

## Quasi-locally Finite Polynomial Endomorphisms.

Jean-Philippe FURTER,  
Dpt. of Math., Univ. of La Rochelle,  
av. M. Crépeau, 17 000 La Rochelle, FRANCE  
email: jpfurter@univ-lr.fr

### Abstract.

If  $F$  is a polynomial endomorphism of  $\mathbb{C}^N$ , let  $\mathbb{C}(X)^F$  denote the field of rational functions  $r \in \mathbb{C}(x_1, \dots, x_N)$  such that  $r \circ F = r$ . We will say that  $F$  is quasi-locally finite if there exists a nonzero  $p \in \mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$  such that  $p(F) = 0$ . This terminology comes out from the fact that this definition is less restrictive than the one of locally finite endomorphisms made in [7]. Indeed,  $F$  is called locally finite if there exists a nonzero  $p \in \mathbb{C}[T]$  such that  $p(F) = 0$ . In the present paper, we show that  $F$  is quasi-locally finite if and only if for each  $a \in \mathbb{C}^N$  the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$  is a linear recurrent sequence. Therefore, this notion is in some sense natural. We also give a few basic results on such endomorphisms. For example: they satisfy the Jacobian conjecture.

### Keywords.

Polynomial automorphisms, linear recurrent sequences.

### INTRODUCTION.

Let us denote by  $\mathbb{A}^N = \mathbb{C}^N$  the complex affine space of dimension  $N$  and by  $End$  the set of polynomial endomorphisms of  $\mathbb{A}^N$ . As usual, we identify an element  $F$  of  $End$  to the  $N$ -uple of its coordinate functions  $F = (F_1, \dots, F_N)$  where each  $F_L$  belongs to the ring  $\mathbb{C}[X] := \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_N]$  of regular functions on  $\mathbb{A}^N$ . We will therefore write  $End = \mathbb{C}[X]^N$ . Let us set  $\mathbb{C}(X) := \mathbb{C}(x_1, \dots, x_N)$ ,  $\mathbb{C}(X)^F := \{r \in \mathbb{C}(X), r \circ F = r\}$  and  $\mathbb{C}[X]^F := \mathbb{C}(X)^F \cap \mathbb{C}[X]$ . We recall that  $F$  is called dynamically trivial if its dynamical degree  $dd(F) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\deg F^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$  is equal to one (see [5]). In the case where  $F$  is an automorphism, this is equivalent to saying that its topological entropy  $h(F)$  is zero (see [13]). A first subclass of dynamically trivial polynomial endomorphisms was introduced in [7]. It is the set of polynomial endomorphisms  $F$  which are locally finite (LF for short) in the following sense: the complex vector space generated by the  $r \circ F^n$ ,  $n \geq 0$ , is finite dimensional for each  $r \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ . In the last quoted paper, it is shown that this is equivalent to saying that the sequence  $n \mapsto \deg F^n$  is upper bounded or to saying that there exists a nonzero  $p \in \mathbb{C}[T]$  such that  $p(F) = 0$ . Using a deep result from number theory known as the theorem of Skolem-Mahler-Lech (see [9, 12]), one can show that this amounts to saying that the sequence  $n \mapsto \deg F^n$  is periodic for large  $n$  (in [6], the proof

is given for  $N = 2$ , but it is easy to give a general proof).

Here, we are interested by the wider class of polynomial endomorphisms  $F$  which are quasi-locally finite (QLF for short) in the following sense: there exists a nonzero  $p \in \mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$  such that  $p(F) = 0$ .

Section I is devoted to generalities. We introduce the minimal polynomial  $\nu_F \in \mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$  of a QLF polynomial endomorphism  $F$  and show in prop.1.3 that in fact  $\nu_F \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F[T]$ . In prop.1.5 we show that for any QLF polynomial endomorphism  $F$  the sequence  $n \mapsto \deg F^n$  has at most linear growth. Therefore, as announced, any QLF polynomial endomorphism is dynamically trivial. In section II, we prove our main theorem asserting that  $F$  is QLF if and only if the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$  is a linear recurrent sequence for any  $a \in \mathbb{A}^N$ . In section III, we give two criteria for invertibility of QLF polynomial endomorphisms.

## I. GENERALITIES.

Let  $F \in \text{End}$ . In [7], we noticed that  $\mathcal{I}_F := \{p \in \mathbb{C}[T], p(F) = 0\}$  is an ideal of  $\mathbb{C}[T]$ . Indeed, it is a complex vector subspace of  $\mathbb{C}[T]$  which is stable by multiplication by  $T$ . In the case where  $F$  is LF, i.e. when  $\mathcal{I}_F \neq \{0\}$ , we denote by  $\mu_F$  the (unique) monic polynomial generating this ideal. By the same way,  $\mathcal{I}'_F := \{p \in \mathbb{C}(X)^F[T], p(F) = 0\}$  is an ideal of  $\mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$ . In the case where  $F$  is QLF, i.e. when  $\mathcal{I}'_F \neq \{0\}$ , we denote by  $\nu_F$  the (unique) monic polynomial generating this ideal.

**Proposition 1.1.** If  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF, the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $F$  is LF;
- (ii)  $\nu_F \in \mathbb{C}[T]$ .

Furthermore, if these assertions are satisfied, we have  $\mu_F = \nu_F$ .

**Proof.** If  $F$  is LF, it is clear that  $\nu_F$  divides  $\mu_F$  in  $\mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$ . Since  $\mu_F \in \mathbb{C}[T]$ , we clearly have  $\nu_F \in \mathbb{C}[T]$ . Conversely, if  $\nu_F \in \mathbb{C}[T]$ , then  $F$  is obviously LF.  $\square$

We introduce the language of linear recurrent sequences (LRS for short) and we refer to [3] for a nice overview of this subject. Let  $K$  be any field and let  $V$  be any vector space over  $K$ . The set of sequences  $u : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow V$  will be denoted by  $V^{\mathbb{N}}$ . If  $p = \sum_k p_k T^k \in K[T]$ , we define  $p(u) \in V^{\mathbb{N}}$  by the formula  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, (p(u))(n) = \sum_k p_k u(n+k)$  and we set  $\mathcal{I}_u := \{p \in K[T], p(u) = 0\}$ . It is easy to show that  $\mathcal{I}_u$  is an ideal of  $K[T]$ . We say that  $u \in V^{\mathbb{N}}$  is a LRS if  $\mathcal{I}_u \neq \{0\}$ . In this case, the minimal polynomial of  $u$  is defined as the (unique) monic polynomial  $\mu_u$  generating the ideal  $\mathcal{I}_u$ . If a LRS of (the vector space)  $K$  takes values in a subfield  $K'$ , it is well known that its minimal polynomial belongs to  $K'[T]$ . More generally, we have the following result.

**Lemma.** If  $u$  is a LRS of a field  $K$  taking values in a subring  $A$  which is noetherian and

factorial, then  $\mu_u \in A[T]$ .

**Proof.** We may assume that  $K$  is the field of fractions of  $A$ . Since  $A$  is factorial, it is sufficient to prove that  $\mathcal{I}_u = \{p \in K[T], p(u) = 0\}$  contains a monic polynomial in  $A[T]$ . If  $v = (v_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in A^{\mathbb{N}}$ , let us denote by  $E(v)$  the sequence  $(v_{n+1})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ . Let  $M$  be the  $A$ -module generated by the  $E^k(u)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $p$  is a nonzero element of  $\mathcal{I}_u$ , it is clear that  $\forall v \in M$ ,  $p(v) = 0$ . Therefore, if  $d := \deg p$ , the map  $M \rightarrow A^d$ ,  $v \mapsto (v_k)_{0 \leq k \leq d-1}$  is injective. Since  $A$  is noetherian, this shows that  $M$  is a finite  $A$ -module. Let  $m \geq 0$  be such that the  $E^k(u)$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq m$ , generate  $M$ . There exist  $\lambda_k \in A$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq m$ , such that  $E^{m+1}(u) = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq m} \lambda_k E^k(u)$ . In other words,  $T^{m+1} - \sum_{0 \leq k \leq m} \lambda_k T^k \in \mathcal{I}_u$ .  $\square$

**Example.** Any LRS with values in  $\mathbb{Z}$  admits a minimal polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[T]$ .

The next trivial result relates QLF polynomial endomorphisms and LRS.

**Proposition 1.2.** If  $F \in \text{End}$ , the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $F$  is QLF;
- (ii) the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n$  is a LRS of  $\mathbb{C}(X)^N$  considered as a vector space over  $\mathbb{C}(X)^F$ .

Furthermore, if these assertions are satisfied, the associated minimal polynomials are equal.

**Proof.** If  $p = \sum_k p_k T^k \in \mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$ ,  $\sum_k p_k F^k = 0 \iff \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \sum_k p_k F^{k+n} = 0$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** If  $F \in \text{End}$ , it is clear that the set of polynomials  $p \in \mathbb{C}(X)[T]$  satisfying  $p(F) = 0$  is a nonzero ideal of  $\mathbb{C}(X)[T]$ . However, it seems that there is in general no connection with LRS. Indeed, if  $p = \sum_k p_k T^k \in \mathbb{C}(X)[T]$  satisfies  $\sum_k p_k F^k = 0$ , it is not necessarily true that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \sum_k p_k F^{k+n} = 0$ .

**Proposition 1.3.** If  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF, then  $\nu_F \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F[T]$ .

**Proof.** It follows from prop. 1.2 that the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n$  is a LRS of the vector space  $\mathbb{C}(X)^N$  over  $\mathbb{C}(X)$ . If  $1 \leq L \leq N$ , let us denote by  $\Pi_L : \mathbb{C}(X)^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(X)$  the  $L$ -th projection. Each sequence  $n \mapsto \Pi_L(F^n)$  being a LRS of the field  $\mathbb{C}(X)$  with values in  $\mathbb{C}[X]$ , its minimal polynomial  $\mu_{L,F}$  has coefficients in  $\mathbb{C}[X]$ . Since  $\nu_F = \text{lcm}_{1 \leq L \leq N} \mu_{L,F}$ , we are done.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.4.** If  $F \in \text{End}$ , the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $F$  is QLF;

(ii) the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n$  is a LRS of  $\mathbb{C}(X)^N$  considered as a vector space over  $\mathbb{C}(X)$ . Furthermore, if these assertions are satisfied, the associated minimal polynomials are equal.

**Proof.** (i)  $\implies$  (ii) is a direct consequence of prop. 1.2. Let us show (ii)  $\implies$  (i). Let  $p \in \mathbb{C}(X)[T]$  be the minimal polynomial of the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n$  considered as a LRS of the vector space  $\mathbb{C}(X)^N$  over  $\mathbb{C}(X)$ . The proof of prop. 1.3 shows that  $p \in \mathbb{C}[X][T]$ . It is sufficient to show that  $p \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F[T]$ . If  $q = \sum_k q_k T^k \in \mathbb{C}[X][T]$ , where the  $q_k \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ , let us set  $\tilde{q} := \sum_k \tilde{q}_k T^k$ , where  $\tilde{q}_k := q_k \circ F$ . Since  $p$  is a vanishing polynomial of the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n$ , we have  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \sum_k p_k(X) F^{k+n}(X) = 0$ . By substituting  $F(X)$  to  $X$ , we get  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \sum_k \tilde{p}_k F^{k+1+n} = 0$  which shows that  $T\tilde{p}(T)$  is a vanishing polynomial of the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n$ . If  $a|b$  means that  $a$  divides  $b$ , we get  $p|T\tilde{p}$  in  $\mathbb{C}(X)[T]$ . Writing  $p(T) = T^m q(T)$  with  $q(0) \neq 0$ , we get  $T^m q|T^{m+1}\tilde{q}$ , so that  $q|T\tilde{q}$  and finally  $q|\tilde{q}$ . Therefore, we have  $p|\tilde{p}$  and since  $p$  and  $\tilde{p}$  are monic polynomials of the same degree, we have  $p = \tilde{p}$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** In the last proof, we need to show that each coefficient  $p_k$  of  $p$  belongs to  $\mathbb{C}[X]$  in order to justify the fact that the composition  $p_k \circ F$  is well defined.

**Proposition 1.5.** If  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF, there exist  $A, B \geq 0$  such that:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \deg F^n \leq An + B.$$

**Proof.** Let  $a_0, \dots, a_{d-1} \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F$  be such that  $F^d = a_{d-1}F^{d-1} + \dots + a_0F^0$ . Since  $F^{n+d} = a_{d-1}F^{n+d-1} + \dots + a_0F^n$ , we have  $\deg F^{n+d} \leq \max_{0 \leq k \leq d-1} \deg a_k F^{n+k}$ . If we set  $d_n := \max_{0 \leq k \leq d-1} \deg F^{n+k}$ ,  $A := \max_{0 \leq k \leq d-1} \deg a_k$  and  $B := d_0$ , we get  $\deg F^{n+d} \leq A + d_n$ , so that  $d_{n+1} \leq A + d_n$  and  $\deg F^n \leq d_n \leq An + B$ .  $\square$

**Question.** Is the converse true?

**Example.** Let  $\mathbb{C}[Y] := \mathbb{C}[y_1, \dots, y_m]$  and  $\mathbb{C}[Z] := \mathbb{C}[z_1, \dots, z_n]$  for  $m, n \geq 1$ .

Let  $P := T^m - \sum_{0 \leq k \leq m-1} a_k T^k \in \mathbb{C}[Z][T]$ , where the  $a_k \in \mathbb{C}[Z]$ . We now give a QLF endomorphism  $F$  whose minimal polynomial  $\nu_F$  is equal to the least common multiple  $Q$  of  $P$  and  $T - 1$ .

$$\text{Let } C_P := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & 0 & a_0 \\ 1 & & 0 & a_1 \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ 0 & & 1 & a_{m-1} \end{bmatrix} \in M_m(\mathbb{C}[Z]) \text{ be the Companion matrix to } P.$$

It is well known that the minimal polynomial of  $C_P$  is equal to  $P$ . Therefore, if  $F_1, \dots, F_m \in \mathbb{C}[Y, Z]$  are defined by  ${}^t[F_1, \dots, F_m] = C_P.{}^t[y_1, \dots, y_m]$ , it is easy to check that  $F : (Y, Z) \mapsto (F_1(Y, Z), \dots, F_m(Y, Z), Z)$  is a QLF polynomial endomorphism of  $\mathbb{A}^{m+n}$  satisfying  $\nu_F = Q$ .

**Remark.** Let us recall that a polynomial endomorphism  $F = (F_1, \dots, F_N)$  of  $\mathbb{A}^N$  is triangular if each  $F_L$  is of the form  $ax_L + b$  where  $a \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{C}[x_{L+1}, \dots, x_N]$ . Furthermore,  $F$  is triangularisable if it is conjugate (by a polynomial automorphism) to a triangular endomorphism.

It is clear that (i)  $\implies$  (ii)  $\implies$  (iii)  $\implies$  (iv) in the following assertions (see [7] for (i)  $\implies$  (ii) and prop. 1.5 for (iii)  $\implies$  (iv)):

(i)  $F$  is triangularisable; (ii)  $F$  is LF; (iii)  $F$  is QLF; (iv)  $F$  is dynamically trivial.

If  $F$  is an automorphism of  $\mathbb{A}^2$ , it is proved in [5] that (i) and (iv) are equivalent so that the last four assertions are equivalent. However, for large values of  $N$ , these notions (applied to automorphisms) are different:

The Nagata automorphism  $(x - 2y(xz + y^2) - z(xz + y^2)^2, y + z(xz + y^2), z)$  (see [10]) is LF (see [7]) but not triangularisable (see [2]).

Using the construction explained in the last example and prop. 1.1, it is clear that the automorphism  $(y, x + yz, z)$  is QLF but not LF.

If  $F : \mathbb{A}^5 \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^5$ ,  $(x, y, z, t, u) \mapsto (y, x + yz, t, z + tu, u)$ , one would easily check that  $\deg F^n = (n^2 - n + 4)/2$  for  $n \geq 1$  so that  $F$  is dynamically trivial but not QLF by prop. 1.5.

## II. MAIN THEOREM.

Here is our main result.

**Theorem.** Let  $F \in \text{End}$ . The following assertions are equivalent:

- (i) for any  $a \in \mathbb{A}^N$  the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$  is a LRS (of the complex vector space  $\mathbb{C}^N$ );
- (ii) there exists a non empty Zariski open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{A}^N$  such that for any  $a \in U$  the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$  is a LRS;
- (iii) there exists a non empty open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{A}^N$  (for the transcendental topology) such that for any  $a \in U$  the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$  is a LRS;
- (iv)  $F$  is QLF.

**Proof.** (i)  $\implies$  (ii)  $\implies$  (iii) is obvious and (iv)  $\implies$  (i) is a direct consequence of prop. 1.3. Let us show that (iii)  $\implies$  (iv). If  $1 \leq L \leq N$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^N$ , let  $\Pi_{L,\alpha}(F)$  be the coefficient of  $x^\alpha$  of the polynomial  $F_L$ . Let  $\mathcal{C} := \{\Pi_{L,\alpha}(F), L \in \{1, \dots, N\}, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^N\}$  be the set of coefficients of  $F$  and let  $K := \mathbb{Q}(\mathcal{C})$  be the field extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  generated by  $\mathcal{C}$ .

First claim. There exists  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_N) \in U$  such that  $a_1, \dots, a_N \in \mathbb{C}$  are algebraically independent over  $K$ .

Let  $R > 0$  and  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_N) \in U$  be such that:

$$D := \{(z_1, \dots, z_N) \in \mathbb{C}^N, 1 \leq L \leq N \implies |z_L - u_L| < R\} \subset U.$$

If we set  $D_L := \{z \in \mathbb{C}, |z - u_L| < R\}$ , we have  $D = D_1 \times \dots \times D_N$ . Let us construct, by finite induction on  $L$ , a complex sequence  $(a_L)_{1 \leq L \leq N}$  such that for each  $L$ :  $a_L \in D_L$  and  $a_L$  is transcendental over  $K(a_1, \dots, a_{L-1})$ . Let us assume that  $a_1, \dots, a_{L-1}$  are already constructed and that they satisfy the wanted hypothesis. Let us note that the algebraic closure  $K_L$  of  $K(a_1, \dots, a_{L-1})$  in  $\mathbb{C}$  is countable (since  $K(a_1, \dots, a_{L-1})$  is countable). Since  $D_L$  is uncountable, there exists  $a_L \in D_L \setminus K_L$ .

Using prop. 1.4, it is sufficient to show our

Second claim. There exists a positive integer  $d$  and rational functions  $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{d-1} \in \mathbb{C}(X)$  such that  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, F^{n+d} = \alpha_{d-1}F^{n+d-1} + \dots + \alpha_0F^n$ .

We begin to note that for each  $n$  the coefficients of  $F^n$  belong to the field  $K$ . Let us set  $K' := K(a_1, \dots, a_N)$ . The sequence  $(F^n(a))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a LRS of  $(K')^N$  considered as a vector space over  $K'$ . If  $1 \leq L \leq N$ , let  $\Pi_L : (K')^N \rightarrow K'$  be the  $L$ -th projection. The sequence  $n \mapsto \Pi_L(F^n(a))$  being a LRS of  $K'$ , its minimal polynomial  $\mu_L$  belongs to  $K'[T]$ . Since the minimal polynomial  $\mu$  of the sequence  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$  satisfies  $\mu = \underset{L}{lcm} \mu_L$ , we have  $\mu \in K'[T]$ . Let us write  $\mu = T^d - (\beta_{d-1}T^{d-1} + \dots + \beta_0)$ , where the  $\beta_k \in K'$ . Let  $\alpha_k \in K(x_1, \dots, x_N)$  be such that  $\beta_k = \alpha_k(a_1, \dots, a_N)$ . We have:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, F^{n+d}(a_1, \dots, a_N) = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq d-1} \alpha_k(a_1, \dots, a_N) F^{n+k}(a_1, \dots, a_N)$$

and since  $a_1, \dots, a_N$  are algebraically independent over  $K$ , we obtain:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, F^{n+d}(X) = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq d-1} \alpha_k(X) F^{n+k}(X). \quad \square$$

**Remarks.** 1. Let us recall that the rank of a LRS  $u$  is the degree of its minimal polynomial. If  $u$  is a complex sequence, its Hankel matrix is defined by

$$H(u) := \begin{bmatrix} u_0 & u_1 & \dots & u_n & \dots \\ u_1 & u_2 & \dots & u_{n+1} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \\ u_n & u_{n+1} & \dots & u_{2n} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \end{bmatrix} \text{ and we have:}$$

$$\text{rk } u \leq m \iff \text{all the } k \times k \text{ minors of } H(u) \text{ are zero for } k \geq m + 1.$$

If  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF, let  $\varphi_F : \mathbb{A}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be the map associating to  $a \in \mathbb{A}^N$  the rank of the LRS  $n \mapsto F^n(a)$ . Using the previous point, it is easy to show that  $\varphi_F$  is lower semicontinuous. This means that for each  $m \geq 0$ , the set  $F_m := \{a \in \mathbb{A}^N, \varphi_F(a) \leq m\}$  is a (Zariski) closed subset of  $\mathbb{A}^N$ .

2. The proof of the last theorem shows us that  $\deg \nu_F = \max_{a \in \mathbb{A}^N} \varphi_F(a)$ . However, let us

show that  $\varphi_F$  is upper bounded by using the semicontinuity. The equality  $\mathbb{A}^N = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} F_n$  implies that  $\mathbb{A}^N = F_n$  for some  $n \geq 0$ . Otherwise, the  $U_n := \mathbb{A}^N \setminus F_n$  would be dense open subsets of  $\mathbb{A}^N$  satisfying  $\bigcap_{n \geq 0} U_n = \emptyset$  and this would contradict the Baire property.

### III. CRITERIA FOR INVERTIBILITY.

Let us denote by  $I := (x_1, \dots, x_N)$  the identity morphism of  $\mathbb{A}^N$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** If  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF, then  $F$  is an automorphism if and only if  $\nu_F(0) \in \mathbb{C}^*$ .

**Proof.** Let us write  $\nu_F = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} a_k T^k$ , where the  $a_k \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  and  $a_n = 1$ . If  $F$  is an automorphism, we cannot have  $a_0 = 0$ , because otherwise  $p(T) := \nu_F(T) T^{-1} \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F[T]$  and  $p(F) \circ F = 0$ . Since  $F$  is onto, this would imply  $p(F) = 0$  contradicting the definition of  $\nu_F$ . One would easily check that  $\nu_{F^{-1}} = a_0^{-1} T^n \nu_F(T^{-1})$ . By prop. 1.3, each coefficient of  $\nu_{F^{-1}}$  belongs to  $\mathbb{C}[X]$ . In particular, the constant coefficient  $a_0^{-1}$ . Since  $a_0$  and  $a_0^{-1} \in \mathbb{C}[X]$ ,  $a_0$  is an invertible element of  $\mathbb{C}[X]$  so that  $a_0 \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . Conversely, if  $a_0 \in \mathbb{C}^*$ , then  $q(T) := \frac{a_0 - \nu_F(T)}{a_0 T} \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F[T]$  satisfies  $q(T)T \equiv 1 \pmod{\nu_F(T)}$ , so that  $q(F) \circ F = I$  and  $F$  is an automorphism.  $\square$

The Jacobian determinant of an endomorphism  $F$  will be denoted by  $\text{Jac } F$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** If  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF, then the Jacobian conjecture holds for  $F$ , i.e.  $F$  is an automorphism if and only if  $\text{Jac } F \in \mathbb{C}^*$ .

**Proof.** If  $F$  is an automorphism it is well known and obvious that  $\text{Jac } F \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . Conversely, if  $F \in \text{End}$  is QLF and satisfies  $\text{Jac } F \in \mathbb{C}^*$ , let us show that  $F$  is an automorphism. If we write  $\nu_F = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} a_k T^k$ , where the  $a_k \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  and  $a_n = 1$ , it is sufficient to show that  $a_0 \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . First and foremost, we cannot have  $a_0 = 0$ . Indeed, otherwise, we would have  $p(F) \circ F = 0$ , where  $p := \nu_F(T) T^{-1} \in \mathbb{C}[X]^F[T]$ . If  $r \in \mathbb{C}[X]$  denotes a nonzero coordinate of  $p(F)$ , we would get  $r(F) = 0$ , showing that  $F_1, \dots, F_N$  are algebraically dependant over  $\mathbb{C}$ . This is well known to be equivalent to  $\text{Jac } F = 0$  (see [11]) which is impossible. If we set  $q(T) := \frac{a_0 - \nu_F(T)}{a_0 T} \in \mathbb{C}(X)^F[T]$ , then  $q(T)T \equiv 1 \pmod{\nu_F(T)}$ , so that  $q(F) \circ F = I$ . This shows that  $F$  is a birational automorphism. Since  $\text{Jac } F \in \mathbb{C}^*$ , this is well known to imply that  $F$  is an automorphism (see th. 2.1 of [1], cor. 1.1.35 of [4] or [8]).  $\square$

## References

- [1] H. Bass, E. Connell and D. Wright, The Jacobian conjecture: reduction of degree and formal expansion of the inverse, *Bull. of the A.M.S.*, 7 (1982), 287-330.
- [2] H. Bass, A nontriangular action of  $G_a$  on  $A^3$ , *J. of Pure and Applied Algebra* 33 (1984), no. 1, 1-5.
- [3] L. Cerlienco, M. Mignotte, F. Piras, Suites récurrentes linéaires, propriétés algébriques et arithmétiques, *L'Enseignement Mathématique* 33 (1987), 67-108.
- [4] A. van den Essen, Polynomial automorphisms and the Jacobian conjecture, *Progress in Math*, vol 190, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, Boston, Berlin, 2000.
- [5] S. Friedland, J. Milnor, Dynamical properties of plane polynomial automorphisms, *Ergod. Th. & Dynam. Syst* 9 (1989), 67-99.
- [6] J.-P. Furter, On the degree of iterates of automorphisms of the affine plane, *Manuscripta Mathematica*, 98 (1999), 183-193.
- [7] J.-P. Furter, S. Maubach, Locally finite polynomial endomorphisms, *J. of Pure and Applied Algebra* 211 (2007), no. 2, 445-458.
- [8] O. H. Keller, Ganze Cremona Transformationen, *Monatsh. Math. Phys.* 47 (1939), 299-306.
- [9] C. Lech, A note on recurring series, *Arkiv for Matematik* 2 (1953), 417-421.
- [10] M. Nagata, On automorphism group of  $k[x, y]$ , *Lecture Notes in Math.*, Kyoto Univ., 5, (1972).
- [11] O. Perron, *Algebra I*, Die Grundlagen, Walter de Gruyter & Co., Berlin, 1951.
- [12] T. N. Shorey, R. Tijdeman, Exponential diophantine equations, *Cambridge Tracts in Mathematics*, 87, Cambridge University Press.
- [13] B.L. van der Waerden, Die Alternative bei nichtlinearen Gleichungen. *Nachr. Gesells. Wiss. Göttingen, Math. Phys. Klasse* (1928), 77-87.