} t \tilde{A}^{-1}, \quad a_2 = q^{\frac{1}{2}} t \tilde{C}^{-1}, \quad a_3 = q^{\frac{1}{2}} t^{-1} \tilde{A}^{-1}, \quad a_4 = q^{\frac{1}{2}} t^{-1} \tilde{C}^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The first two terms define the rank one Koornwinder operator and we have an additional constant term. The eigenfunctions are the Askey–Wilson polynomials. In general these polynomials have four independent parameters a_l but in our case they are restricted to $a_1 a_4 = a_2 a_3$. The constant term is

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mathfrak{J}_D}^{\mathfrak{J}_B, (1,0;(\tilde{A}\tilde{B}/\tilde{D}\tilde{C})^{\frac{1}{2}})} &= \left[-\frac{q^3 t^2}{(\tilde{A}\tilde{C})^2} - q^2 t^2 \left(1 - \frac{\tilde{B}}{\tilde{C}\tilde{D}\tilde{A}} - \frac{1}{\tilde{C}^2} - \frac{1 + t^{-2}}{\tilde{A}\tilde{C}} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - q \left(-\frac{\tilde{B}}{\tilde{C}^3 \tilde{A}\tilde{D}} + \frac{\tilde{B}}{\tilde{C}^2 \tilde{D}} + \frac{\tilde{B}}{\tilde{A}\tilde{D}\tilde{C}} + \frac{1}{\tilde{C}^2} + \frac{\tilde{B}t^2}{\tilde{C}^2 \tilde{D}} \right) + \frac{\tilde{B}\tilde{A}}{\tilde{D}\tilde{C}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Let us take the limit of the three punctured sphere. We give details of the computation in Appendix with the final result given here (taking $\lim_{p \rightarrow 0}$ of the right-hand side as in (??))

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\mathfrak{J}_B, \mathfrak{J}_C, \mathfrak{J}_D}(w, u, v) &= \frac{1}{(qp \frac{1}{ABCD} t^{-2}; q)} \left(qpt^2 \frac{1}{ABCD}; q \right)^2 \left(qp \frac{1}{BACD}; q \right) \quad (1) \\ &\times \frac{1}{(\sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{AC} v^{\pm 1}, \sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{DB} v^{\pm 1}; q)} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{AB} w^{\pm 1}, \sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{DC} w^{\pm 1}; q)} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{BC} u^{\pm 1}, \sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{AD} u^{\pm 1}; q)}. \end{aligned}$$

The index factorizes. In particular on general grounds we expect the index of the three punctured sphere to be

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{(\sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{AC} v^{\pm 1}, \sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{DB} v^{\pm 1}; q)} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{AB} w^{\pm 1}, \sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{DC} w^{\pm 1}; q)} \\ &\times \frac{1}{(\sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{BC} u^{\pm 1}, \sqrt{qp} \frac{t}{AD} u^{\pm 1}; q)} \sum_{\lambda} C_{\lambda} \psi_{\lambda}(u) \psi_{\lambda}(w) \psi_{\lambda}(v), \end{aligned}$$

where the sum is over all the eigenvalues of the Koornwinder operator and $\psi_{\lambda}(z)$ are Askey–Wilson polynomials. What we have shown above is that